

FREE

Lessons from the Exodus

Freedom for what?

1. The Exodus is really an incredible event. The Most High God in all His glory steps in to deliver a bunch of rag-tag slaves and makes them His own people. He frees them from slavery and promises to bring them into a land all their own – a land of blessing. You might think that they would be overflowing with gratitude and eager to live for this Saviour God, but we humans often take things for granted, don't we? Within forty five days of the Exodus, Israel was already griping. Read Exodus 16:1-4. **How does ingratitude warp our perspective? How does God react?**

2. Sadly, the grumbling in Exodus 16 is not the end of it. The Israelites continue to use their freedom to gripe about what God hasn't given them and how they want their desires met (Exodus 17:3; Numbers 11, 21:4-9). Exodus 32 though is the greatest insult. Read Exodus 32. **What do the people do? What do you think of Aaron's excuses? Do you think this would have happened if Moses had not insisted the 'someone else' go (ie., Aaron wouldn't have risen to a position of authority)?**

3. This kind of begs the question – if God gave them their freedom, what were they free to do? Free to live for themselves? Free to boss God around? Free to redefine God so He'd be more to their liking? Read Deuteronomy 6:20-25. **What is their freedom for according to this passage?**

4. Sadly though, even though the Israelites were free from slavery, they remained slaves to sin, as the Golden Calf and all their other grumbings showed. As sinful as they were though, God was even more merciful. Look at Exodus 34:6-7. This is a constellation of attributes that comes up again and again in the Bible (for example Numbers 14:18, Psalm 86:15, Psalm 103:8, Psalm 145:8, Nehemiah 9:17, Joel 2:13, Jonah 4:2). **How does God describe Himself? How does this impact how you think about and approach God? How is this reflected in the salvation that Jesus secured for us?**

5. These characteristics ultimately led God to deal not only with the literal-slavery problem but also the sin-slavery problem. Jesus died on the Cross, the Passover Lamb, to free us from sin's grip and set us free. For what? Read Galatians 5:1, 13-14; 1 Peter 2:16-17. **What should we as Christians use our freedom for?**