

# God Heard, Remembered, Saw, and Knew Exodus 2:23-25

March 6, 2024

Outline of the book

1. Departure from Egypt (ch 1-15)
2. Mount Sinai: Law (ch 16-24)
3. Mount Sinai: Tabernacle (ch 25-40)<sup>1</sup>

*Question:* What does this passage teach about God?

Three events that set the stage for Israel's redemption:

## **1. The king of Egypt died (23a)**

**verse 23a**

Forty years pass while Moses is in Midian

- **Acts 7:29-30** "At this retort Moses fled and became an exile in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons. Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush."

Probably the king who sought Moses' life (2:15; 4:19)

Means Moses is no longer a criminal fugitive

## **2. The Israelites cried out to God (23b)**

**verse 23**

The severity of their suffering is emphasized

1. The people of Israel "groaned"
2. They groaned "because of their slavery"
3. They "cried out for help"
4. "Their cry for rescue from slavery" came up to God

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Enns, *Exodus* (The NIV Application Commentary), 33-34.

The Israelites prayed for rescue

### **3. God was concerned for His covenant people (24-25)**

a.) God heard

**24** “And God heard their groaning...”

God is not indifferent to the suffering of His people.

He hears the groans and cries of His people

He will answer at His right time

The One who hears our groans and cries is our omniscient, omnipotent, loving, covenant God

1. Our suffering is part of His plan
2. Our suffering has a beginning and end
3. Our suffering is understood and ruled over by a Sovereign God who will not let it continue without good purpose and result<sup>2</sup>

b.) God remembered

**24b** “and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.”

Even if God’s people forget His covenant promises, He does not

Does not mean God had forgotten, nor that His covenant had been pushed to the back of His mind, nor that His concern had lessened

Means God is preparing to fulfill His covenant promises and will do so

- He is being mindful of His covenant as a prelude to action

God initially made this covenant with Abraham, and then renewed it with Isaac and Jacob

*Question:* What covenant promises did God make to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that are pertinent here?

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<sup>2</sup> Douglas Stuart, *Exodus* (The New American Commentary), 104.

God's covenant is His solemn oath

The book of Exodus is about God fulfilling His covenant promises

What is at stake is nothing less than God's character

God answers the cries of His people because of His covenant with them

c.) God saw

**25** "God saw the people of Israel..."

He pays attention to His people and their suffering

**Psa. 121:3-4** "He will not let your foot be moved;  
 he who keeps you **will not slumber**.  
 Behold, he who keeps Israel  
**will neither slumber nor sleep.**"

He gives consideration to His people and their suffering

Our suffering does not escape the notice of our God

d.) God knew

**25b** "and God knew."

Does not mean the facts of their situation previously escaped him.

Means God has an intimate, personal knowledge of all the particulars of His people's suffering.

Means He knows and cares

### **Conclusion**

God heard, remembered, saw, and knew

Our God is a personal God who loves His people and has a deep concern for them

**Deut. 26:5-8** “And you shall make response before the LORD your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD **heard** our voice and **saw** our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders.

When the Israelites cried out God for help, was there any immediate evidence that He heard?

Later Moses would be able to look back and recognize how God had been active in the events of his...

1. birth
2. childhood
3. time in the Egyptian palace
4. flight to Midian
5. time as a shepherd in Midian.

For those 80 years, the Lord was preparing to redeem His people

When we suffer, we may not understand what our God is doing. But afterwards we should be able to look back and see how God was active in the events of our life, fulfilling His plan and purpose.

As members of God’s people, we who believe can know that God likewise...

1. Hears our cries
2. Remembers the covenant promises He has made to us
3. Sees us
4. Knows

Knowing this should move us to pray to such a loving and caring God!