

J: Exo 2-4, Heb 5-6



Exodus 2

1. Trusting in God's sovereignty does not negate human responsibility and ingenuity (e.g. putting the baby in the water during sacred bathing for the princess, playing to her womanly pity/motherly inclinations, sister offering up the services of her mother) (1-9).
2. God has been known to use women and children to topple an evil nation (1-10).
3. Adoption can be one of the most God honoring, loving and responsible things a mother can do (3-9).
4. Life-impacting and lasting-things about God can be learned in a child's first few years (9-10 w/11-13 w/Heb 11:23-27).
5. Sometimes God uses people from very secular/pagan backgrounds to be his greatest and godliest leaders (10 w/Act 7:22).
6. If you are going to be greatly used by God you need to be proud of your identity as a Christian and willing to stand up for your God and people (11-13).
7. When you do God's will it can be pretty lonely (14; e.g. 2Ti 4:16; Mat 26:3).
8. God's great leaders are often not initially recognized as such by their families (14; e.g. Jesus – Mat 13:57).
9. God uses pros – not amateurs, to lead His people (15-22 = Midian was the land through which Moses would lead Israel 40 years later).
10. To become one of God's pros often requires training/testing in the wilderness (even Elijah and Jesus were trained/tested in this way – 1Ki 19:1-18; Mat 4:1-11) (15-22).
11. You can be a strong person of God in a world filled with false religion (e.g. Moses was raised under the Egyptian religion and then lived w/a Midianite priest, 10,21).
12. A man of God stands up for the weak/oppressed (16-19).
13. We should honor those who stand for the weak and the oppressed (20-22).
14. God helps those who are/can be connected to Him in covenant (23-25).

Exodus 3

1. The place where God first appears to Moses is the same place where God will make covenant and appear to His people (Mt Horeb = Mt Sinai) (1, 12).
2. God orchestrates the circumstances in our daily lives to direct us into His word and will (1-3).
4. Coming to God requires treating Him as holy (4-5).
5. God's presence creates sacred space which must be operated in with holiness (5).
6. We live after death (6a – "I am the God of...; Mat 22:32).
7. Familiarity with God does not breed contempt but fear (6b).
8. God keeps His promises (7-8).
9. God sees and cares when His people are suffering (9; 1Pe 5:7; Psa 31:7; Isa 63:9; Zec 10:3; Mat 10:29-31).
10. Jesus is the One speaking in the bush since He is the One that led the Israelites into the promised land (7-10, 14-17; Jud 1:5; Joh 8:58).
11. Sharing God is not about who we are but who God is (11).
12. To be greatly used by God requires great trust in God not self (11-12).
13. Faithfulness at your present job is the key to God's promotion to another job (1-12 = Moses was a faithful shepherd of sheep for 40 yrs to be promoted as God's shepherd over His people – Act 7:23 w/Exo 7:7).
14. God's name reveals why He is indeed the God above all gods ("I AM WHO I AM") – i.e. I do what I want whenever I want (YWH) (13-15 w/16:23).
15. God's will always follows the proper protocol of going thru the existing authorities (10 and 16; Moses is to go to the elders and go to Pharaoh; e.g. Paul goes to the elders of the church in Jerusalem – Gal 2:1-2; Act 15:1-3).
16. God's message includes mention of His care/concern for us and the promise of deliverance/blessing if we will follow Him (16-18).

17. When a person mocks God it strengthens God's arm against them (19-20).

18. God makes good on even the finer details of His promises (21-22 w/Gen 15:14).

Exodus 4

1. Making excuses (even legitimate ones) won't change God's will for you (1-17).

2. Moses believed that man's will was truly free (1 w/3:18).

3. God is reacting to our real and free choices (God denies determinism) (2-9).

4. Being a coward/lazy/doubter when it comes to God's will means that you have chosen God's grievous versus great plan for your life (10-17 = Aaron's leadership would cause much pain to Moses; e.g. Exo 32)

5. When God calls us to a different job/role we have a responsibility to leave our former job/role with integrity (18-20).

