

# Lenten Devotional 2020

Tuesday, March 10, 2020  
Day 12, Exodus 12

## **Heads Held High**

*During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me." (Exodus 12:31–32)*

As I said yesterday, the killing of the firstborn from every Egyptian family was a horrible thing. It seems that nothing less would have been sufficient to result in the deliverance of Israel. Still, that level of death is heartbreaking.

That being said, we need to notice what this whole conflict results in: freedom. But, notice the kind of freedom. After generations of slavery and oppression (430 years), Israel is not leaving a broken people. They are not escaping by the skin of their teeth. They aren't just happy to get away. They are leaving as a people delivered by their God. They are a nation coming out of another nation. They have an identity. They are even feared by their former oppressors. But also blessed by them; they are given silver and gold objects and jewelry.

On the flip side, Egypt isn't begrudgingly letting them go either. Pharaoh says to Moses and Aaron, bless me. God's course of action has proven effective. Pharaoh now knows the power of YHWH, Israel's God. He is greater than Egypt's gods (which was the point of God judging the gods). If Israel's God is greater than Egypt's gods, then Israel is the greater nation, therefore the request for blessing.

It is this deliverance, not a bare escape, that necessitates memory. Israel is given a festival meal to keep every year to commemorate what God did for his people. That meal is a certain reliving and rehearsal of that salvation. God's grace is not just remembered. It had a smell, a sight, a touch, and a taste to it. All of that is to mark the meals to come.

In the same way, as we think about Christian discipleship, we need to remember our great and total deliverance. We too have not been delivered only partially. There is no bare escape. Rather, to quote John Wesley, there is no limit to our deliverance from sin through Christ and the Spirit. This is important to remember because it determines how we live out our Christian lives. We are to live abundantly by the Spirit of Christ, enjoying freedom from the bondage of sin. This also forms the basis for our remembrances of what God has done for us in Christ. We celebrate the Lord's Supper as a means of remembering regularly the rescue of God. As well, we rehearse the story of salvation through the church calendar in order to remember the larger story of God's grace.

## **Prayer**

Saviour, thank you for delivering us totally from the powers of Sin and Death. Help us to walk in that salvation confidently rather than believe we have barely escaped. Let us enjoy the life you have given to us in Christ abundantly. Amen.