

THE STORY OF GOD: THE EXODUS

EXODUS 1-14 — DEC 13, 2009

What does God do to deliver Israel from Egypt?

Exo 4:21 — He hardens Pharaoh's heart.

God's Word teaches two truths. One is that we make authentic choices for which we are responsible ("Pharaoh hardened his heart"). The other is that God is ultimately behind the choices we make, without lessening the fact that these are real choices for which we are responsible ("God hardened Pharaoh's heart"). Both are taught. Both are true.

Why does God harden Pharaoh's heart?

Exo 11:9 — so God could multiply His signs and wonders and miracles in Egypt.

He multiplied His signs and wonders and miracles so Israel, and Egypt, and Pharaoh, and the whole world could see that God is God (Exo 7:3-5; 9:13-14,16; 10:1-2).

God's purpose is not just to deliver Israel; God's purpose is to show all of us that He is God.

How does God show us that He is God?

A miracle that sets the stage — Exo 7:10-13.

God turns the Nile and all Egypt's water into blood — Exo 7:14-25.

God causes frogs to fill the land — Exo 8:1-15.

God causes gnats to fill the land — Exo 8:16-19.

God causes flies to swarm everywhere but Goshen — Exo 8:20-32.

God kills all Egypt's livestock, but spares Israel's livestock — Exo 9:1-7.

God brings boils on all Egypt and their remaining animals — Exo 9:8-12.

God destroys all their crops with hail — Exo 9:13-35.

God brings locusts who eat whatever's leftover from the hail — Exo 10:1-20.

God brings darkness for 3 days except not in Goshen — Exo 10:21-29.

God kills every firstborn in Egypt, but not Israel's firstborn (Exo 11-13).

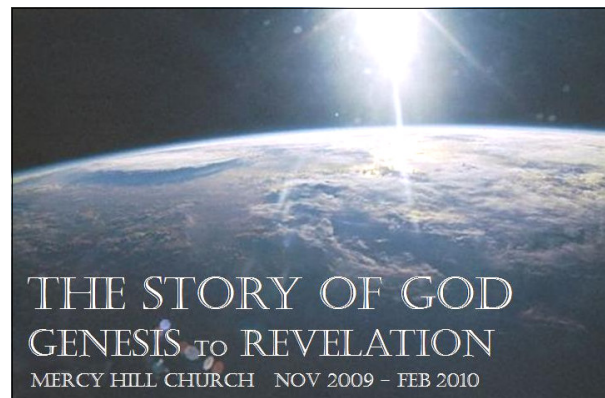
God parts the Red Sea for Israel, but closes it back up over the Egyptian army (Exo 14).

What does God want us to see about Him?

To see that He punishes all who rebel against Him (so we stop rebelling).

To see that He forgives all who trust Jesus (so we trust Him).

To see that He rescues all who call on Him through Jesus (so we call on Him).



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Are you comfortable with how God hardens Pharaoh's heart and how at the same time Pharaoh hardens his own heart? Why or why not?

Which of the 12 miracles was most powerful to you? Why?

Does it make sense that Israel was just as deserving of death as Egypt — and that it was only the blood of the Lamb that saved them? Why or why not?

Do you see that God is God — that God punishes all who rebel against Him? What areas of your life do you want to submit to Him in a new way?

Do you see that God is God — that God forgives all who trust Jesus? How sure is your confidence of God's forgiveness of you? Is the problem that you're not really trusting Jesus? Or that you don't believe God really forgives us through Jesus?

Do you see that God is God — that God rescues all who call on Him through Jesus? What needs are you burdened by? What needs do you need to bring before God tonight?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