6. God takes out our enemies when we do His will (19).

7. God can harden hearts when people harden their hearts to His gospel (21 = God is speaking about what He will do as a result of Pharaoh's rejection which He already knew b/c of Pharaoh's already hardened state - SEE Exo 7-8; 8:15 w/9:12 = Pharaoh's heart is already hard b/c of rejecting God's gospel signs – see pt #11).

8. Israel/Jews are God's favored nation/people (22 – "firstborn son" = favored people; Rom 11:1-29).

9. A father's unfaithfulness in parenting may be the death of his kids (23-26 w/12:48-49).

10. Worship is the proper response to seeing His work and hearing His message (27-31).

11. Moses preached the gospel thru the first three signs to God's people and Pharaoh (serpent = sin; leprosy = death; blood = salvation not by cleansing in sacred water but sacred blood). The Israelites believed, Pharaoh did not (believe) (30-31, 7:10-23).

Hebrews 5

1. If we are to find mercy w/God then we need a sympathetic and sacrificing mediator (i.e. "high priest") (1-3 – "beset with weakness...sacrifice for his own sins" = Jesus' weakness was not sin but only that He too was susceptible to temptation – making Him sympathetic/merciful to our temptations and sin – 2:17-18; see also 3:1 – "apostle and high priest") who has been called by God (versus calling/appointing himself) (Jesus was appointed by God in the order of Melchizedek, 4-6, 10).

2. Jesus not only meets the qualifications for a high priest but also: 1) was "heard" by God (i.e. God received His offerings and sacrifice) b/c of His perfect obedience to God even in suffering (7-9a), 2) became the source of eternal salvation to all who (now) obey Him" (9b).

3. Thru His priesthood, Jesus became our example of the gospel of gain and maintain that leads to eternal salvation (9b): 1) He gained His priesthood by grace (versus thru being born into the line of priests, 4-6), 2) He maintained that priesthood by faithful obedience (7-9a).

4. A Christian whose life does not reveal they understand that "eternal salvation" (9) requires these "basic principles of the oracles of God" (i.e. gain and maintain) reveals also that they are a lazy, undiscerning and immature little "child" (literally, baby) possessing no real ability "to distinguish good from evil" (or what our obligations are as Christians) (11-14).

5. God expects us to be growing or maturing in our understanding of the gospel thru constant training and practice so that we can teach others by the example of our lives (11-14).

Hebrews 6

1. The "elementary doctrine of Christ" is the gospel of gain and maintain (1-2 = "foundation of repentance" / "instruction about washings, laying on hands" = gaining a justified/right standing w/Christ thru the waters of baptism and rec'g the HS – Act 8:17, 19:5-6; "of faithfulness toward God" / "the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment" = maintaining our justified/right standing w/Christ thru faithful obedience so that we can receive eternal salvation/final justification at the final judgment of God).

2. God expects Christians to mature (or grow spiritually) which requires not only getting the gospel right -esp. as it relates to the issue of faithful maintenance (something the Hebrews were obviously not remembering/getting based on the author's reminders, exhortations and rebukes), but also a passionate commitment to becoming living examples of such faithfulness to others (1-2 w/10-12).

3. Those Christians who do not earnestly pursue such faithfulness after receiving all the tools needed to successfully do so ("those who have once been enlightened...tasted the heavenly gift...shared in the Holy Spirit...tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come"), but rather (and as a result) "have fallen away" in the practice of unrepentant sin/unfaithfulness, cannot be restored or forgiven, have permanently lost the sacrifice of Jesus (i.e. their justification) and are therefore eternally condemned w/no hope of that ever changing. The bible therefore teaches real apostasy for real Christians (3-8).

4. The only thing that can give the Christian assurance or hope of future salvation is their continuing pursuit of present faithfulness (9-12).

5. The obtaining of future salvation thru present and persevering faithfulness is guaranteed by the divine oath and office of Jesus as our high priest/mediator (13-20).