

ASCK_sermon_3pmService_13thJanuary2019_RevGideonMuhima
Exodus 2

Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord once again. How are we this afternoon? I would like again, to apologize. I think it's coming a habit for the delay of the service. There was a baptism service that took forever, but it was necessary for that baptism service to happen. People gave their lives to Christ. So for me, that's a win. Bishop Zach was preaching. So when he preaches, people get saved so it's fine. It's fine. Yes. So for those of you who don't know me, I saw some hands that-- well, it's been a while.

What's up? So those of you don't know me I'm Reverend Captain Gideon Muhima and I am the youth pastor here. This week of this month, we are dealing specifically with unearthing or unwrapping the theme of the year. As you can see, charged to raise a godly generation. And this month specifically we're dealing with prayer. But for the 3:00 PM service, we decided that we will be studying from the book of Exodus.

All right, last week we looked at Exodus chapter 1. And for those of you who remember, there were quite a number of things that came to light in Exodus chapter 1. And if we can remind ourselves, we looked at a number of things, but one of the things that stood out for me was the enemy's schemes and how he comes to not only break your backs but to break your spirits. And he comes full on; he doesn't give you any room to recover. And that's what we discovered then. In spite of this breaking we see God's agenda, God's purpose, God's glory prevailing against the darkness. We see that happening all through as we study Genesis chapter 1. So as we study Exodus chapter 1, we see God's glory, God's purpose, God's plan prevailing. We remember how God was being revealed in chapter one. He's an eternal God. He's an intentional God. And he's an exceptional God.

He's eternal. He's outside time, space and matter. So he controls time, he prophesied that this was going to happen, Israelites were going to be imprisoned. He knew that this was going to happen.

He's intentional in that he also knew he was going to be the one to deliver them. So he orchestrated everything to start the plan of deliverance. He's very intentional in the things that he was doing. We could see His intentionality in the way when the enemy was trying to thwart his plan, when the enemy was trying to destroy the generation of Israel, when he was trying to snuff out any hope of them ever being a nation, God still multiplied them amidst the darkness, still multiplied them amidst the treachery that the enemy was throwing at them. And so God was intentional in that way.

He's extraordinary in the way he does things. The people that God, I mean, the people that Pharaoh was trying to use to eliminate the nation are the very ones that were saving it. The midwives, the Hebrew midwives feared the Lord it is said, and because of that, more kids were being born. And even they themselves were blessed and they are giving birth to more. It's

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God's plan was that it was an extraordinary way of looking at how God does his things, and it is something that keeps charging in our hearts, that if we do know that God is intentional, that God is exceptional, and God is eternal, then our faith is built on this one God, this holy God, this is what makes him like no other God.

And in the setting of Exodus, as they were writing this is to remind them, first of all the way in a place where there was a lot of idolatry. There was a lot of idol worship, a lot of many gods. There were so many gods that people are worshipping and Israelites needed to know that this God was like no other God. It was imperative that they get to know that this God was like no other God at all. And so because He's eternal, He's exceptional and He's intentional, that stood out for these, and that should stand out for us. Regardless of what battles we experience, regardless of what threats on our lives may come our way, regardless of what the enemy throws at us, we must look at this God that is intentional, exceptional, and eternal and we'll find our hope built on that. Our faith built on that.

Today, we're going to look at chapter 2. So, if you will turn with me to Exodus chapter 2. If you turn with me to Exodus chapter 2. Before we read that first verse, there is a premise that was set. I particularly left out the last verse of chapter 1. The last verse of chapter 1 says, "Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people," not the Hebrew wives, but his people, the Egyptians, right? The ones that are to support his agenda to destroy the nation of Israel, those people he gave the order. And he said, "Every Hebrew boy that is to be born, must be thrown into the Nile. Let every girl live."

Again, to remind you, when you have destroyed the male child in this time, you've destroyed the nation, you've destroyed the nation. You have eliminated the nation, because they're the ones at this point in time that carry the legacy that carry on the everything, the identity of the nation. And so to destroy them, you've destroyed the nation and the girls will be married to the Egyptians and that is the end.

So chapter 2 is set on the premise of a very, very dark verse. The enemy has raised the standard, right. So the midwives have refused, God has sort of prevailed. He has expressed his extraordinary work and now the enemy's like okay, let me up this game. Let me use my own people to destroy. To get these boys and throw them into the Nile. Okay?

So when you read verse 1-3, "Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, she became pregnant and gave birth to a son." You must note, however, that we-- that seems like it was immediate. They got married and had his son, right? You would assume that it was Moses was the firstborn. However, we remember Miriam was the little girl who was looking. So we might want to-- this is what studying the scriptures is about.

So we remember Aaron and Miriam were probably older than Moses. So between the time they got married and the time they had Moses, there was probably a long period of time where Miriam and Aaron were born. But Moses is born in a time where they're destroying everything to do with the hope of Israel. They're destroying the Hebrew hope by destroying the boys, killing the boys.

"When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. When she could not hide him any longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile." Please note also, if you can, if you can remember the story of Jesus's birth, quite a number of similarities in this story, right? Because we have the enemy Herod, here we have Pharaoh. We have the Hebrew women in the Old Testament and then we have the Magi or what they call the wise, the three wise men, which is not really the three, but they are the wise men. So we have that. And then and then the Herod is one needs to destroy because of the prophecy of the Messiah, right? Here Pharaoh is just afraid of these people that are increasing a number that are prospering in spite of the situation. That they are in Egypt, and they seem to be the richest people in Egypt so we need to enslave them. We need to destroy these people. We need to use them for our purposes. And so they are under oppression, and the child, the children at the time of being killed. And so that's something that you want to be thinking about the similarities is probably one of the most outstanding similarities and as far as that is concerned and the deliverer of Israel is born in such a circumstance just as the deliverer of mankind is born in similar circumstances. The enemy is out to get it all done, finish, destroy the nation, you will have no deliverer. And yet somehow God in His extraordinary work delivers us; somehow.

To the Israelites, their fate was sealed. So preserving as many as they could preserve was paramount, preserving any child they could was paramount, but there was a lot of mass killing. Babies were being thrown into the River Nile to be destroyed. So Moses is born in this time. The mother felt compassion for this child. There is something-- I need you to note that there was no, there was no voice from the Lord. There was no prophecy about Moses. There was nothing to be told about Moses. These guys had spent 300 years in slavery. All the knew was being slaves to the Egyptians.

And so when the mother saw that this child was fine, she wanted to do whatever she could to preserve this child. One would think that that was all there was, but if you get to see the bigger picture, we see the hand of God in this compassion. In seeing this child as a fine child, we see the handprint of God. And so she hides the baby for three months until she couldn't hide him any longer. And so she put him-- she hid him in plain sight. The place where the babies go to die, that's where she hid him in the Nile. So how extraordinary God is? It's like He just, He dares the enemy. Like I dare you.

God is that extraordinary that in the midst of that dark time where babies were thrown in the River Nile to die, that place there, that is where he protects the deliverer. For God to save mankind, it was right where man was that God needed to raise the deliverer. And as we think about raising a godly generation, think about the young people, especially the young people that God has placed in your care, think about-- for those of you who are married with children, those children that God has given you, there is a purpose. There is a reason God has handed them to you.

Because their backs were broken, their spirits were broken, they didn't have much hope these Israelites. If you note inverse four of Exodus, the sister, Miriam, after they have placed the basket in the reeds, she sort of stands at a distance just to look and see what would happen. One would think that maybe she's sadistic, she wants to see how the serpents of the Nile will come and kill the child or the crocodiles, or the Egyptians themselves come and find the baby and finish the baby off. But for some reason she's standing on the sidelines. Again we see the handprint of God.

Remember 300 years in slavery, they don't yet quite know exactly what this is going to do. I mean, there had been stories told and told over again that they will one time be delivered out of slavery but after 300 years, you like, "Yo, legend has it." Legend has it.

So Miriam is not looking at Moses, as a deliverer; is not looking at Moses as someone who might have potential, it's just compassion. This is my little brother. I wonder what is going to happen to this little brother. Let me stick around and see where this leads. And so when we look when she was-- she kept looking and suddenly Pharaoh's daughter is going to bathe in the same river around the same place at that point in time. This God that is eternal has orchestrated all these events just that Moses will end up at that moment where Pharaoh's daughter is going to take a bath in the Nile, that Nile where the babies are killed, that Nile where Moses is. This is an Egyptian woman with Egyptian slaves who have been commanded to kill Moses and the babies of that nature. Right there is where we see God's hand. Right there is where we see.

"When Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe and her attendants were walking along the river bank, she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slaves to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying and she felt sorry for him." She felt sorry for this Hebrew child that her father had commanded to be killed. And then number two, she recognizes that it's a Hebrew child. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

Could this have been a coincidence? Now that we know the story of Moses and how God uses him to deliver the nation, could this have been a coincidence? Could this have been chance? Could this have happened just because things just happen? Now, but remember, no one had faith that this would happen. All faith had gone. Everything was lost. Everything, anything anyone knew was slavery. They were slaves to these Egyptians that were trying to destroy themselves. They were going to destroy these people. And because they were going to destroy them, there was not much hope left in them and yet somehow, Moses survives this time.

At just the right time while Moses was still in the shadow of death, Pharaoh's daughter rescues him. Like Moses, we too needed rescuing, didn't we? We needed rescuing. Rescuing from our world so vicious we can hardly live in it; we just exist. We exist and we go through the motions and we are always wondering, when will this end? We're always looking at people who are living the life on Facebook, on Twitter, on TV shows and everything there. Everything seems to be going well for them. We seem to be stuck where we are, enslaved by our own mentalities, enslaved by our own circumstances. Some of us feel enslaved in our marriages, in our families, in our workplaces, we feel like I can't breathe, help, God help me. Take my life. For some of us, it seems more appealing to die than to just exist. The enemy of this world, the enemy is this world. The enemy is out to get us every day.

But like Moses, Paul tells us that while we were still powerless, Romans chapter 5:6, while we were still powerless, at just the right time Christ died for the ungodly. At just the right time Moses was rescued by the ungodly and at just the right time, God rescues us from our godliness. He goes on to say verse 10 that, "For if, while we were God's enemies we were reconciled to him through death of his son, how much more having been reconciled shall we be saved through his life?"

Like the story of Moses must keep reminding us about the salvation of God, about him rescuing us from our own slavery. And when we are reminded of this God, who is this intentional, who worked and orchestrated all this in spite of the enemy's charge, God still ensures that Moses is rescued so that the deliverance of Israel is sure. This same God sends His Son to die, that we may be assured of salvation.

Pharaoh's daughter felt compelled to take care of Moses. There was something about this infant that she couldn't put a finger on. So she just said, "You know what, I'm going to take care of this baby." and it seemed-- it seemed like the purpose was beginning to be outlined. Moses's purpose. Miriam's purpose, the mothers purpose is being outlined. God has orchestrated everything in that moment at that river bed. There. God uses Miriam to connect Pharaoh's daughter to Moses' mother. And then

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Pharaoh's daughter said to Moses' mother take this baby and nurse him for me and I will pay you. So the woman took the baby and nursed him.

I want you to imagine Yoshabel, I think that's the name. I want you to imagine you're Yoshabel. I want you imagine you're Yoshabel. At a certain moment, you thought this baby was going to be killed. You hide the baby in plain sight and discover that the enemies are right there. They have seen the baby, they have recognized the baby. So all hope is lost. The next logical thing is that the baby is killed and then somehow, suddenly you get to hear that Pharaoh's daughter, Pharaoh, the guy who has commanded that this baby be killed; his daughter tells the mother take care of this baby. Take this baby and nurse him for me. If we were in that position and suddenly you have the opportunity to save your child that way, it doesn't matter where the child is raised. It really doesn't as long as the child is alive.

So imagine the joy that the mother felt at that point in time, imagine the fact that she had responsibility to nurse this baby. The baby is hers, she could have claimed, "By the way, this is my child so can you allow me to just raise my baby? You did not contribute in any way to the labor pains. So can you help me and I take care of the baby?" No. She knew the fate of the baby. She had said anything of that nature. And it's the same gratitude we ought to be having whenever God has placed in our hands delicate lives; lives that are at the verge of death. Death that is greater than just dying, passing away. And there's so many that go through our hands and we fail to recognize that this is an opportunity for us to be a part of what God is doing in these young people's lives. It is possible that an entire generation could be lost because we are too into our own thing to see and recognize what God is doing.

It could be anyone, your siblings, your friends, whoever comes through and looks up to you or has the potential to look up to you. It is very possible for us to miss the point. And an entire generation is lost in darkness because we have failed to look beyond ourselves. We have failed to see and recognize the opportunity we have before us to do what God wants to do in their lives. For some of us, we could be the victims of guardians and parents that didn't care and missed the point, but at the same time you just chance to be in certain places and God orchestrated events for you to be here and listen to this word, to His voice. Listen to His charge. Listen to what He is telling you to do.

Ladies and gentlemen, our country is in trouble. When you drive through the streets, you go through the suburbs, when you see the filth, the wickedness you get to hear of everything is revolved around a generation that was raised by people that don't care. It is important that we take this message to heart, that we lead lives that will shine the light of Christ; will shine the light of Christ and reveal the darkness for what it is. It is time for

us to be charged by this God that orchestrates everything and brings us here to listen to this message. What is it? What is it that he wants you to do? So we get to see how God's plan unfolds in Moses' life. God's plan unfolds and now we're going to see how he prepares. And finally, when he positions and he prepares, we see God's purpose unveiled. The plan is made, he prepares and his purpose is unveiled. When we see Hebrews 11:23, "By faith Moses parents hid him for three months and after he was born because they saw he was no ordinary child and they were not afraid of the king's edict."

So this kind of shows a little more, throws a little more light on what drove them to hide this child. Hebrews 11 says it was by faith that amidst all the hopelessness that there was around these individuals by faith, hid this baby, not knowing what this baby was going to become, not knowing how God was going to deliver this baby, not knowing what God was going to do with this baby, but they just had faith. God is exceptional like that. It took a lifetime for God to prepare the deliverer. When you read verse 11 to 12, "One day after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beat a Hebrew." Now when you see that beat a Hebrew, that was, there was very little to describe what was happening. This guy was actually killing the Hebrew. It was beating to a point of death. Okay? So Moses sees that and looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

At this point, Moses is aware. Why? Because it says he saw what this Egyptian was doing to his people. Are we together? So Moses grows up, so we are going to assume that somehow he got to know that he's a Hebrew. He's an Israelite. Somehow he gets to know, but he's also in a privileged place. He's privileged to be the prince, one of the princes of Egypt, had potential to be king. It seemed at this point in time that the plan of God was beginning to be clear. The deliverer is obviously Moses, because Moses is not only a Hebrew but the prince in Egypt who has potential to be king. I mean, how clearer can that be, right? That seems like a formidable plan of God. That seems like a plan God had the whole time. That is what exactly God's plan should look like. Exactly how God's plan should look like. So Moses probably is thinking the same thing. And so he's acting because he has a sense of justice going on inside. His people are being tormented.

Again, when you read in Hebrews, it says that, "By faith he chose not to take on the whole position. He chose not to be identified with Pharaoh, but with the suffering of his people." So there was a sense of justice that he had. And so he wanted-- because he had come to a privileged position, he wanted to use his position to deliver his people. That was not God's plan. God had different intentions of preparing this young man of 40 years to prepare him, so that only God could be seen, not Moses. See at this point in time, Moses,

his position, his placement, his ability, his preparedness, he is a warrior. He has everything. So if he delivers these Israelites from slavery, who are they going to worship? Because Egypt is a place where you worship almost any god. Moses could have easily been looked at as a god. But God was trying to deliver this nation from slavery, and show them that He is the one true God and if He's going to use a deliverer, this is how He is going to use this deliverer.

And think about your own lives. The plans that you feel like God has set in motion and somehow they fail. And you get to ask yourself now God did you actually say this, or was it just me? Did you actually prophesy this or was it just me? God, I thought I had heard you right about this girl, I prayed about this relationship. I thought I heard you right? What has gone wrong? And sometimes we get caught up in what has gone wrong again, we miss God's preparation, God's process, God's direction. We forget to depend on him and we're trying to figure out how to put things right.

So Moses gets into a scuffle with his fellow people and they said, "You want to kill me like you killed that Egyptian?" You see, they were tired also because they thought Moses was going to cause more trouble for them. Most likely was going to cause more trouble for them. And so when he discovered that he was discovered, he fled. Moses fled out there in Midian. Moses made a life for himself. He rescued the seven daughters of Jethro by his very astute sense of justice. Again, he was delivering them from some shepherds who are bullying them, saves them. Looks like the kind of guy one can get married to. So Jethro's daughter is like you're the guy, they get married. So he marries one of them and he gets to unlearn all his Egyptian ways of doing things and started learning how to be a shepherd of sheep in a desert.

I don't know how-- You probably don't understand how the God this is. See when you read Psalm 23, the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He leads me. We know this. Yeah, it kind of seems like man, there is just green and lush and what, that's where He leads? Yeah, not quite with Moses. No. Moses was in a semi-arid place to look for whatever shrubs he can get for these sheep. They were not his even, they were his father-in-law's sheep. He was humbled to that level. The Prince of Egypt is now shepherding his father-in-law's sheep. And it was there that God was dealing with Moses.

