

INTRODUCTION: Exodus 3

- It has been said that the life of Moses can be divided into 3 parts
- 40 years in Pharaoh's court becoming somebody
- 40 years in the wilderness discovering he's a nobody
- 40 years finding out how God can take a nobody and make somebody out of him
- Moses is coming to the end of the second phase of his life
- His 40 years in the land of Midian is coming to an end
- One day, Moses leads his father-in-law's flock to the back side of Horeb
- Horeb is another name for Mount Sinai
- As he is leading the flock, he notices a bush that is burning with fire but the bush is not being consumed... it's a supernatural event
- So Moses says... I'm going to check it out
- Vs. 2 of Chapter 3 says... the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of the bush
- Daniel 7:9 describes the Ancient of Days whose throne was ablaze with flames
- Isaiah 66:15 says the Lord will come in fire
- Thus what we have is a pre-birth appearance of Jesus
- I think it's important to establish this... because it will help you connect the events of Exodus and the powerful work of salvation Jesus brings

I want to bring your attention to Exodus 3:7-10

Exodus 3:7-10 (NKJV)

7 And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. 9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

The first thing I want to point out...

- Vs. 7 it says the LORD (Jesus is speaking to Moses), the LORD said
- I have seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt

- In the Hebrew it says... “yahweh yomer rao raiti”
- Notice God is using the name YHWH which is His name when He is speaking in reference to the Covenant or Promises He made with Israel
- Literally it says... The Lord (YHWH) says I see, I see
- Whenever you see a phrase repeated, it’s always for emphasis
- What does the Lord see... the oppression of My people who are in Egypt

Now what is interesting about this word “oppression”

- It’s not just talking about what is being done to them
- God isn’t saying I see how you’re being treated
- God is saying... I see the reason, the cause of your affliction
- I know why this is happening to you
- This is the nature of salvation... God doesn’t just deliver you from trouble
- God saves you from the cause of your trouble

The most basic problem that every man has is separation from God

- Isaiah 59:2 says your iniquities have separated you from God and your sins (transgressions) have hidden His face from you
- The word iniquity means “to bend,” “to twist,” “to distort”
- And it carries with it the idea that man is bent away from God
- And that is why the natural man sins or breaks God’s law
- The natural man is not separated from God because of sin...
- The natural man is separated from God because all mankind was exiled from the Presence of God in Genesis because of Adam’s sin
- Thus all mankind is born into this separation (exile) from God
- Because mankind is separated from God, man either has no awareness of God, no consciousness of God
- OR like Cain and Nimrod... man consciously, decidedly chooses to rebel against God and do what God says not to do
- Thus you have 3 words for sin in the Hebrew Scriptures...
- Iniquity... which speaks of man who is exiled from God, referring to man’s sin nature
- Transgression... which is willful disobedience, choosing to break God’s law knowing there will be consequences
- Sin... which means to miss the mark, you make mistakes

Remember, when God created man He said it was very good

- Judaism doesn’t teach man is evil by nature

- Rather they believe man has a good inclination and a bad inclination
- In it's simplest form... it's summed up in two words... true or false
- God said it, it's true and I will do it
- God said not to do it, it's false and I will not do it... simple obedience

But here in lies the problem with Judaism or any religious system

- Judaism teaches perfect obedience to the law will result in salvation
- Reformed theology teaches perfect obedience to the law is proof of salvation
- In fact, one of the interesting facts about Mister Rogers, a reformed minister, was on his death bed he asks his wife... am I a sheep?
- Why? Because he was looking for proof of salvation through obedience
- The move towards Monasticism in 3rd was rooted in this idea if I could only get away from the world I could attain holiness and earn salvation
- So if there was a way for man to be saved by sinning less, being a better person... after nearly 7000 years of history man would have figured it out
- Thus problem is not the goodness or the badness of man... it's not sin
- Man's problem is separation... man is separated from God and no amount of religious self-effort can save man

Thus when God says... I see the cause of your affliction

- He's going much deeper... He's seeing much further
- The problem is spiritual and it manifests itself in the natural
- Israel is exiled from the land of Promise and enslaved in Egypt
- As great a nation as they are, they cannot deliver themselves so God sends a deliverer... Moses

