

A DEMONSTRATION OF REDEMPTION

by Ben Verdoold

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Good morning. Today we are all aware that the world is going to end soon. We are constantly being bombarded with news about global warming and how much ice has melted from the polar caps and how many dormant volcanoes are exploding. We hear about how there is more rainfall and flooding, more wildfires, mudslides and other natural disasters.

In today's world there is much fear. Everyone is worried and fearful. How will we be able to sustain our resources? All we hear about is how food production on the planet is no longer sustainable. There are famines worldwide as the ground can no longer grow food for the people to eat. Will we have to start farming under sea? Everyone is worried about sustaining clean water resources in the face of increasing pollution. Everyone is afraid and wondering how we will continue to live. How will humanity survive? Will we live under the sea, underground, or in domes? Will we have to move to the moon or find another planet with an atmosphere like that of earth's? People are overcome with a sense of doom and fear.

Well, we who know GOD have no need to fear. We who trust in Jesus already have the answer. Interestingly, this question is answered in the Book of Exodus.

The Book of Exodus tells a story of GOD's magnificent redemption. It is one of the best descriptions of GOD's redemption there is.

Now, we haven't the time to read the whole book today, but I will provide you with a quick overview of the Book of Exodus and how it speaks to our redemption.

In the beginning of the book, there is a famine plaguing Israel.

Now, Joseph, the youngest son, was already in Egypt having been sold by his brothers as a slave to Potiphar, a member of Pharaoh's court. He gained favour with Pharaoh and had become the prime minister in Egypt at the time of the famine. (see Exodus 37: 18-36, Exodus 41)

Jacob and his family, consisting of his other 11 sons with their wives and children, (approximately 70 people) came to Egypt to escape the massive famine in their own land, and were taken in and cared for by Joseph. **"¹ These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, ³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, ⁴ Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. ⁵ All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. "** Exodus 1: 1-5.

Then as time passes, Jacob, Joseph and all the others eventually die and a new Pharaoh who does not know about Joseph comes into power. At the same time the Hebrews living in Egypt have been very fruitful and are multiplying in number. **"But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them."** Exodus 1: 7

The new Pharaoh who does not know Joseph sees the Israelites are growing in number and becomes fearful that they will take over the land, so he enslaves them and forces them into hard labour hoping that this will prevent them from becoming too strong and in hope of reducing their number. (Exodus 1: 10-14).

This tactic does not work, so next he orders the Israelite midwives to kill all the male babies at birth. The midwives, Shiphrah and Puah fear GOD and so do not do as Pharaoh commands. (Exodus 1: 15-20) And so, the Israelites continue to multiply and become a great nation.

Pharaoh then is very fearful and he orders his own people to kill all the male babies born to the Israelite women by throwing them into the Nile, but to allow the female babies to live. "Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live." Exodus 1: 22

In chapter 2 we read how, during this time, Moses was born. His mother can see that there is something special about him and so she hides him at home for 3 months. It becomes too difficult to hide him, so at 3 months old she puts him in a basket covered in pitch and puts him in the Nile. It is interesting to note that the word used for this basket is the same word used for Noah's ark. So, Moses is placed in this little ark with his sister posted to watch over him. At this time the Pharaoh's daughter comes to bathe in the river and finds him. (Exodus 2: 1-5))

Moses sister comes to her and offers to find a woman to nurse the baby for her, and so goes and bring their mother to Pharaoh's daughter. Notice how Moses own mother ends up being paid to nurse him! (Exodus 2: 6-9)

When he is weaned, Moses is taken to Pharaoh's daughter and he is raised as her son, a prince of Egypt! **"When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."** Exodus 2:10

Now Moses is raised as a prince of Egypt in Pharaoh's house and when he grew up. Tradition says he was about 40 years old when he saw an Egyptian taskmaster beating a Hebrew slave. Thinking no-one was near enough to see them, he kills the Egyptian and buries his body in the sand. Exodus 2: 11 & 12.

The next day, Moses goes out and sees 2 Hebrews fighting and asks why they are fighting. One of them responds, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?"

At this Moses realizes that what he did must be known to others and that the Pharaoh would soon find out. This is just what happens. Exodus 2: 11-14.

Now it is interesting that the Hebrew should have asked Moses, "Who made you ruler and judge over us?" because, as we will see later that is exactly the role Moses will soon take on.

The Pharaoh is angry and wants to kill him, so he runs away to Midian. He finally takes some rest at a well where the 7 daughters of the priest come to water their flock. While he is there a group of shepherds drive the women away. Moses comes to their rescue and even waters the flock for them. Exodus 2: 15-17.

