

The book of Exodus can be viewed as a drama. It presents the plan of redemption in historical narrative. If I can a little license at this point, two principle Players are in view; JEHOVAH and Moses. Here we are introduced specifically to the concept of the purchase of sinners from the ‘country of Sin’ to a personal relationship with the LORD so that they can live in a land where they can be blessed greatly by the LORD.¹ The name JEHOVAH is highlighted here where we are taken from the name ELOHEIM – the almighty God to JEHOVAH – the personal God who loves His people, hears their cry for deliverance and cares for them.

Redemption has a number of facets. First, the concept of the purchase is an easy one if one remembers that in biblical times man and women were bought and sold as slaves. This practice lends itself very well to the sinful state of man – that not only is the sinner separated from God but lives in the horrible condition of enslavement to sin and all that condition implies. Second, redemption is more than a purchase – in fact the biblical times practice of the slave market falls short of the end result of redemption’s experience which is a happy conclusion for sinful man. We can look at two illustrations of this happy condition. First, the Hebrew people serve to illustrate the deliverance from the slavery of sin and the introduction to a life of personal relationship to the LORD. The Love that JEHOVAH has for His people is certainly there for this example but what with the rebellion of the Hebrews in the wilderness it is somewhat overshadowed. Second, we can look at the illustration of Gomer, Hosea’s wife² and see that not only is sinful man delivered from the slave market of Sin but is also the object of the LORD’s love.

The whole idea of redemption is amazing to me in that the LORD initiates everything – we really did not have any resources to seek Him in the first place. In fact, Paul asserts that we were redeemed *while we were hopelessly lost and God enemies*.³

The book of Exodus tells of a journey – a journey from enslavement to sin to the promise of living in a land where the LORD will bless the happy redeemed. The old gospel hymn is such a thrilling reminder to me:

Redeemed

Music: William J. Kirkpatrick

“Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!

Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;

Redeemed through His infinite mercy,

His child and forever I am.

¹ [Exodus 3:7-8](#).

² See [Hosea 1, 3](#) and read the love story of the LORD for his people.

³ Read [Romans 5:6-10](#). We were without strength (hopelessly unable to reach out to God) and His enemies.

**Redeemed, redeemed,
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed, redeemed,
His child and forever I am.”**

Amen.

Let’s look at God’s drama of Redemption as it is related in the life of the man: Moses.

Prelude, the Prosperity of Israel in Egypt (Ex. 1:1-22). Israel had enjoyed a life of prosperity and prominence in Egypt. It seemed to them that this was their place (make that land) as a small nation. They had grown from a family of about 70 to a people of over 2 million.⁴ But over the centuries⁵ Israel had grown self-sufficient forgetting that it was JEHOVAH who had provided for their good – in spite of their plan of killing their brother Joseph (who was to become their benefactor), the sons of Israel had received goodness from the hand of JEHOVAH.⁶

But they were in the wrong place – the place of Sin. The connection between Egypt and the slavery of sin is obvious. God could have continued to bless the Israelites in Egypt but He had better plans for them. I think we can draw a lesson from this. Certainly God could bless the sinner in his condition but there is more to life than this. Redemption is all about the removal of the sinner from the slavery of sin to the freedom that comes from a life of being forgiven from one’s sins and a life of personal relationship with the LORD. This was the drama of Redemption as presented in Exodus. Let’s read the drama of Redemption:

² God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD. ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. ⁴ I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they lived as aliens. ⁵ Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶ "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. ⁸ And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a

⁴ Read [Exodus 1:5-7](#).

⁵ **Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years.**
Exodus 12:40 (NIV)

⁶ Read [Genesis 50:19-21](#).

possession. I am the LORD." Exodus 6:2-8 (NIV).

Here’s what I see as Redemption’s drama:

- Redemption results in a personal relationship with the LORD.
- The LORD’s promises surrounding redemption are sure.
- Redemption delivers from the enslavement of Sin.
- The Redeemed of the LORD belong forever to Him.
- The Redeemed of the LORD will live forever in a land of promise where they can receive all the blessings of the LORD.

A careful reading of Revelation 5:9 and chapter 21 will show that the Redeemed have the prospect of a wonderful eternal life with the LORD.

The Israelites had become quite comfortable with their life in Egypt but had become distant from the LORD.

The Persecution of Israel.

⁸ Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. ⁹ "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. ¹⁰ Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." ¹¹ So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³ and worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁴ They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor the Egyptians used them ruthlessly. Exodus 1:8-14 (NIV)

This new king may not have been an Egyptian. Some biblical historians believe that during this period Egypt was ruled by an outsider who maintained rule by military force alone. This would explain the passage in Exodus 1:10 where it was feared by the new king that Israel would join his enemies – by inference, the Egyptians, rather than an outside enemy who would conquer from outside with the help of an uprising of Israel from within. At any rate, conditions of prosperity rapidly changed into persecution as the Hand of God began to direct Israel toward a new journey – a step into the unknown. Israel’s faith had all but died – it was about to be rekindled for some as God gave to them the gift of persecution (see [Job 2:9, 10](#)).

The Preparation of Moses, the Deliverer of Israel ([Exod 2:1-25](#)).