Second Jesus says... I have heard their cry

- The word used for cry is their cry of distress (sound of thunder)
- It's a strong outcry and whenever there is a strong outcry it indicates that the people are being violated... there is no justice

What are they crying about? Their taskmasters

- The word "taskmaster" suggests their suffering was mental, physical, psychological and emotional
- The Egyptian overseers were slave drivers
- They were abusing them, beating them, oppressing them financially
- The Pharaoh had an extensive building program in the Nile Delta

- The Hebrews were to produce bricks for the building projects
- To make life difficult for the Hebrews, he stopped supplying them with straw to make the bricks, but they had to keep up the level of production
- When the children of Israel would go out to gather whatever straw they could find the taskmasters would harass them and rush them
- The Lord heard their cry

There are 3 taskmasters that we will face in this life

- The World, The Flesh, And The Devil
- The World seeks to conform you into it's image
- It robs you of your uniqueness, your individuality, your creativity

Paul writing to the Romans said...

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The word conform is the Gr word "syschematizo"

- We get our English word schematic from it
- A schematic is a template we use to mass produce things
- That's what the world does... they put a template on you
- As a follower of Jesus... I can see the template
- I can see the template of drug addiction or alcoholism, same sex attraction, materialism, beauty, legalism, religion, selfish ambition, pride
- What's heartbreaking is watching people, even Christians, allow the world to put a template on them and conform them to the world system
- The natural man responds with a deep groaning that Jesus hears

The good news is... God sent a deliverer!

Isaiah 59:1 (NKJV)

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.

1 John 5:14–15 (NKJV)

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

- It's such a comfort to me to know that God hears me when I call
- He's never too busy to take my call
- He always has time for me

Third Jesus says, I know their sorrows

- It literally means I understand their pain, their mental anguish, their emotional distress
- God knows what you're feeling, what troubles you
- God knows your anxious thoughts, your fear of the future
- There's not one single thing that God does not know about you

Hebrews 4:15–16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- So often we are more aware of how far away (separated) we feel from God than how near He is to us
- We don't believe Jesus understands what we're going through
- But the Bible says Jesus was tempted just like you and I so He understands and because He understands He knows what you need
- So if there is someone who knows how to deliver you it's Jesus
- He's been there and He overcame

Maybe you've seen those commercials where they say JUST OK IS NOT OKAY? The family asks the nurse if you've worked with the surgeon and she says... oh yeah, he's just okay. Or the Mover that says to the housewife... don't worry mam all your household furniture is in just okay hands. There are times when just okay is not okay

- When it comes to spiritual things, I don't want to listen to someone whose just one step ahead of me
- I want to listen to someone whose made it through victoriously
- Jesus not only knows our sorrows, but He knows how to lead us through our sorrows to a place of freedom and hope

This brings me to the last point...

- Jesus said I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and bring them UP from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey
- NOTE: Jesus personally comes down to deliver them
- Strong's concordance defines grace as the divine influence on the heart and it's reflection in the life
- What is the divine influence? It's Jesus Himself coming down to deliver you, to rescue you, to heal you, to make you a complete person
- I often hear a gospel preached that focuses only on going to heaven
- Come to Jesus and you can be forgiven of all your sins and go to heaven... which is true, but there is more
- Jesus wants you to experience an abundant life

John 10:10 (NKJV)

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

- The word abundant means overflowing, extraordinary, miraculous
- It doesn't mean that you're moving from the projects to the lifestyles of the rich and famous
- The abundance it refers to is the superabundance of the blessing of salvation that we receive through grace by faith
- We are no longer enslaved by the world system
- We are no longer driven by our passions and desires
- We are no longer ruled by the destructive power of Satan
- God saw our need, heard our cry and knew we needed a deliverer
- That's why Jesus came to rescue us from our sorrows and to bring us into a life of abundance... that is what salvation is all about
- Salvation is not a future hope, it's a present reality
- It's not something we will experience some day in heaven
- We can experience the abundant life today
- We can walk in love, walk in forgiveness, walk in wholeness, be complete people, dependent only on God and walking in the fullness of His blessing in our lives... the Shalom peace of God
- We can receive this by surrendering our lives to Jesus Christ