When the women get home, they tell their father about Moses rescuing them and he invites Moses to stay with them and even gives one of his daughters to Moses as a wife. They have a son. Exodus 2: 18-22.

"23 During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. **24** God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. **25** So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them." Exodus 2: 23-25.

One day Moses is out tending the flocks and he comes across the burning bush. The voice of GOD tells him to remove his sandals because he is standing on holy ground. Moses does this, and realizing he is in the presence of GOD, he hides his face. Exodus 3: 3-6

GOD reminds Moses of the plight of the Israelites in Egypt and tells Moses that HE is concerned for them and wants Moses to go and take the people out of Egypt. Exodus 3: 7-10.

Moses argues that he is not the person to do the job because he does not possess any status to make him be respected by the Israelites. Moses asks what name he shall say has sent him to do this. Notice he does not ask WHO sent him, but rather by WHAT NAME was he sent. GOD then for the first time is now known as "I AM". Exodus 3: 11-20

GOD promises Moses success and even says, **"21 "And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. 22 Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians."** Exodus 3: 21 & 22. Plundering the enemy is a sign of victory over them.

Because Moses remains reluctant to trust GOD and obey HIM, GOD gives Moses 3 signs.

"2 Then the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. **3** The Lord said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground, and it became a snake, and he ran from it. **4** Then 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.

"5 "This," said the Lord, "is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you." **6** Then 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. **8** Then the Lord said, "If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second. **9** 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." Exodus 4: 2-8.

This is not enough for Moses, and he argues that he can't do this because he is "slow of speech." Exodus 4: 10 "**11** The Lord said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? **12** Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." Exodus 4: 11 & 12.

So, Moses goes back to his father-in-law and tells him what has happened and packs up his family and heads back to Egypt. Along the way they are joined by Aaron, and together they return to Egypt. Exodus 4: 18-31.

So now, in Exodus 5, Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh and demand that he let the Israelites go. Pharaoh is angry and afraid because he will lose all the slaves who do all the hard work in Egypt.

Interestingly there are 12 confrontations with Pharaoh. There is one confrontation for each tribe of Israel.

In the first confrontation, Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh to ask to be allowed to take the people to worship GOD. Pharaoh is enraged and orders the workload of the Israelites to be doubled as they now have to make bricks without straw. So now they have to gather their own straw and still produce the same quota of bricks. Everyone knows that this is an impossible task. This results in the Hebrews having to work twice as hard and being beaten even more because they cannot meet their quotas. Because of this the people turned against Moses and blamed him for their increased hardship. (Exodus 5: 1-21)

Moses and Aaron go for a second time to Pharaoh. This time Aaron throws down Moses' staff and it turns into a snake. then Pharaoh's magicians do the same, and then Aaron's staff swallows all of the magicians' snakes. (Exodus 7: 8-13)

And yet again Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh to demand the release of the Israelites. Moses is now 88 years old. Still Pharaoh refused, so then Aaron holds Moses' rod over the Nile River, and it turns into blood, (Exodus 7: 1-24). Can you imagine if Lake Simcoe were to turn to blood and all the fish in it died? How gross would that be? Can you imagine the terrible stench of all those dead fish? And even in the face of that horrible mess, Pharaoh still refuses to let the Israelites go.

7 days later Moses and Aaron return to Pharaoh. This time when Moses strikes his rod, there is a plague of frogs. There are frogs everywhere. In your bed, in your cupboards, in the food in your pantry. They are everywhere, every square inch of the ground is covered in them! Can you imagine? You can't move without stepping on them. They are even all over you!

Well, Pharaoh finally had enough of the frogs, and he called Moses to get rid of them. GOD let all the frogs die, but still refused to let the Israelites go. (Exodus 8:1-14).

At the next confrontation, Aaron strikes the rod on the ground and all the dust in the land turns to gnats. Could you imagine? They were so thick they would fly into your eyes and mouth. They were everywhere and in everything, thick, thick clouds of them! Even the magicians were frightened, but Pharaoh remained stubborn. (Exodus 8: 16-19)

GOD then sends Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh. This time there is a plague of flies so thick they are even covering the ground! This plague is also different because, for the first time the plague does not affect the Hebrews. At this Pharaoh says they may go, but not too far, to worship GOD. Once the flies are gone, however, he changes his mind. (Exodus 8: 20-32).

Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh for the 7th time. This time there is a plague of death of all the Egyptian livestock, but not one Israelite animal died. Still Pharaoh would not let them go. (Exodus 9: 1-7).

Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh for the 8th time. This time Moses tosses a handful of soot into the air and there is a plague festering boils on all the Egyptian people and animals, but still Pharaoh will not let them go. (Exodus 9: 8-12).

GOD now sends Moses to Pharaoh early in the morning. Moses lifted his rod up to the sky and a plague of hail rained down. There was thunder and lightning and hail so strong and heavy as had never been seen before or since. Any living thing, man or beast caught in the hail was killed, and the flax and barley crops were destroyed, but the wheat and spelt were not destroyed, but still Pharaoh would not let them go. (Exodus 9: 13-35).

Now Moses goes to Pharaoh and this time Pharaoh says only the men may go to worship GOD, but the women and children must stay. In answer, GOD sends a plague of locusts such as the world has never seen before or since. They cover the ground so completely that you cannot even see it. They eat everything in their path, both in the fields and even what is in the houses. There is nothing left. (Exodus 10: 1-20).

At the next confrontation Then GOD sent a plague of darkness. this was darkness "that could be felt". You could not see at all, not even your hand in front of your face! So, Pharaoh agreed that the women and children could go with the men to worship. ""**25** But Moses said, "You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the Lord our God. **26** Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind. We have to use some of them in worshipping the Lord our God, and until we get there, we will not know what we are to use to worship the Lord."" Exodus 10: 25 & 26. In response, Pharaoh became enraged and threatened to kill Moses if he came to Pharaoh again and would not let them go. (Exodus 10: 21-29).

The last plague to come is the plague of the death of the firstborn son and cattle of the Egyptians. The Hebrews and their cattle would be safe. (Exodus 11: 1-10)

Now in the other plagues the Hebrews did not need to do anything to be protected, but for the first time, they are required to paint the blood of a sacrificed lamb on the tops and sides of the doorposts of their houses so that the angel of death would pass over them. Now we learned previously that the blood painted on the doorposts would form the Hebrew symbol for "life." It is good to note also that this sacrifice of the lamb would really be a true sacrifice because they had to take the lamb into their home and care for it for 14 days. In that time, they would get really close to the lamb and get to know it well before sacrificing it. (Exodus 12: 1-11)

The number of lambs needed to accomplish this is staggering! One lamb for every household!

The firstborn of the Hebrews was saved by the blood of a lamb, just as we are saved by the holy blood of The LAMB today!

Then "29 At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. 30 Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead." Exodus 12: 29 & 30)

Now begins the Exodus as Pharaoh finally allows the people and all their animals and all their goods to leave Egypt! Every single man, woman and child with all their livestock and pets and all their belongings leave together! No-one was left behind. This fulfills GOD's promise in Exodus 10: 26 "that not a hoof" shall be left behind. (Exodus 12: 31-34)

As they leave, the Hebrews ask for gold and silver, which the Egyptians gladly give to them. This demonstrated that GOD had conquered the Egyptians and fulfills the promise from Exodus 3: 21 & 22, that they will plunder the Egyptians.

"50 All the Israelites did just what the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron. 51 And on that very day the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions." Exodus 12: 50 & 51. "Not one hoof was left behind!"

This is a full redemption of the Hebrew people!!!

It is a hard, yet beautiful demonstration of the full and complete redemption each of us has in Jesus Christ!

The definition of redeem is: to deliver, to restore, to reinstate, or to re-establish.

1 Peter 1: 18 & 19 says, "**For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.**"

Yes, we are truly saved by the Blood of The Lamb. But it is not just by HIS blood that we are saved, we must also repent. Acts 3: 19 says, "**Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,**".

If a wolf is trapped by 4 paws and it manages to loose 3 paws, it is still trapped. Some of us live like that. We hold back just a little corner of ourselves.

It is like the old tradition that farmers had of leaving one corner of their field unplowed for the devil. They would cultivate the whole field, except one small corner which was left for the devil to do as he desired.

We must not live this way. We must fully repent and give our whole selves to GOD.

We have nothing to fear. The devil may whisper in our ear and tell us we are beyond redemption, but it is not true.

Isaiah 44: 22 says, "I have swept away your offences like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you."

We are truly, fully redeemed, right down to our last hair and fingernail.

Man cannot save himself, but with the promises of GOD we can rest assured in our belief and know that we are saved!

Let us go out from here today understanding that we are completely and totally redeemed by our Almighty GOD, just as the Hebrews were. Let us go out praising the name of Christ who has fully redeemed us! Let us give our whole lives to HIM!

Yes, we are fully redeemed! Let that be fully ingrained in us! Let us lean on the everlasting arms of GOD!