During this period of persecution things had rapidly deteriorated to the point that infanticide was attempted by the Egyptian king to slow down the accelerated population growth of Israel. It was out of this terrible circumstance that a child of the tribe of Levi was born. No Hebrew name was given to this child rather he was to receive an Egyptian name – Moses = water-son = son of the water. It was quite remarkable – the

rescue of this Levite child by the very hands that should have slain him. But God moves in mysterious ways – and directs the hearts of kings much as the walls of the Grand Canyon directs the mighty waters of the Colorado river.⁷

Moses grew up in the court of the king. He had been trained in the best schools of Egypt and had become mighty in his ability to speak and gained a reputation as a man who could act decisively (see [Acts 7:22](#)). But in a turning point in his life, probably as a brash, self-confident prince of Egypt, tried to deliver a Hebrew who was being beaten by an Egyptian. Pharaoh got wind of the crime and so Moses became a fugitive ([Exod 2:11-15](#)). So, Moses who presumed to deliver Israel by his own hand failed and it seemed that his life as Israel’s deliverer had come to an abrupt end.⁸ For the next several decades Moses was on Egypt’s most wanted list – it was in his best interest to forget the troubles of Israel and to look after himself in his new-found life as a nomadic herder. This can have a great deal of instruction for today’s believer as he orders his life for the Lord. Moses presumed that his life was his own and that he could deliver Israel by the might of his own hand. But JEHOVAH had a different plan for Moses and for Israel – that plan was for Moses to be in the “middle of nowhere” but right in the middle of His will as He was about to chisel away the roughness, the self-confidence, the brashness of Moses. At the end of these years of preparation (perhaps wasted years in the eyes of man) Moses was truly a broken man, No longer did he look upon himself as the one who was mighty in words and action, but the one who depended entirely upon JEHOVAH – the Great I AM.

The Call of Moses ([Exod 3:1-4:31](#)).

² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight--why the bush does not burn up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." Exodus 3:2-4 (NIV).

Moses *thought* he had escaped from Egypt unnoticed. That may have been true as far as the Pharaoh was concerned but not so from the notice of JEHOVAH. We are never away from the watchful eyes of the LORD. This includes while we are home in family life and also while we are at work. As I hear of the difficulties in some Christian homes I wonder if these folk ever consider that the LORD is watching them while they conduct themselves in the home. Consider the workplace. Do we consider that the LORD is watching us during our daily conduct at work. I am particularly mindful when I face a difficult task. Many times I have been forced to call upon the LORD as I face what seems to me an impossible task. I am not ashamed to call upon the LORD for help in sorting things out – He has never let me down.

⁷ [Proverbs 21:1](#).

⁸ This futile act by Moses serves to remind us that we will always fail miserably at our own attempts of salvation.

Moses had come to a turning point in his life. The LORD was going to call him into service. Now get this – at this point, Moses was 80 years old!⁹ What a comfort to me as I am in my 70th year of service to the LORD that there is still work in His vineyard for me. But I digress. The spontaneous incineration of the bush in this part of the desert was not at all unusual. But this one was unusual in that it just kept on burning and burning. Moses had to take a look.

This is clearly a theophany – where Jesus Christ Himself appeared to Moses in the form of a burning bush. Note that in verse 2 JEHOVAH is referred to as the angel of the LORD. And so we have God’s call for Moses to be the instrument of His hand in delivering Israel from the bondage of Egypt. Here’s the LORD’s calling to Moses.

⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey--the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” Exodus 3:8-10 (NIV).

JEHOVAH had not forgotten Israel. Neither had He forgotten Moses. God’s timing meant the passage of decades after Moses’ futile, fleshly attempt to become the advocate for suffering Israel. Decades after this the LORD would step in and use a broken man of God – one who had had plenty of time to grow up – this man, Moses, who now considered himself *not* worthy to be the instrument of God to be the deliverer of Israel.¹⁰

We can take an important lesson during our brief diversion into the life of Moses. I’m looking at our vocations – whatever they might be – and I see no distinction between ‘full-time Christian service’ and the believer who is gainfully employed in the secular workplace. We are all called to be the instrument in the LORD’s hands. There is no room for self-envisioned importance – no room for the self-centered pursuit of wealth and a comfy lifestyle. No. We are under the purview of the LORD Himself and are the stewards of whatever occupation we are in. We must all be His stewards – we must have a positive influence in the workplace. My challenge to all of us is to view our situation where it might be as an opportunity to be God’s servant. We must not view our workplace where circumstances must at all times be pleasant and a place where we are pleased or we will not be happy is a self-centered viewpoint. We must view our occupation as a full-time opportunity to bring glory to God by assuming the role of a servant of the LORD. Moses was a mere shepherd, but a man who had a broken spirit and was ready to serve the LORD. Now JEHOVAH was about to give him the occupation of being the greatest prophet of all time – next to Jesus Christ Himself and John the Baptist. Moses was in many ways to prefigure Jesus Christ in His redemptive work.

⁹ “Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone.” Deuteronomy 34:7 (NIV). Subtract the 40 years in the desert and we have approximately 80 years of age at his calling.

¹⁰ [Exod 3:11](#).