What the world calls a demotion, what the world seems, I mean, imagine that happens to us today. In a lofty place in a nice job and suddenly, all hell breaks loose. You lose everything. And you are just depending on your father-in-law. Zack, what's up? May it not happen. But imagine that were happening. Imagine you were depending-- like, so what would the Christians be saying about you? You're not praying enough. You're not fasting. You need to pray and fast. And when you tell them I'm praying and

fasting, you're not doing it enough. You ask them how much more? Pray. You have no faith. You need to increase your faith. You need to build that faith. Spend more time in prayer and everything they're doing is pointing you to the work that you can get to do so that God can work. The whole time God is dealing with you because God could just again, like Thanos, snap and the Egyptian King is done, the Israelites are out. He can Thanos his way out of it. Anyway, you get the point.

He could just do that. But why does God have to take Moses through the process, we must learn the principles. The process is important that we are humbled. And we walk in humility. It is said of Moses that he was one of the most humble men that walked on the surface of this earth, for them to say that one had got to be raising or rearing sheep of his father-in-law. That level, you're from the prince, and you're now a shepherd of sheep that are not yours. And so it is important that we keep reminding ourselves. God is in the process, that whatever misfortune comes your way, He is not surprised is is saying, "Oh, I did not see that coming." If God can be that surprised, that's not a God I want to worship. But He allows for us all to go through the processes we need to go through so that He alone can be glorified in our weaknesses. That we walk in humility, we see Him and the world will see that He is at work in us.

So what does God have to cast out of your life by taking you through the desert, by humbling you? What are the things in your life that you know God needs to deal with? Some of you are in seasons where now it is clear, this is God orchestrating. There is something that God is trying to do in your life and you need to hear him.

There was an announcement about prayer overnight. Perhaps, it is that time where you now go to overnights just to listen to Him because your cries, your weeping and all this is hindering you from hearing Him. Why? You're concentrated on your own pain and that's the thing with us Christians. The millions that are praying every Friday night are concentrating on their own problems. I'm going to seek the Lord to do what? I need this therefore I'm going to seek the Lord for it. I need to get a job; therefore, I'm going to seek the Lord. Meanwhile, every night I drive down the street and see those kids. We go to the hospitals and see people just broken. We hear stories of marriages breaking, but we are concentrated on our things. You know, we can't continue like this. God sent His Son to die for us that we may declare His glorious wonders to the world that doesn't know Him.

You may ask yourself, you may think that-- and you know, Moses' case was special, right? Moses had a purpose for me, I have nothing. For me, I was just born in an insignificant family, there was nothing, I don't have anything. I don't need anything. I'm just there. I'm going through the stuff and I will die and I will be with Jesus. The only person hindering your sight of what

God is doing it yourself. Note I said, your sight of what God is doing. Whether or not you see it, God is doing something. Whether or not you know it, God is healing, God is delivering, God is rescuing. He just wants you to be a part of what he is doing.

But Paul refutes that kind of thinking that I'm not significant, he says, as I conclude which is soon, "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you receive does not make you slaves." May I repeat that? We are dealing with slavery at the time. "The spirit that you received when you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior does not make you slaves so that you live in fear again; rather, the spirit you receive brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry Abba Father! The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs, heir of God and coheirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His suffering, in order that we may also share in His glory. Therefore, I say if we are coheirs with Christ, we are coworkers with Him. If we have His purpose at heart, we desire to do what He has called us to do because we are His children."

Peter says it this way: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. He has given you His Spirit and declared you holy, set apart for him so that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

Ladies and gentlemen, we all here are in a position of privilege to be children of God. We must declare this God to our nation. We must walk in this light that God has called us. And if you're in this place and you don't know this God, I implore you. I ask you that you give your life to Him? Let Him be Lord of your life. For some of us, it has been lip service. For some of us, it has just been, we've been talking church, we have done church properly. But it is time. It is time that God became real. That the world that sees you, sees Him. Let's bow our heads and pray.

It is our duty to declare. It doesn't matter if you feel you've been enslaved for far too long. It doesn't matter if you feel like you've been exiled, feel you're in a position of want. It doesn't matter if you feel like your life has been sentenced to misery. The time has come for you to open your eyes and see what God is doing. See the lives before you and how he wants you to be a part of his rescue mission. Like Moses, we must not think in the old ways. And so for some of us, he's going to take us through the process through the desert. That we may be prepared for a work so great only He can be seen in our lives. We must think like this God because we are His children, we must have the mind of Christ being the very nature God did not consider equality

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with God something to be used of his own advantage. Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness, and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on the cross. And so it is our duty to have Him declared. Someday every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord and He's inviting you to be a part of that process, that mission, where every knee bows and every time confesses that Jesus is Lord.