

**SERMON NOTES**  
**Exodus 14:1-31**  
**“Leaving the Old; Living the New”**

**Intro:**

- What is at the root of many problems – including some chronic sicknesses / some depression / some perpetual anxiety / and some marriage problems?
- *Many people would point to stress as a contributing factor to many health and relationship problems – and it is*
- Fear can also cause many physical and emotional health problems
- **But one of the deepest and most pervasive root problems is guilt and condemnation**
  
- Have you ever heard these kinds of voices or thoughts in your head: *“How can you call yourself a Christian? Look at you – you still \_\_\_\_\_ (smoke, look at pornography, over-eat, swear, lose your temper, give in to lust, etc.). Give up! You are not worthy to be a Christian. You are such a hypocrite!”*
- Did you ever think those thoughts were coming from the Holy Spirit?
- **False – the Holy Spirit never talks to children of God that way**
- *Those are the accusations of your own mind – or of the devil – but those accusations do NOT come from God*
- **The Holy Spirit never connects a believer’s sin with condemnation – the Holy Spirit always connect sin with the blood of Christ that cleanses us of all our sins**
- *The Holy Spirit never sets out to make us feel ashamed / guilty / condemned / unclean / worthless / disqualified from approaching God as our Father*
- That is the work of Satan – the Accuser of the brethren
  
- *When we sin – the Holy Spirit reminds us of the righteousness of God that is ours through faith in Jesus Christ // the Holy Spirit reminds us of the truth of the Gospel: **We are totally accepted, fully pleasing, deeply loved, completely forgiven, and empowered to live a new life in Christ – because of the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus***
- When you sin, the Holy Spirit turns the eyes of your heart to Jesus and His finished work on the Cross
  
- The truth is that believers in Christ live under grace – they continually live under the favor and blessings of God that have been secured by the finished work of Christ on the Cross – *and believing this to be true – and thinking accordingly – empowers us to be set free from the tyranny of sin*

**Romans 6:14 (NIV)** <sup>14</sup>For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

- Today we are looking at some of the most important chapters in the OT – to understand its significance for us today, we must get the order straight: *How did the giving of the Law relate to Israel's salvation from bondage in Egypt?*

## I. **SAVED BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB (Exodus 12-13)**

Pharaoh tried to slaughter the firstborn males of Israel by throwing them into the Nile River

*–but from a basket among the reeds of the Nile was drawn a baby boy who was raised in Pharaoh's own household and would become the Deliverer of the Israelite slaves from the Pharaoh's cruel tyranny*

- 80 years after being drawn out of the Nile by Pharaoh's daughter, Moses stood before a new Pharaoh and demanded in the name of Yahweh: *Let My People go!*
- When Pharaoh refused, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob demonstrated his Sovereign Power by bringing down judgment upon Pharaoh, the land of Egypt, and Egypt's false gods
- *Plague after plague – Pharaoh hardened his heart – and God hardened Pharaoh's heart still harder*
- There would be one last plague that would force Pharaoh to let Israel go:

**Exodus 4:22 - 23 (NIV)** <sup>22</sup>Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son, <sup>23</sup>and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me." But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.'

*\* Before the Lord struck down the firstborn of Egypt – thereby compelling Pharaoh to release the slaves – God gave strict instructions to His people as to how they could be delivered from death by means of the blood of lambs*

**Exodus 12:12 - 13 (NIV)** <sup>12</sup>“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

- *The blood of the Lamb protected the Israelites from the Destroying Angel of Death who stuck down all the firstborn of Egypt*

- Imagine these different households – which of them were saved from the destruction of the firstborn?
  - *Household A – righteous Jewish household with strong faith in God – who sprinkled lamb’s blood on their door and had absolute confidence in the blood of the lamb to save them from death*
  - Household B – Jewish household who sprinkled lamb’s blood on their door but had weak, wavering faith and fearfully worried whether or not they would survive the night
  - *Household C – Jewish household headed by a father who had too much drink that night but still sprinkled lamb’s blood on the door*
  - Household D – Egyptian household that feared the God of Israel because of the plagues and heard about God’s command to sprinkle blood on the doors, so they sprinkled lamb’s blood on their door
- *Which of those four households were saved from the Destroyer?*
  - **All of them**
  - **They were saved by the blood of the Lamb**
  - **The same is true for us today**

***The NT teaches that Jesus is our Passover Lamb who takes away the sin of the world and enables us to cross over from death unto life***

***–Just as the blood of lambs on the doorposts of Israeli homes saved them from the destroying angel of death – so also the blood of Jesus on the doorposts of our hearts saves us from the wrath of God***

***–At the Last Supper, Jesus connected the meaning of his death to the Passover and the Exodus when He instituted Communion***

***–By means of the blood Jesus shed for our sins on the Cross – we are delivered from bondage to sin, death and Satan***

**\* We are not saved by our religious background // we are not saved by our personal righteousness // we are not saved by the strength of our faith – **we are saved by the blood of the Lamb – the sacrificial death of Jesus on the Cross****

**1 Peter 1:18 - 19 (NIV)** <sup>18</sup>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 forefathers, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

**Colosians 1:13 -14** <sup>13</sup>For He has rescued us out of the darkness and gloom of Satan's kingdom and brought us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, <sup>14</sup>who bought our freedom with his blood and forgave us all our sins.

