

“Marvelous Truths About God – Part 2”
Exodus 13:17 – 14:1-31
(Preached at Trinity, May 20, 2007)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Beginning with **Chapter 11** Moses begins to unfold the final plague and the great Exodus from Egypt.
 - A. In **Chapter 11** God gives the promise of the death of Egypt’s firstborn and the deliverance of Israel.
 - B. **Chapter 12** opens with the institution of the ordinance of the Passover—a perpetual reminder to Israel of their deliverance from Egypt.
 - C. Beginning with **Verse 29** of **Chapter 12** we read of the Tenth Plague – the death of the firstborn in Egypt.
Exodus 12:29 – “And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that *was* in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.”
 - D. Pharaoh and the Egyptians thrust Israel from their borders just as God had promised.
Exodus 12:31-33 – “And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, *and* get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said. ³² Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also. ³³ And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, *We be all dead men.*”
 - E. Israel left Egypt just as promised.
Exodus 12:41 – “And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.”
 - F. The end of **Chapter 12** and beginning of **Chapter 13** record again the ordinance of the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread—God wants Israel to be very certain of its importance.
2. Beginning with **Verse 17** and continuing through **Chapter 14** we have the account of Israel’s Exodus from Egypt as God leads and protects them to safety. God is the focal point of this passage. It demonstrates for us several truths about God and how He interacts with His people. It also demonstrates what God’s people can expect as they follow the path of deliverance. These are marvelous truths that will encourage us as we continue on our own journey to Canaan.
3. Last week I began to unfold these marvelous truths about God and His people.
 - A. God’s way is always the best way – **Chapter 13:17-18**
 1. God did not lead Israel through the shortest route from Egypt – the route that Israel might have assumed to be obvious route. The coastal highway was the obvious route. Had Israel take this route straight to Canaan they would have arrived in less than two weeks.

2. This would have led them through the land of the Philistines – God knew Israel was not prepared to fight. They were slaves, not warriors.
 3. God would need to prepare Israel physically and spiritually before they would be prepared to conquer Canaan – God’s way is always the best way.
- B. God is unfailing in His faithfulness to His people – **Chapter 13:19**
1. God’s promises are absolute and can be absolutely trusted
God made a promise to Israel – it was an absolute covenant. He promised Abraham that his people would inherit a land – Abraham believed God
 2. Joseph also believed God. He had such a confidence that he made his heirs promise to bury his bones in Canaan
Genesis 50:25 And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.
Hebrews 11:22 – “By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.”
 3. Our hope is based upon God’s unfailing covenant.
Because of God’s promise we know that nothing shall separate us from His love. God is unfailing in His faithfulness to His people.
4. Tonight I want to continue to look at these marvelous truths as we witness God’s interaction with His people.
- I. God is always present to guide His people – **Chapter 13:20-22**
- A. God manifested His presence to Israel
1. This is one of the many theophanies in the Bible—visible manifestations of God
 2. For 40 years God will manifest Himself as a pillar of cloud in the day and a pillar of fire at night.
Exodus 40:36-38 – “And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: ³⁷ But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.”
 3. These were manifestations of the very presence of God – The fire was a manifestation of His Shekinah glory – His divine majesty.
 4. God was with His people. As their King God marched before them. Israel should have looked at these manifestations of God’s presence and rested in confidence that the same God that demonstrated His mighty power in Egypt would be there to protect them.
- B. Every Christian has the abiding presence of God to guide him
1. There is a great peace and comfort in Christ being with us
 2. God’s presence is with us in our every condition
 - a. In poverty and wealth, sickness & health
Matthew 28:20 – “. . . and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world.”
 - b. One of Jesus’ names is Emmanuel which means “God with us”

- c. The presence of Christ should bring you great comfort
What possible situation on earth can possibly cause you to fear if God is with you?

Psalm 46:1-3 God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore will not we fear . . .”

3. The Apostle Paul knew this by experience:
2 Timothy 4:16-18 – “At my first answer no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge. ¹⁷ Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me. . .”
4. We go into every battle with the most powerful Defender by our side
We face every decision with our infinitely wise Advocate by our side
Isaiah 43:2 – “When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”
Psalm 46:1-2 – “God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;”
5. Matthew Henry: “Those who make the glory of God their end, and the word of God their rule, the Spirit of God the guide of their affections, and the providence of God the guide of their affairs, may be confident that *the Lord goes before them*, as truly as he went before Israel in the wilderness.”

