



I Am Your Deliverer

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Introduction:

Exodus 6:6-8

“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. 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. 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 possession. I am the LORD.’”

Notice that the Lord says I AM – not I will be, or I was, but I AM – current present tense. It is great to look back and see what the Lord was, and to look ahead and see what the Lord will be, but to look presently and see that HE IS PRESENT now.

There are some promises God makes to His people in this scripture I believe these promises are not only to the Israelites, but they are to us as well.

I. God frees or delivers from bondage

The taskmasters of Egypt were cruel. They drove the people. They forced the people to do things they would not normally do. The people who were in slavery did not have any choice in the matter. They had to do what they were told. To be forced to do something against one’s will that is difficult and uncomfortable is slavery and bondage. This is exactly what was happening to the children of Israel and it also happens with sin. Sin is served against the will of God, and against our will. When one struggles with the flesh and the old ways, it often seems as though we have no control. But we do have a choice; we do have the power of God’s word and the power of God’s Holy Spirit. GOD says – I AM the Lord your deliverer.

It is interesting to note that when God’s people were wandering in the wilderness after God had brought

them out away from the conditions of slavery, they desired and even spoke of going back to Egypt and the place of bondage and slavery.

There are times, as believers, we have to battle with the desires to go back to old ways, to go back to the familiar places of slavery. The people of God said, “Would to God we were back in Egypt. We didn’t like what we had to do there, we didn’t like the conditions there, but at least we didn’t have to live by faith there.”

Places of slavery and bondage are not the places God wants for us to live in. He has freed us from those places and when we battle with those desires to go back, we need to remind ourselves of the freedom we have in Christ and what it cost Him to provide that for us.

John 8:36 – “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

There are those who sit here this morning who are bound. You are serving something other than God. That is not the place God has for you. Some of you this morning are serving the bondage of debt. Your credit is beyond your means. You work and work just to pay interest on your debt. There are others of you who are addicted and the things that you don't want to do are the things you do. Some of you are addicted to gambling, some to drinking, some to thinking things that you know are not pleasing to God and you are bound to those things. Some are addicted to pornography – the spirit of lust and you look at things that you should not, either on the internet, or in books or magazines. It is like something else has control of you. You seem to be powerless against what controls you. You are a servant to that thing. Maybe you serve money, the spirit of greed. You serve the spirit of anger. You serve the spirit of dishonesty. That thing holds you back and is interfering with what God wants in your life. It is interfering with your obedience and service to God. God wants us to be free to serve Him alone. He wants to deliver you from that bondage.

Jesus made this claim in **Luke 4:18**. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

The deliverance that He was anointed to proclaim was to those who were captive. This word gives the idea of being a prisoner of war. A POW does what the captor says. He is tormented by being loyal to the people he has battled for and taken orders from, yet now he is unable to serve as He freely enlisted because he is being kept in a place where he can not serve.

We remember that early in the war on terrorism, private Jessica Lynch was taken as a POW. A special force was dispatched to rescue her and bring her back from the camp of the enemy. So it is with us. People are held captive against their will until they hear the declaration that Jesus has liberated them.

His promise to His people was, “I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.” The Egyptians forced them to work against their will. His

promise hasn't changed. He is still saying to us I AM YOUR DELIVERER.

II. God redeems with an outstretched arm and mighty acts

Under the old covenant, God told Israel He would be “next of kin” to them, that He would be united to them and pay the price so they could be free from bondage, but also so they might have an inheritance.

Redemption in Old Testament times had to be done by the next of kin. It was related to purchasing back property, and rights to that property. The purchase price or ransom to secure the rights and title to the property legally had to be paid by one who was next of kin. After the ransom was paid, then they could legally claim what had been theirs. At times this also included marrying someone who was a widow. That happened so the widow and the next of kin could raise children to receive the inheritance that had been purchased. The redemption involved doing something for someone that they could not do for themselves.

The Greek word REDEMPTION also means to purchase back something that had been lost, by the payment of a ransom. This word occurs nine times in Scripture, and always with the idea of a ransom or price paid.

There are many passages in the New Testament which represent Christ's sufferings under the idea of a ransom or price, and the result secured by Christ's death is our freedom. The debt against us is not viewed as simply cancelled, but is fully paid. Christ's blood or life, which he surrendered, is the “ransom” by which the deliverance of his people from the servitude of sin and from its penal consequences is secured.

Remember only the next of kin could be a part of the process of redeeming someone. There could be a marriage or purchase but either way, the person doing the redeeming had to be next of kin. Do you get the significance of that fact? Only Jesus as our next of kin could legally redeem us.