**Revelation 12:10-11** <sup>10</sup>Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens,  
 "It has happened at last—the salvation and power and kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ! For the Accuser has been thrown down to earth—the one who accused our brothers and sisters before our God day and night. <sup>11</sup>And they have defeated him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of their testimony.

***We are forgiven – and WE ARE FREE – because of the blood of the Lamb of God!***

- ***Free from condemnation***
- ***Free from Satan's accusations***

**The controlling power of sin has been broken**

***–We have been emancipated from our slavery to the fear of death and condemnation***

***–And we have been delivered from Satan's power and dominion and have been transferred into the Kingdom of Christ***

*But that doesn't mean that Satan has given up the chase*

## **II. DELIVERED BY THE POWER OF THE LORD (Exodus 14)**

When Pharaoh realized that his slaves were not coming back after 3 days, he assembled his army and set off in hot pursuit of the Israelites

***–And it seemed that the Egyptian army would be able to overpower the Israelites with their backs to the Red Sea***

**Exodus 14:11 - 18 (NIV)** <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" <sup>13</sup>Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. <sup>14</sup>The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. <sup>16</sup>Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup>I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh

and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. <sup>18</sup>The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”

- ***God purposefully led the Israelites into a dead-end in order to trap Pharaoh and his army***
- ***It looked like the Israelites were the ones who were trapped between the Red Sea and the fast-approaching Egyptian army***
- ***There seemed to be no means of escape***
- ***Characteristically, the people panicked and grumbled and questioned Moses' integrity and God's goodness***
- ***Fearing a slaughter at the hands of the Egyptians, the people began to long for "the good old days" of slavery in Egypt***
  
- ***The Israelites could see only two options: slavery in Egypt or death in the desert at the hands of the Egyptian army***
- ***This is how life sometimes looks when we take God out of the picture***
- ***A married couple in a downward cycle sees only two options: divorce or endless misery in an unhappy marriage***
- ***But with God – all things are possible***
  
- ***How did God respond to this ingratitude and lack of faith by the Israelites?***
- ***He rolled up His sleeves and went to work to deliver His People***

**Exodus 14:13 - 14 (NIV)** <sup>13</sup>Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. <sup>14</sup>The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

- ***The Lord of all creation – the Lord of the wind and the waves – sent a strong east wind to open up a highway through the Red Sea – enabling the Israelites to cross over on dry land***
- ***And then – when the Egyptian army pursued its prey right into the Red Sea – the Lord made their chariot wheels come off – and then the Lord covered the Egyptian army with the waters of the Red Sea and swept them into a watery grave***
  
- ***For Israel, the old life in Egypt was now behind them and buried in the sea for good – and a new life as God's People was now beginning***
- ***This story is a dramatic picture of our salvation through Jesus Christ***

***If the death of Christ can be compared to the Passover – then the Resurrection of Jesus Christ can be compared to the parting of the Red Sea***

**–We are saved from our sins by the blood of the Lamb of God – and we are delivered from our spiritual enemies by the power of Christ’s resurrection**

- ***And our baptism into Christ signifies that we have passed through death into new resurrection life – leaving behind our old way of life – a life of bondage to sin and death and Satan – and being raised to a new way of life under Christ’s leadership and authority***

Of course, Satan doesn’t like losing his slaves any more than Pharaoh did

***–Satan still prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour***

When we have been delivered out of his hands, he comes after us with a vengeance

**–It is then that we need to stand firm in our deliverance – the Lord Jesus Christ will fight for us – and He has given us His authority to exercise over all the power of the enemy**

***We live on the other side of The Red Sea -- The point of the Exodus story for us is that God has already won The Decisive Battle over Satan by means of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ***

- ***Egypt is behind us – the Red Sea is behind us – the life of slavery to sin is behind us – we live our Christian lives on the basis of a Victory already achieved by Christ and a Salvation that is already ours by faith***

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)** <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

***\* You can experience this new life in Christ by accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior and living under His leadership and authority***

