

EXODUS: The Movement of God's People

WEEK 1, AUGUST 16, 2023

When We Were Slaves in Egypt: The Exodus as Christian Paradigm

Readings: Exodus 1:1-4:31

I. Introduction and Syllabus

II. The Movement of God's People. This is our story.

- A. **Story of Israel** (*Deut. 15:15*—Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command today.)
- B. **Story of Jesus** (The Flight into Egypt—*Matthew 2:13-23*, his “exodus”, *Luke 9:28-36*)
- C. **Story of the Church** (*1 Cor. 10:1-11*, “our forefathers”—*Acts 7:36-41*, “our fathers”)
- D. **Baptismal Theology** (slavery through water to promised land)
- E. **Eucharistic Theology**

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What does the story of the Exodus have in common with the American Revolution, compare and contrast George Washington and Moses?
- 2) What does the story of the Exodus have in common with the underground railroad? Compare and contrast Harriet Tubman and Moses?

III. Background

- A. **Torah** – TANAK, Pentateuch, Biblical Authority
- B. **Authorship** – Who wrote the second book of Moses?
- C. **Historical Context** – Exile

IV. Who were the Hebrews (habiru)?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What does it say about God that the Lord chooses the Hebrews to be God's people?
- 2) Who are the “hebrews” in your life and world?

V. Who was Moses (*Ex. 2:1-10*)?

- A. **Is this a hero story?** - Moses of Egypt vs. Sargon of Akkad
- B. **Microcosm of Exodus**
- C. **What's in a name?**
- D. **Call at the Burning Bush** (*Ex. 3:1-15*)
 1. A God who “see, hears, and knows”
 2. A sacramental God
 3. Moses' five reasons for resistance (1 - I'm not good enough. 2 - I don't know what to say. 3 - I don't have the authority. 4 - I can't speak. 5 - I am not qualified.)

Reflection:

- 1) Passover Haggadah “As long as there was no prospect of freedom, God knew the Israelites would not awaken to the bitterness of bondage. First Moses had to teach the taste of freedom's hope, and only then did servitude taste bitter.” What is the bondage in your life that you are not “awakened to”? How does the Exodus story offer you personally a “taste of freedom's hope”? Knowing Moses' reasons, What are your reasons of resistance?
- 2) Listen to the spiritual “Go Down Moses,” reflect on how the movement of God's people in the Exodus can be your movement as well?

Go Down Moses

African American Spiritual

Go down Moses
Way down in Egypt land
Tell all Pharaohs to
Let My People Go!

When Israel was in Egypt land...
Let My People Go!
Oppressed so hard they could not stand
Let My People Go!

Go down, Moses
Way down in Egypt land
Tell all Pharaohs to
Let My People Go!

So Moses went to Egypt land...
Let My People Go!
He made all Pharaohs understand...
Let My People Go!

Go down, Moses
Way down in Egypt land
Tell all Pharaohs to
Let My People Go!

Thus spoke the Lord, bold Moses said:
Let My People Go!
'If not I'll smite, your firstborn dead'
Let My People Go!

Go down, Moses
Way down in Egypt land
Tell all Pharaohs to
Let My People Go!