

GOD'S PERSONAL SCRAPBOOK ON

REDEMPTION

God does not forget His covenants

"And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob" - Exodus 2:24

God does not stop pursuing us when we have sinned

If you can still repent, he is still pursuing you. Scripture says,

"The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy" - Psalm 145:8

God wants us to hear His warning

We must rely on His timing and His strength, and not on our own strength.

"The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation" - Psalm 118:14.



A Few Things We Must Learn

God wants us to hear three messages from our passage — He does not forget His covenants; He does not stop pursuing us when we have sinned, and He wants us to rely on Him.

These lessons are preserved for our benefit in His divine record. They are snapshots of the past, pasted into the family album. They remind us of His providential care, His love and His purpose for His children. As it is with any scrapbook, there is a story behind every picture. Today we will learn from the past, and be reminded that God is still faithful and is the God of all mercy and grace.

1. Describe the three situations portrayed in the following passages: Exodus 1:22; Exodus 2:1-4/ Hebrews 11:23; Exodus 2:5-9.

- a. The first image** is of Israel being brutally abused while in Egyptian bondage. A new Pharaoh is on the throne. He is saying to all his people regarding Israel . . .

“Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river; and every daughter ye shall save alive.”
– Exodus 1:22

- b. The next image** is of a couple from the house of Levi who has a son. When the woman saw that she had a son, she hid him for three months. When she could no longer hide him by faith she put him in an ark made of bulrushes and placed him among the reeds along the riverside.

Hebrews 11:23 says

“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king’s commandment.” – Hebrew 11:23/Exodus 2:1-4

It is an image of faith and courage.

- c. The final picture in this this section is one of providence.**

God’s providence is seen when Moses is laid in the reeds of the River Nile at the exact time **Pharaoh’s daughter came** to the same place to bathe. When she saw the ark in the reeds she charged one of her maids to fetch it. When she opened it, and saw the child, the baby cried and she was moved with compassion and spared his life.

Divine providence is seen again when Moses’ mother was sought to nurse him. She most likely cared for Moses until he was 2 or 3 years old.

This is a picture of God’s providential care. Yes, He is caring for Moses. It is also an illustration of how God can providentially care for us.

2. Besides the historic content of the above passages, are there any universal principles we may learn from these events?

- a.** At that time Israel could not see God’s hand of mercy. It was clouded by their trials. The same is true with us, because of trials we often fail to see God’s providential hand in our lives.

What the nation saw was their harsh treatment by Pharaoh. His genocidal actions must have been overwhelming. I cannot even begin to imagine the difficulty Moses’ mother faced when she placed her child among the reeds of the Nile.

However, in this picture we can see how God can turn any curse around. He graced Moses’ mother with the care of her child. He graced Israel with a deliverer.

He can provide the deliverance or the comfort we need.

In this case, by bring Moses into the world He was working out Israel's deliverance. He was providentially answering the cries of the people. He remembers His covenant.

"And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob" – Exodus 2:24

3. What covenant is being referred to in Exodus 2:24, 25? What can we learn about God from these verses? What promises has God given to Christians? 2 Peter 1:4; Philippians 4:19; Romans 8:37-39; John 14:1-3; 2 Corinthians 1:20

The covenant in this case is the covenant He made with Abraham.

- a. "I will make of thee a great nation" — Genesis 12:2
- b. "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" — Genesis 12:3
- c. "Unto thy seed **will I** give this land (the Promised Land). **I will** make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee" — Genesis 12:7
- d. "In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: ¹⁹ The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, ²⁰ And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, ²¹ And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites" — Genesis 15:18-21
- d. "And **I will** establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. ⁸ And **I will** give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and **I will** be their God" — Genesis 17:7-8.
- e. God is faithful to His promises.

GOD DOES NOT FORGET HIS COVENANTS

4. Describe the four situations portrayed in the following passages. What lessons can we learn from these snapshots.

- a. Acts 7:21-22.
- b. Acts 7:23-25
- c. Acts 7:26-28
- d. Hebrews 11:24-27

The first image is of Moses being groomed to lead. We know from Scripture (Acts 7:21-27) that Moses was raised by Pharaoh's daughter. Under her care Moses learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was a mighty man in words and in deeds.

"Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son. ²² And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds" – Acts 7:21-22.

The second snapshot is of Moses when he was 40 years old. He then saw the oppression of his people and sought to deliver them in his own strength – Acts 7:23-25.

²³ And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. ²⁴ And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: ²⁵ For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not" – Acts 7:23-25.

The book of Hebrews tells us that Moses acted by faith, but before we turn there we must look again at Acts 7:25. It says that Moses "supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not."

The third image is Moses being rejected by his brethren as their ruler and redeemer – Acts 7:26-28

"And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another? ²⁷ But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, **Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?** ²⁸ **Wilt thou kill me, as thou didest the Egyptian yesterday?"** – Acts 7:21-27

The final image is of Moses' willingness to forsake all earthly things in order to bring deliverance to his people.

"When he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ²⁵ Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; ²⁶ Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. ²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible." — Hebrews 11:24-27

INSIGHTS: Moses put all his human strength behind delivering his brethren, but failed. Even though Israel was enslaved, they still were not ready to be delivered.

God raises Moses up to be a deliverer of His oppressed people in Egypt, but when Moses makes his first appearance to help his people, they resist him, as they did Joseph. Moses is moved by righteous zeal and defends a cruelly treated brother by killing his offender. But ultimately he was rejected when they said, "**Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?**" – Acts 7:27 & Exodus 2:14.

So, Israel rejected their deliver just as Jacobs sons rejected Joseph years before (when they sold him into slavery), and as the nation would do with Jesus later in time. Therefore, Moses flees into exile in the land of Midian. There in exile, God moves in Moses' life, while at the same time God prepares the nation Israel through fiery trials in order to prepare them for His deliverance.

5. What lessons can we learn from the above passage? — Exodus 2:22-24

Here in this passage we find that God does not turn from us or stop pursuing us because we have sinned once or twice or ten times or seventy times or seventy times seven times. If you can still repent, he is still pursuing you.

This is found in the words of Exodus 2:23-24.

“And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. ²⁴ **And God heard** their groaning, **and God remembered** his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ **And God looked** upon the children of Israel, and **God had respect** unto them.

God did not quit on Moses when he ran ahead of Him and tried to bring deliverance in his own strength.

God did not quit on Israel when they again rejected His deliverer.

GOD DOES NOT TURN FROM US OR STOP PURSUING US BECAUSE WE HAVE SINNED

6. Discuss the final image portrayed in Exodus 2:15-22. What can we learn from this?

It is interesting to note that the Midian's (Gentiles) saw Moses as their deliverer. This took place shortly after his brethren had rejected him as their deliverer. Compare Exodus 2:14a with 2:19. There, in exile Moses had a son and remained in Midian 40 years.

Two things we can learn from this picture.

First, Deliverance and power belong to the Lord. Apart from Him we can do nothing. — John 15:4-5.

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

Second, God does not turn from us or stop pursuing us because we have sinned. If you can still repent, he is still pursuing you. This goes for the **redeemed**. God does not turn from you. God has not stopped pursuing you. This also goes for the **unredeemed**. He does not

want any to perish. He has not turned from you. As long as you are able to repent He is calling you to return to Him.

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should **perish**, but that all should come to repentance” — 2 Peter 3:9.

**GOD WANTS US TO HEAR HIS MERCIFUL WARNING: RELY ON HIS
TIMING AND HIS STRENGTH.**