### **III. SUSTAINED BY THE GRACE OF GOD (Exodus 15-17)**

- Just 3 days after celebrating the Pharaoh’s chariots and army being hurled into the sea, the Israelites arrived at Marah and found that the water was bitter
- ***Their praises quickly turned into complaints***
- How did God respond?
- ***He made the bitter waters sweet***

- About 6 weeks later, the people complained against Moses – and God – that they were hungry
- *How did God respond?*
- He gave them Manna – bread from heaven – and quail to eat
- Some time later, there was a lack of water again – and again the people grumbled and complained
- *What was God's response?*
- He provided water from a rock in the desert
  
- Are you starting to see a pattern here?
- *Between the Red Sea and Mt. Sinai, every time the children of Israel murmured and complained, it brought forth fresh demonstrations of God's favor, provision and goodness*
- These blessings were not dependent on the people's obedience or goodness or spiritual performance in any way
- *God dealt with them according to His grace*
- ***Having been saved by the blood of the Passover Lamb, and delivered from the Egyptian army by the power of the Lord at the Red Sea, they were now being sustained by the grace of God in the wilderness– and all of this apart from any good works or merits or righteousness of their own***
  
- This is what it means to live under the grace of God

**Romans 5:1 - 2 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

#### **IV. BLESSED BY OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW OF GOD (Exodus 19-20)**

- The Israelites arrived at Mt. Sinai during the third month following their Exodus from Egypt

**Exodus 19:3 - 8 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup>Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup>‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup>Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup>you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.” <sup>7</sup>So Moses went back

and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. <sup>8</sup>The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

- *It is important for us to understand that Israel is already saved before receiving the Law*
- **God has already brought them out of Egyptian slavery and through the Red Sea**
- **God has already defeated Pharaoh and his army**
- *God has already provided water, manna and quail for His people*
- **Israel was redeemed before the Law was ever given**
  
- *At Mt. Sinai Israel receives her high calling: to be God’s treasured possession // a kingdom of priests // and a holy nation*
- **The 10 Commandments and the rest of the Law of Moses are given to show them how a holy nation is to live and act in keeping with their high calling**
- **Before the people even heard the specifics of God’s commandments, they replied: “All that God requires of us, we will do – we are able to obey all that God commands us to do.”**
  
- **It is good to have a willing heart and to desire to obey the will of God**
- *But it is presumptuous and prideful and dangerous to think that we can obey God’s laws in our own willpower – especially when your track record is to panic, grumble and complain every time you have been tested*
- **A little more humility and poverty of spirit would have been appropriate here**
  
- **The Law is God’s cure for man’s self-righteous pride**
- *It’s easy to have an inflated view of one’s own goodness and righteousness before being confronted with God’s holy law*
  
- **Soon after the children of Israel boasted of their ability to obey God’s laws – they immediately broke the first two commandments: You shall have no other gods before Me – and You shall not make for yourself an idol**
- **While Moses was still on the mountain receiving the stone tablets of the 10 Commandments – the people were making a golden calf and worshipping it as their god who brought them out of Egypt!**
  
- **There is no record of any of the Israelites dying between the Exodus and Sinai – but after Sinai and the giving of the Law – sin was punished – often with death – including 3000 the day Moses came down from the mountain and saw the people’s idolatry**

- *From Sinai onward, obedience would be blessed by God – and disobedience would be punished by God – often with death*
- No wonder the NT calls the covenant of Law the ministry that brought death and condemnation
- *That is all the Law can do – it can show us the right way to live but it cannot empower us to live right*
- The Law itself is holy, just and good – but it has no power to make us holy, just or good
- *The Law exposes our sins – in fact the Law provokes us to sin – and then the Law condemns sin*
- Do you think you're good enough to be accepted by God into heaven on the basis of your own goodness and righteousness?
- *Try keeping the Law of Moses for a week – you will fail – you will be condemned by the Law*
- The Law was designed to expose our sinful nature and to lead us to a realization that we can never make ourselves righteous by our own efforts
- *The Law was designed to show us that we all need a Savior who can cleanse and remove our sin and provide us with his own righteousness*

**V. AFTER THE CROSS: LIVING UNDER LAW (Flesh) OR LIVING UNDER GRACE (Spirit)? (II Corinthians 3:7-18)**

- Under the Old Covenant – the Covenant of Law – *though saved by the blood of the Lamb* – God's People were blessed on the basis of their obedience to the Law and they were punished if they were disobedient
- *Many Christians live that way today – we are saved by grace through faith – we are saved by the blood of the Lamb – but we experience God's continued favor and blessing on the basis of our obedience and performance*
- And since we often fall short of living up to God's standards – therefore we often live under a dark cloud of condemnation – *we live much of our Christian life thinking that God is displeased and angry with us* – and when things go wrong in life – we assume that God is punishing us
- Let me ask you: day by day, what are you more conscious of: *your sins and shortcomings and failures– or your forgiveness and righteousness in Christ?*
- Satan wants you to be preoccupied with your sins and failures and a sense of condemnation – *because that will lead to spiritual defeat and depression*

**2 Corinthians 3:7 - 9 (NIV)** <sup>7</sup>Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, <sup>8</sup>will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? <sup>9</sup>If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!