II. God does all things for His own glory – **Chapter 14:1-4; 17-18**

- A. Everything God was doing in Egypt and with Israel was for His own glory
1. God delivered Israel in such a way that He would get all the credit.
 2. His purpose in the life of Pharaoh was that He might get all the glory
 - a. God brought Pharaoh into the world
 - b. God gave Pharaoh all of his power and authority
Jesus made this truth clear to Pilate
John 19:10-11 – “Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? ¹¹ Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power *at all* against me, except it were given thee from above. . .”
 - c. All that Pharaoh was was the result of God’s plan and purpose.
The ultimate purpose was that God’s might receive all the glory.
Exodus 14:4 – “I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I *am* the LORD. And they did so.”
Exodus 14:17-18 – “I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. ¹⁸ And the Egyptians shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.”

Romans 9:17 – “For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.”

- B. What do we mean when we use the expression, “the glory of God?” What does it mean that God does everything “for His own glory?”
This expression carries several meanings
1. It is the full manifestation of God’s divine essence. When we say that God created for His own glory we mean that it is an expression of all of His attributes.
 2. When we speak of the glory of God we are speaking of His greatness, His worth, His honor, His majesty.
Everything owes it’s existence to God and so declares His majesty, His greatness—His glory.
- C. God does everything for Himself
1. God created the universe for His own glory
Revelation 4:11 – “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”
 2. All of God’s providence, all of His actions in ruling the earth are for His own glory.
Romans 11:36 – “For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.”
- D. Nowhere is this clearer than in God’s work of salvation upon lost sinners
1. Israel’s deliverance from Egypt is a type of our deliverance from sin
 - a. We too were held in servitude – servants to sin and Satan
 - b. We too needed a great deliverance – a redemption
 2. Just as God delivered Israel that He might be honored He saved us for His own glory.
 3. One of the five solas of the Reformation is *Soli Deo Gloria!*
- E. If God has created you for His own glory how are you bring Him glory
1. There is a sense in which God *will* receive glory from all human beings
 - a. He received glory from wicked Pharaoh
 - b. Even if you spend your entire life blaspheming God He will receive glory and honor from your life just as He did with Pharaoh.
When sinners are cast into hell God’s holiness and justice will be exalted. His wrath will be vindicated. God will receive glory.
 2. Christians, however, are to live their lives to the glory of God. As God’s image bearers we are to reflect His glory, manifest His glory, live to His glory.
 3. The Westminster Catechism (Spurgeon’s Catechism) asks in Question 1:
 - Q. What is the chief end of man?
 - A. Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.
- F. How doe we bring God glory?
1. Some would say, “by worshipping Him.” Others would say, “by obeying Him.” Others would say, “by doing good works in His name.”
All of these are true but they are too narrow.

2. Paul gives us the answer.
1 Corinthians 10:31 – “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”
 - a. There are two focal points to this verse: doing, and God’s glory.
 - b. Paul is saying that everything we do should have in mind the glory of God.
3. The Bible gives us several examples of how we glorify God.
 - a. We glorify God by honoring Him with our bodies
1 Corinthians 6:20 – “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”
 - b. We glorify God by living Godly lives before others
Matthew 5:16 – “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
 - c. We glorify God in our suffering
1 Peter 4:16 – “Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”
 - d. But Paul says we are to glorify God in all things – eating, drinking, sleeping, driving your car, brushing your teeth
4. God is infinitely great and wonderful. We glorify Him when we declare this splendor with our lives—to declare His glory to all men.
 - a. This means that we demonstrate His infinite worth and value in how we live, how we talk – what we do.
 - b. Do you live as if God has infinite value to you or do you demonstrate that the things of this world have greater value
 - c. Piper: “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.”
 This wasn’t original to Piper. He received it from Paul.
Philippians 3:8 – “Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,”
 - d. Are you satisfied with Christ.
 Jim Elliot had this in mind when he wrote, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose.”
5. Tom Ascol – “What would be the best way to honor a professional chef who came all the way from France to prepare a meal for you? Would you show up for dinner with a casserole you had prepared, “just a little something to show your appreciation?” Hardly! Such a gesture would be an insult. A chef takes pride in his cooking. You honor him not by adding your dish to his, but by eating. He will be glorified as you enjoy and make much over the meal! In the same way we glorify our gracious, giving, loving God by receiving, by being loved and by rejoicing in all that He has provided for us in Jesus Christ. Living by faith—trusting Christ in all that we do.”

Conclusion:

1. God is revealing to us rich marvelous truths in the Exodus.
 - A. God's way is the best way.
 - B. God is unfailing in His faithfulness to His people
 - C. God is always present to guide His people
 - D. God does all things for His own glory.
2. God is active in the lives of His people. He is leading us to glory. Keep your eyes upon Him, follow Him, trust Him, live for His glory as you continue to be satisfied in Him.