



THE STORY OF  
DELIVERANCE BEGAN  
AS THE PEOPLE OF  
GOD CRIED OUT.

# THE STORY OF DELIVERANCE

At the beginning of Exodus, God's people are not in a position of influence and power like they were at the end of Genesis. They have been oppressed for 430 years by cruel Egyptian taskmasters. However, Exodus is the story of God's deliverance of the Israelites from Pharaoh's grip. It is written by its main character, Moses, whose own birth and rescue were nothing short of miraculous (*Exodus 2:1-10*). Exodus is the archetypal story of deliverance revealed throughout the Old Testament.

The story of Israel's salvation has everything that anyone could ever want in an adventure story; a cruel villain (Pharaoh), an unlikely hero (Moses), fantastic disasters (the plagues), a spectacular deliverance (crossing the Red Sea), a long journey (through the wilderness), a mountaintop experience (where Moses receives the Ten Commandments), and a grand finale (when God comes down to fill the tabernacle with His glory)."<sup>1</sup>

The story of deliverance began as the people of God cried out. They were ready for a change, they were tired of being in bondage, and they were ready to move forward. But to move forward, they had to be willing to turn to God.

**EXODUS 2:23** *Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to God. <sup>24</sup> So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. <sup>25</sup> God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them.*

The story of deliverance takes shape when God heard; God remembered; God took notice. God's people can find themselves in seemingly insurmountable circumstances from which they need deliverance too, like health crises, unemployment, and the war against temptation. Exodus gives God's people confidence that He can deliver us and set us free. As we look at Exodus we will learn who our deliverer is, what we need deliverance from, and how we are delivered.

Over the next four weeks, we will look at this story of deliverance as we examine passages from the book of Exodus. We will see how God's plan shapes the purpose of His people as they journey from their past into their present, and as they move forward into their future.

We each face different seasons of our lives when we are in Egypt, or the wilderness or on the cusp of the Promised Land. We can trust that God has His reasons for allowing each season. A difficult season is not a deviation of God's plan. It is an invitation to exercise the muscles of our faith in Him. He hears our every murmur, knows our every fear and provides for our every need. God desires to open our eyes to His deep, tender heart for us and His eager, active hand in our lives.

Feb 1/2	Deliverance from the Past - Exodus 3
Feb 8/9	Deliverance for the Future - Exodus 12
Feb 15/16	Deliverance for Today - Exodus 16
Feb 22/23	Deliverance from Ourselves - Exodus 20

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<sup>1</sup> *The Literary Study Bible*, p. 78.