

Collect / Prayer (pg. 25)

Benediction

Hymn C.W. 319 / TLH 179

Wherever You Are, There Is God's Mission Field.

SERMON TEXT: Exodus 6:1-3; 6-8

Vs. 1 – Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of My Mighty Hand he will let them go; because of My Mighty Hand he will drive them out of his country.

Vs. 2 – God also said to Moses, I Am the Lord.

Vs. 3 – I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by My Name the Lord, I did not make Myself known to them.

Vs. 6 – 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.

Vs. 7 – 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.

Vs. 8 – 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.

GREETING: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are!

Slavery is a topic that can cause some heated discussions and hard feelings.

A Civil War was fought in America over Slavery beginning on April 12, 1861 and stretching through until April 9, 1865.

It is estimated that between the North (110,000) and the South (94,000) 200,000 soldiers died on the battlefield.

Those who died from disease between the North and the South is estimated at 400,000.

Slavery, however, was in existence before slavery in the United States.

At the time of Moses (1500 B.C.) some 3,500 years ago, the Children of Israel were slaves in the land of Egypt.

We ask the question, “How did the people of Israel end up as slaves in Egypt?”

It all began when the sons of Jacob sold their youngest brother Joseph into slavery.

Joseph ended up serving as a slave in Egypt, but by the grace of God, Joseph became second in command in all of Egypt after he interpreted the dream of the Pharaoh in which the Lord was going to send 7 good years, followed by the 7 years of famine.

It was during the famine that the brothers of Joseph needed to go to Egypt to buy food to live.

During the course of the account as given in Scripture (Genesis 37:1 thru Exodus 1:22), Joseph invited his family to come and live in Egypt.

Unfortunately, some time after the death of Joseph, there was a new Pharaoh of Egypt who forgot about what Joseph had done for the nation of Egypt and he placed the children of Israel into slavery so that the Israelites would not join with a foreign nation in war against Egypt. The people of Israel spent 430 years in Egypt, most of which were as slaves. (Exodus 12:40 & Gal. 3:17)

In this section of Scripture that we are looking at today, we hear that the Lord would deliver the Children of Israel out of slavery.

Vs. 6 – 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,

We of course learn from Scripture that the Lord delivered the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt in a most spectacular way. The Lord God sent the 10 plagues upon the land of Egypt, and the tenth plague, the death of the 1st born, broke the spirit of the Pharaoh and of the people of Egypt so much so that they actually drove the people of Israel out of Egypt, and the Egyptians gave the Israelites silver and gold. (Exodus 7:14 - Exodus 14:31)

As spectacular an event that it was that the Lord delivered the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt, it was and is even more spectacular that the Lord God Almighty delivered mankind from slavery of sin.

The Lord God of course rescued mankind from the slavery of sin and the certainty of hell, by sending His One and Only Son Jesus to pay the ransom for the sin of the World.

Jesus fulfilled the law perfectly in the place of every human being who ever lived, and then the Lord Jesus went to the cross of Calvary and made full payment for all our sin. The payment that Jesus made was complete because on Easter Sunday Jesus rose from the dead.

We learn about the freedom that Christ Jesus has won for us from these words of the Lord God through the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans.

Romans 6:16-18 - “Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or slaves to obedience which leads to righteousness? 17 – But thanks be to God that though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. 18 – You have become set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.”

This freedom from slavery of Sin is ours in Christ Jesus:

Romans 6:6 – For we know that our old self was crucified with HIM (Christ) so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”

Just as The Lord God delivered Israel out of Physical Slavery in Egypt, so also has the Lord God delivered all from the slavery of Sin as we are told by God through the Apostle Paul:

Romans 6:9-10 – For we know that since Christ has raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him. 10 - The death Christ died, He died to sin once for ALL; but the life he lives, He lives to God.

Just as surely as the army of Egypt died in the waters of the Red Sea, so also has Jesus defeated Satan and death.

In the waters of the Red Sea, the Egyptian army was drowned, while the people of Israel were saved.

In the waters of Baptism our sinful nature is drowned, and we become connected to the resurrected Christ. (I Peter 3:18-22)

Thank the Lord we have been set free from the power of Satan and death, and we can look forward to heaven because of our Redeemer, Christ Jesus. **AMEN**

THEME: Freedom - By The Lord's Outstretched Arm.