He robed Himself in flesh, set aside the splendor of heaven and came to reveal God's love and truth to us. He also came to redeem us and pay the ransom price so could be freed as POW's, and enjoy the inheritance.

III. God identifies with His people (creator – owner)

I will take you as my people and I will be your God. I don't know how that strikes you, but to me that is an awesome thought, that God chooses to claim us, and wants to take us as His people.

Exodus 31:13

"Say to the Israelites, 'you must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy.'"

God is a holy God – He is without sin. He created us to be holy like He is. Sin has marred the holiness with which God created man. He calls us back to a state of holiness if we follow Him.

The sign the reminder between God and us of His making us a holy people is the sign of Sabbath. That is the observation of rest one day in seven, devoting that day to God and honoring Him above everything else. The day of rest reminds us that He is our creator and owner, and we belong to him. After He has freed us from bondage, and redeemed us, then He identifies with us as His people.

Can you think of anything better than to be claimed by God as one of His own? I can't. I belong to Him, I look at Him as my Father and I consider myself as His son. It amazes me that in spite of my shortcomings, and quirks, He still claims me as His Son.

There are people who disown those who are family members. They refuse to acknowledge their relationship with them and usually when one is disowned in a family the parents disown a child and because of that, they leave them no inheritance. But God identifies with us. He claims us and wants to have fellowship with us even though we are sinful and wayward and disobedient, and rebellious. He does not want to disinherit us. The initiative of restored relationship is on our part. If we end up without an inheritance, it is not because He didn't reach out to us, it's because we didn't respond to His invitation to come follow Him.

He wants us to be well and whole. He promises to take care of his people even when others around are sick. God gave the children of Israel some dietary laws to be strong and healthy, and He promised that if they would listen carefully to His voice and do was right in his eyes and give attention to His commands

and decrees, He would not bring on us any of the diseases He brought on the Egyptians. He said – I AM the Lord who heals you.

We have a part to play in healing. It requires our faith in God and our ability to eat healthy and take care of what is regarded as the temple of the Holy Spirit, our body. I know we can get sick from things in our environment, but don't abuse your physical body and then expect God to heal you. He can and He might, but we need to be responsible and wise. He instructed the people to give attention to His commands and decrees. Be careful in your holiness even when it comes to what you eat.

Exodus 15:26

He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

IV. God fulfills His promises

The promises of God are many. When it came to the people of Israel God told them He would lead them into a land that was abundant, one that flowed with milk and honey. It would be a place they could call their own. Their faith, obedience and willingness to follow His leading were important to God in fulfilling this word to His people.

The promises of God not only relate to the people of the Old Testament, but to us as well. We read this about His promises in:

2 Peter 1:4

Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

We read in Hebrews 11:33 that we gain what he has promised us through faith just like brothers and sisters who have gone before us obtained the promises by faith.

V. God guarantees an inheritance

The children of Israel had the promise from God that He would give them an inheritance. He gave them the guarantee that He would provide a place for them. It would be a place to live, a place to call home, a place of abundance and a place of rest. The inheritance is part of a legal right that can be passed on. Not only would His children have this inheritance, but they could pass it on to their children.

For most of the years we have been married and in the ministry, God has provided for us a home to live in which has always been comfortable and more than adequate to meet our needs. No matter where God has called us He has provided such a place for us. We have been grateful for that provision. Wherever we have lived, Julie has done her part in decorating it and putting special touches in those spaces to make it comfortable. But there is something about owning your own home in that you have taxes to pay, the costs of maintenance, furnishings, upkeep, etc. It is just nice to have a place that you can call your own. But now I have title to our property. If something happens to me before Jesus comes back, I have an inheritance that I can pass on to my wife and my sons.

Conclusion:

God wants to take us from the places where we are captive, and deliver us. He wants to make us holy, heal us, redeem us, lead us and bring us into the inheritance He has planned for us. We can trust Him because He has done these things in the past, and will do them in the future, but He stands ready to act in the present as our I AM.

This is the position we find ourselves in as God's children. Jesus told His disciples as recorded in John 14 – do not let your heart be troubled, I have gone to prepare a place for you – a place of inheritance. If I go I will come again and receive you that where I am you will be there too.

The enemy cannot lay claim to the inheritance that has been provided for you and for all God's children. That property belongs to God. It is no place for the enemy to take up residence or to keep you serving in bondage.

Everyone who has ever lived and served God has looked forward in faith to receiving that inheritance.

Hebrews 11:13

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

So the Lord promised His people *freedom, identity, redemption, His leading and an inheritance.*