- ***The glory of God was mediated to Israel through Moses – and they could not even look at the reflected glory on Moses' face because under the old covenant of law – which Israel repeatedly disobeyed – the glory of God meant death and condemnation***
- ***How are we made holy and righteous? – by the Presence and Glory of God sanctifying us and transforming us – yet the people of Israel could not behold the glory of God because the Law brought condemnation***
- ***Some of us Christians act the same way – when we are conscious of our sins – we stay away from God for fear of condemnation***
- ***When we do that – we are not living like New Covenant Christians – **we are living as though the Death of Jesus on the Cross never happened*****
- ***The Old Covenant of Law brought condemnation and death to sinners – but the New Covenant of Grace – sealed by the blood of Christ – brings what?***
- ***Righteousness – by the ministry of the Spirit – God's very Presence living within us***

**2 Corinthians 3:17-18** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty. <sup>18</sup>But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

- ***We are transformed by the ministry of the indwelling Spirit into the image and likeness of Christ – from glory unto increasing glory – **as we behold the glory of the Lord*****
- ***This is the difference the New Covenant makes – under the Covenant of Law, the glory of God brought death and condemnation to sinners – *but under the New Covenant of Grace – sealed by the blood of Christ – **the glory of God brings righteousness rather than condemnation******
- ***Jesus Christ already bore all of our sin and guilt and condemnation and punishment in His body on the Cross***
- ***His blood cleanses us of all our sins and unrighteousness and qualifies us to approach the Presence of a holy God***

**Hebrews 10:19-20** <sup>19</sup>And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. <sup>20</sup>This is the new, life-giving way that Christ has opened up for us through the sacred curtain, by means of his death for us.

- *This is how New Covenant Christians live – we boldly enter the holy Presence of God through the blood of Jesus which cleanses us of all our sins*
- **We draw near to God – even when we have sinned – confident that the throne of grace is open to all who come to God through the blood of Jesus**
- *When our minds are set on the Truth of the Gospel – then we are more conscious of our forgiveness and righteousness in Christ than we are of our sins*
- **Our primary mindset is NOT – I am a sinner deserving of condemnation and punishment – a mindset that will lead to spiritual defeat and further sin**
- **Rather our primary mindset is: I am totally accepted, fully pleasing, deeply loved, completely forgiven, and empowered to live a new life in Christ – because of the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus – a mindset that will lead to freedom and victory and righteousness through the blood of Christ and the power of the Spirit**
- *Some of you are struggling with sin issues and bad habits*
- *When you look in the mirror, Satan whispers to you: You are a loser // you are unclean // you are a failure as a Christian // God is disgusted with you // you deserve condemnation and punishment // something bad will probably happen to you today because of your filthy sins*
- **Those are all lies because they reflect life as though Jesus had never shed his blood on the Cross**
- *Instead, when you look at yourself in the mirror, tell yourself the truth: the blood of Jesus cleanses me of all my sins // All my sins have already been punished at the Cross // There is NO condemnation for me because I am in Christ // I am righteous in God's sight because of Jesus and his blood and his righteousness // Sin shall not be my master because I am under grace, not under law // God's grace is greater than my sin // Good things happen to those who believe that God loves them – and I believe that God loves me*
- **That is New Covenant thinking**
- **The Law condemns the best of us – but grace saves the worst of us**

(Conclusion):

- How about you – are you living under law – or under grace?
- *Have you been saved by the blood of the Lamb – or are you still trying to earn God’s acceptance and eternal life by your own good works?*
- And if you are already saved by the blood of the Lamb – are you trying to earn God’s favor and blessings by your own efforts to live right – *or are you claiming God’s blessings on the basis of your New Covenant inheritance that has already been secured by the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross?*
- When you sin or give in to a bad habit – do you withdraw from God because you fear His condemnation and anger and punishment – *or do you draw near to God through the blood of Jesus because you need His grace to help you in time of need?*
- When you don’t read your Bible for several days – or weeks – do you feel guilty – undeserving of God’s blessings – *or do you feel **hungry** – eager to feed on His life-giving Word in order to learn more about His saving grace?*
- Do you spend most of your days living under the law with its sense of guilt and condemnation – *or under grace with its assurance that God always loves you and is seeking to impart to you all the blessings secured by the finished work of Jesus Christ?*

Salvation Prayer  
“In Christ Alone”