

God Delivers

Series: The Story

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Throughout *The Story* we see that, in spite of the calamities of life and in spite of man's sinful choices, God weaves it all together and somehow works good out of it.

Moses' Story

Exodus 2:3-6 (NIV) ³But when she could hide him no 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.

⁴His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

⁵Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. "She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

Exodus 2:15 (NIV) When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian...

In miraculous fashion, God speaks to Moses personally and specifically. He does so in the form of a burning bush.

Exodus 3:1-4 (NIV) Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There 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. ³So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

⁴When 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."

God wants to involve Moses in His story.

Exodus 3:9-10 (NIV) ⁹And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.

The theme of Moses' story is deliverance.

Like we sometimes do, Moses feels inadequate.

Exodus 3:11-15 (NIV) ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹²And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

¹³Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation."

Three miraculous signs to convince the Israelites that this was
God's plan

Exodus 4:2-4 (NIV) ²Then the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

"A staff," he replied.

³The Lord said, “Throw it on the ground.” Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. ⁴Then the Lord said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.

Exodus 4:6-7 (NIV) ⁶Then the Lord said, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow.

⁷“Now put it back into your cloak,” he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

Exodus 4:9 (NIV) But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground.

God will never ask you to do something without enabling you to do it.

Moses changes. He becomes obedient and goes to Pharaoh.

Exodus 5:6-8 (NIV) ⁶That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and overseers in charge of the people: ⁷“You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw. ⁸But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don’t reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to our God.’”

Major plagues that God brought upon the Egyptians to bring the promised deliverance

Exodus 7:15-18 (NIV) ¹⁵Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the river. Confront him on the bank of the Nile, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. ¹⁶Then say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness. But until now you have not listened. ¹⁷This is what the Lord says: By this you will know that I am the Lord: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. ¹⁸The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.’”

Exodus 7:25-8:4 (NIV) ²⁵Seven days passed after the Lord struck the Nile. ¹Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the Lord says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. ²If you refuse to let them go, I will send a plague of frogs on your whole country. ³The Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs. ⁴The frogs will come up on you and your people and all your officials.’”

Exodus 8:16 (NIV) Then the Lord said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,’ and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats.”

Exodus 8:21 (NIV) If you do not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you and your officials, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies; even the ground will be covered with them.

Exodus 9:2-3 (NIV) ²If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back, ³the hand of the Lord will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field...

Exodus 9:10 (NIV) So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on people and animals.

These were followed by thunderstorms of hail, then locusts, then three days of darkness

The final plague

Exodus 11:4-6 (NLT) ⁴So Moses announced to Pharaoh, “This is what the Lord says: About midnight I will pass through Egypt. ⁵All the firstborn sons will die in every family in Egypt, from the oldest son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the oldest son of his lowliest slave. Even the firstborn of the animals will die.

⁶Then a loud wail will be heard throughout the land of Egypt; there has never been such wailing before, and there never will be again.

Throughout the book of Exodus, we read again and again that God says, “And they will know that I am the Lord.”

The exodus begins

Exodus 12:31 (NLT) Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron during the night. “Leave us!” he cried. “Go away, all of you! Go and serve the Lord as you have requested.”

Then the chase

Exodus 14:5-6 (NLT) ⁵When word reached the king of Egypt that the Israelites were not planning to return to Egypt after three days, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds. “What have we done, letting all these slaves get away?” they asked. ⁶So Pharaoh called out his troops and led the chase in his chariot.

Exodus 14:13-14 (NLT) ¹³But Moses told the people, “Don’t be afraid. Just stand where you are and watch the Lord rescue you. The Egyptians that you see today will never be seen again. ¹⁴The Lord himself will fight for you. You won’t have to lift a finger in your defense.”

Miracles again

Exodus 14:20 (NLT) The cloud settled between the Israelite and Egyptian camps. As night came, the pillar of cloud turned into a pillar of fire, lighting the Israelite camp. But the cloud became darkness to the Egyptians, and they couldn't find the Israelites.

Exodus 14:24-25 (NLT) ²⁴But early in the morning, the Lord looked down on the Egyptian army from the pillar of fire and cloud, and he threw them into confusion. ²⁵Their chariot wheels began to come off, making their chariots impossible to drive. ²⁶Let’s get out of here!” the Egyptians shouted. “The Lord is fighting for Israel against us!”

The deliverance

Exodus 14:26-28 (NLT) ²⁶When all the Israelites were on the other side, the Lord said to Moses, ‘Raise your hand over the sea again. Then the waters will rush back over the Egyptian chariots and charioteers.’ ²⁷So as the sun began to rise, Moses raised his hand over the sea. The water roared back into its usual place, and the Lord swept the terrified Egyptians into the surging currents. ²⁸The waters covered all the chariots and charioteers—the entire army of Pharaoh. Of all the Egyptians who had chased the Israelites into the sea, not a single one survived.

Conclusion

God’s story is all about deliverance.

God delivers from slavery to freedom.

God delivers from despair to hope.

God delivers from death to life.