

Lesson Twelve: *Deliverance and Provision*
Exodus 13:17-18:27

Themes:

Exodus: God fulfills His promises by establishing His people as a nation and by delivering them from bondage through the leadership of Moses.

Deliverance under Moses (1-18): God delivers and equips His people through His mighty power, not through the power of human effort.

I. **God's Deliverance**

- a. (13:17) As promised, the Lord delivers His people from bondage at the appointed time.
 - i. God's promise: Genesis 15:13-14; Exodus 3:8, 10
 - ii. God's deliverance:
 1. A demonstration of God's providence
 - a. *The LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go (Ex 4:21; cf. 7:3; 14:4, 17).*
 - i. God uses Pharaoh to glorify Himself (7:3).
 - ii. Pharaoh is given over to his own evil nature (Ex 8:15; cf. Rom 1:24-28).
 2. (7:14-12:29) A demonstration of God's power
 - a. Blood, frogs, and gnats
 - i. Theme: Yahweh is superior to the Egyptian gods.
 - ii. Meaning: False gods cannot sustain or produce life.
 - b. Flies, dead livestock, boils
 - i. Theme: God shows favor to His chosen people.
 - ii. Meaning: God's mercy is granted according to His will and pleasure.
 - c. Hail, locusts, and darkness
 - i. Theme: The Egyptian gods are powerless.
 - ii. Meaning: True power is found only in Yahweh.
 - d. Death of the first-born
 - i. Theme: Yahweh gives life and takes it away.
 - ii. Meaning: Israel's God is the true God.
 - e. *Compare your enemies to God, not yourself (Dr. Douglas Kelly).*
 3. A demonstration of God's timing
 - a. Israel's God is the true Potentate of time.
 - b. *My soul waits in silence for God only; from Him is my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken (Ps 62:1-2).*
 - i. The strength of our waiting is found in silence before God (cf. Ex 14:14).

II. **God's Provision**

- a. God provides for and equips His people so that they may glorify Him.
 - i. (13:21) The provision of guidance:
 1. Cloud and fire: symbolic of the presence of God
 - a. Genesis 15:17; Exodus 3:2; 33:9-10; 40: 34-38
 2. God, who is imminent, dwells with His people and guides their journey.
 - a. With God in the lead, the route is always trustworthy.

- ii. (14:16) The provision of power:
 - 1. Yahweh is the source of Israel's power.
 - a. God's people must learn to trust the Lord for deliverance.
 - 2. The staff as an instrument of judgment and deliverance (7:19)
 - a. God wields His power according to His will and pleasure.
- iii. (14:19-20) The provision of protection:
 - 1. *The angel of God*: the pre-incarnate Messiah (cf. 3:2)
 - a. Christ as the divine warrior (Num 22:22-23, 31-32)
 - b. God fights for His people.
 - 2. *The pillar of cloud*: the Shekinah glory of God (19:9; 33:9-10)
 - a. The cloud brings blessing (light) and curse (darkness)
 - b. Pharaoh (the incarnate sun-god Ra) cannot bring light.
 - i. God's blessing is for those who walk in the light.
- iv. (14:27; 17:8-16) The provision of victory:
 - 1. (14:27) Yahweh is the true Sovereign.
 - a. *Daybreak*: defeat comes as their false god "rises."
 - b. The water brings blessing (a wall of protection) and curse (a wall of destruction).
 - 2. (17:11) Israel's victory comes by the hand of God, not sword and shield.
- v. (14:30-31) The provision of holy fear:
 - 1. The hand of the Egyptians (30) versus the hand of Yahweh (31)
 - a. God's covenant fidelity should produce reverence and trust.
- vi. (15:1-18) The provision of praise:
 - 1. A doxology, or song of praise to God:
 - a. (1-12) Praise for the Lord's redemption
 - b. (13-18) Praise for the Lord's placement of them in the land
 - 2. God's covenant fidelity should produce praise and honor to God.
 - a. The spontaneous and joyful adoration of God's people
- vii. (15:22-25; 16:4-12; 17:1-7) The provision of sustenance:
 - 1. (15:22-25; 17:1-7) The provision of water
 - a. (15:25) *Showed*: The Hebrew word for law (*torah*), is a form of "showed."
 - i. Preparation for Sinai
 - ii. The law of God preserves and sweetens
 - b. (17:1-7) Christ delivers God's people in every age (I Cor 10:4).
 - 2. (16:4-12) The provision of food
 - a. The fulfillment of a greater purpose
 - i. *He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD* (Deut 8:3).
- viii. (16:22-30) The provision of rest:
 - 1. (22) Full enjoyment of the Sabbath requires preparation.
 - 2. (23-28) The Sabbath is a holy day (cf. Gen 2:3).
 - 3. (29) The Sabbath is a gift to be enjoyed.
- ix. (18:13-27) The provision of leadership:
 - 1. (17-18) The spiritual health of God's people requires strong leaders.
 - 2. (21) God's leaders must be men of piety.

The God who delivered and cared for the Israelites, will deliver and care for those who trust in Him.