



CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

APRIL 15 2023

Scripture Story: Exodus 1–4.

Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets* (or *Beginning of the End*), chapter 22.

I see, I hear, I know

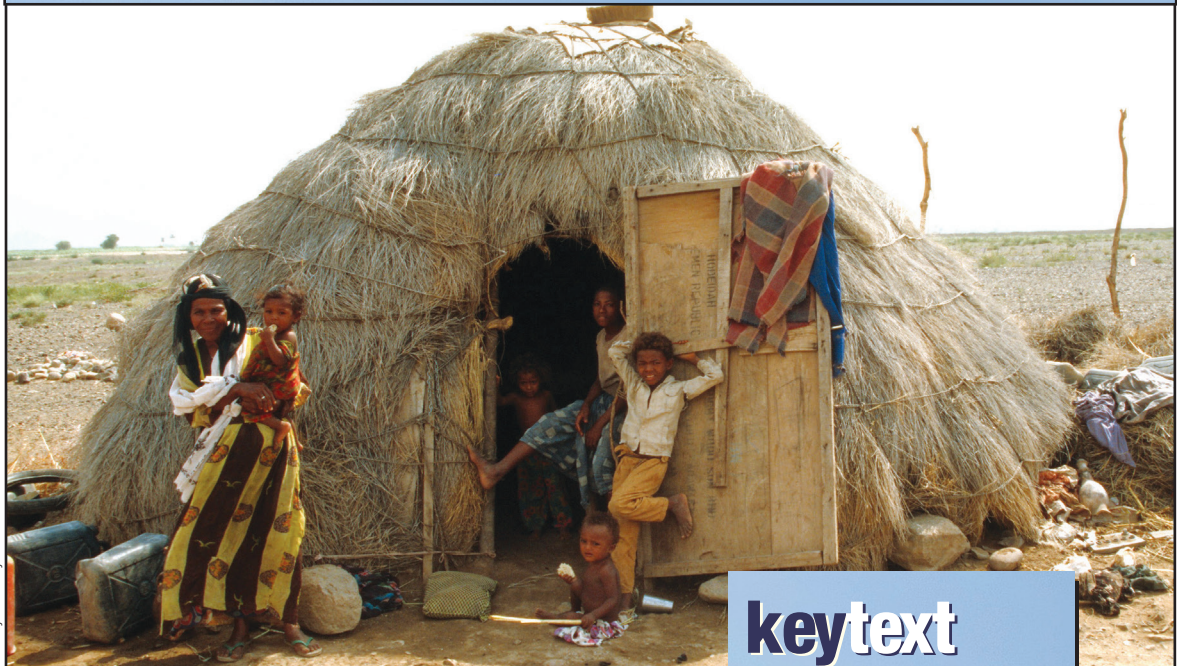


Photo by Tereza Byrne

flashlight

"In slaying the Egyptian, Moses had fallen into the same error so often committed by his fathers, of taking into their own hands the work that God had promised to do. . . .

"Infinite Wisdom called him who was to become the leader of his people to spend forty years in the humble work of a shepherd. The habits of caretaking, of self-forgetfulness and tender solicitude for his flock, thus developed, would prepare him to become the compassionate, longsuffering shepherd of Israel" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 247, 248).

keytext

"The LORD said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.' "

(Exodus 3:7, NIV)

what do you think?

Sometimes people do bad things because they themselves have had bad things done to them. Keeping this in mind, in which of the following scenarios would you be most likely to comfort and/or deliver the victim from the oppressor if you had the power to stop what was happening? How would you intervene?

A 14-year-old is teasing a 5-year-old.

A mother is being mistreated by her husband.

An adult is yelling at a child.

A boy is being sold into slavery.

did you know?

The Israelites weren't the only people God delivered from bondage. Amos 9:7 says that He also rescued the Cushites, the Philistines, and the Arameans.

We are also in bondage—slavery to sin that the devil has captured us in. God loves us and wants to rescue us. He promised in Mat-

thew 1:21 that Jesus will “save his people from their sins” (NIV). Some of this deliverance can happen right here on earth; the rest will happen in heaven. But

God will deliver. Why does God bother to deliver people? Because He sees, He hears, and He knows what they are going through.

INTO THE STORY

“One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, ‘Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?’

“The man said, ‘Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?’ Then Moses was afraid and thought, ‘What I did must have become known.’

“When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian.”

“During that long period, the king

of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.”

“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. . . . God called to him from within the bush, ‘Moses! Moses!’ And Moses said, ‘Here I am.’ ‘Do not come any closer,’ God said. ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.’ Then he said, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.’ At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. The LORD said, ‘I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey. . . . And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.’ But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’ And God said, ‘I will be with you.’ ”

(Exodus 2:11-15, 23-25; 3:1, 2, 4-12, NIV)

OUT OF THE STORY

What parts of the story are key? (Underline them.) What aspects or details of the story are new to you? (Place an arrow beside them.)

What words or phrases capture the various emotions of this story most? (Circle them.)

What emotions, actions, or adjectives enrich this story? (Place a rectangle around them.)

Highlight the promises God makes to the Israelites.

In the story, identify the reason God cares about the Israelites.

Draw an ear or an eye beside the statements God makes about hearing or seeing the Israelites.

What does it mean to you to have a God who hears, sees, and knows what you are doing?

Why do you think this story is included in the record of Scripture?

List other major lessons that you see emerge in this story.

If you were to capture this story in five words or less, what would you say?

punch lines

“Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God. . . . He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. . . . The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow” (**Psalm 146:5, 7-9, NIV**).

“The Lord Jesus Christ . . . who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age” (**Galatians 1:3, 4, NIV**).

“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear” (**Isaiah 59:1, NIV**).

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted” (**Matthew 5:4, NIV**).

“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom” (**2 Timothy 4:18, NIV**).

further insight

“By calm, simple faith the soul holds communion with God and gathers to itself rays of divine light to strengthen and sustain it in the conflict with Satan. God is our tower of strength.”—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 98.

connecting to life

Sabbath

Read Psalm 146:5-9.

In the *What Do You Think?* section you were asked to choose one situation from the list in which you most wanted to intervene. As you completed the exercise, what did you feel? Did you imagine the situation and how angry or upset it made you feel? Why did you want to intervene? Can you think of any reasons that you wouldn't intervene? Why did you pick the one you did? How could you intervene in a way that would bring healing to both the oppressor and the victim? Consider how God feels when He sees, hears, and knows about the terrible results of sin that are happening all the time. Do you think God wants to intervene? How do you think He does it? When do you think He does it?

Do you think God intervenes by Himself or does He do it through people? Can you think of someone He has used? Why do you think God used that specific person? Do you want to be used by God to help deliver someone? If so, pray to God about someone you know, whether they be at school, your home, your church, or in your neighborhood, and ask God what His will is for them and what you can do.

Sunday

Read Galatians 1:3, 4.

Read the story of Moses in the *Into the Story* section of this week's lesson and work through the questions in *Out of the Story*. What do you think are the central lessons to be learned?

As you read, did you notice God's kindness? Is there some way in which you want to be delivered or helped by God—from a bad habit, or from someone who is treating you wrong? If so, pray now for His help and claim the promises that He gave to Moses—"I will be

with you; I will deliver you," and remember, He hears, He sees, He knows.

Monday

Read Exodus 3:7.

Read the *Key Text* and think about what God means when He says He knows our sorrows. Have you ever wondered if God really knows what it feels like to be really sad? Or to be a victim? Or do you think that this text simply means God knows *about* our sorrows? Jesus is God; think about the times in Jesus' life when He was on earth and would have felt sorrow. Take time in prayer to empathize with God.

Tuesday

Read Ephesians 2:8, 9.

Read the quote in the *Flashlight* section. It isn't easy to trust in God sometimes, especially when we want to do things ourselves. In this week's story Moses wanted to deliver the Israelites, but he got ahead of God. God had to humble Moses by teaching him to look after sheep in the desert for 40 years! Can you think of times when you have wanted to do something for yourself without asking God how He wanted to do it? How did it take humility to do it God's way?

Wednesday

Read the *Punch Lines* for this week. Some of the texts talk about God helping with hunger and prison, others talk about Him freeing us from sins, and another talks about God simply comforting those who mourn. God doesn't always do the same thing for every person; He treats us as individuals. Which text speaks most to you at the moment? Why? Claim that text in prayer, and find a way to live it today.

Thursday

Read 2 Timothy 4:18.

Read chapter 22 in *Patriarchs and Prophets* and see if you can see any parallels between the story of redemption of the Is-

raelites and the story of Jesus and your redemption. The first might be that both Moses and Jesus were to be like shepherds, or that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness and Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness. Once you have finished, thank God that He is the same today as He was yesterday, and that He will always be a God who loves to redeem people.

Redemption of the Israelites _____

Jesus and my redemption _____

Friday

Read Isaiah 59:1.

Have you, or someone you know, ever experienced God's redemption? If so, talk to them about it, or write them a letter and ask them to tell you about it. If you have personally experienced God's redemption, tell someone else about it. Let them know that God hears, sees, and knows what they are going through. Tell them what God has done for you and what He can do for them.

this week's reading*

Patriarchs and Prophets (or *Beginning of the End*), chapter 22.

**Beginning of the End* is a special adaptation of *Patriarchs and Prophets*, created for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press. Get more information about it at www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books#.URlhF1rBO9s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages series each year.