

Deliverance From Egypt Was Certain

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BIG SANDY, Texas—This is the time of the year when my friends and I are greatly anticipating the memorial of the suffering and death of the Son of God. We enjoy studying the scriptures in the New Testament that describe the significant event.

Like most believers, I seek to base my life upon the teachings of the New Testament. But, like many religious people, I also place historical value in the lessons and teachings of the Old Testament.

Last week, we talked about how the children of Israel ended up in Egypt prior to their famous deliverance.

This week, I want to focus upon the lesson that Israel's deliverance from Egypt was certain.

Stephen's history

When Stephen (of the book of Acts) was accused of speaking blasphemy against the holy place and the law (Acts 6:13-14), he defended himself by reciting highlights of the Old Testament history—starting with Abraham.

In the course of time, Stephen got to the history of Moses. These verses about Moses are found in Acts 7:20-44. I found it interesting that Stephen's account (although much shorter than the Exodus account) followed the chronological path—with a notable exception.

To me, Acts 7:25 seemed out of place. However, that verse opens the door to a great discussion.

Moses didn't readily accept

Acts 7:25—"For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand."

It is true that the children of Israel did not always accept that God would deliver them by the hand of Moses. But did you notice that Moses did not always accept that God was going to deliver them by the hand of Moses?

(I am not criticizing Moses about his moments of doubt. In fact, I find it helpful to realize that children of God have moments of uncertainty—and God still loves us.)

Let's notice some verses.

- Exodus 3:7-10—God told Moses that He was going to deliver the people by sending Moses to Pharaoh.
- Exodus 3:11—Initially, Moses expressed reservations.
- Exodus 3:12-15—God said reassuring words.
- Exodus 4:10—Moses again expressed reservations.
- Exodus 4:11-12—God again reassured him.
- Exodus 4:13—Moses asked for someone else to be sent.
- Exodus. 4:14-16—Although God was irritated (the Bible says He expressed "anger"), He agreed to send Aaron to help Moses.

Amazing truths

Let me share with you some amazing truths that Moses didn't initially recognize. However, many Bible students today make the same mistake—even though we have the advantage of the recorded history.

The solution for Moses and the children of Israel was certain.

Exodus 3:19-20—"But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go."

Exodus 4:21—"And the LORD said to Moses, 'When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.' "

God even gave Moses early notice about the 10th plague.

Exodus 4:22-23—"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn." ' "

Hardened Pharaoh's heart

Do you appreciate the significance of the scriptures in the book of Exodus describing the action of God "hardening" Pharaoh's heart to create a promised conclusion?

Do you appreciate the significance of the scriptures in the book of Romans when the apostle Paul talked about the book of Exodus?

Romans 9:15-18—"For He says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.' So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, 'For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.' Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens."