



PICTURES OF REDEMPTION

You have probably heard the phrase, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” It is often true. We can try to explain to another person something we saw, but when we have a picture, there is little need for more words.

I see this happen over-and-over again when I watch Betty Ann share details about our granddaughters. Words soon fail her (*which is hard to believe*) as she tries to describe Katelyn and Christine’s curly hair, Emily’s determination and Juliet’s smile. So she quickly pulls out her phone and displays the pictures of the grandchildren.

When we have a car accident, we write up a report for the insurance company, but at the end of the report we attach a picture. Surely, our written report describes the damage, but the picture . . . the pictures says it all.

I also see this when I try to explain the beauty of Hawaii’s hiking trails. I can tell you of the 1500’ canyon walls and the trail to the top of a waterfall, but try as I might, the picture says so much more than I could describe in words.

Such is the book of Exodus. Not only do we learn about God’s amazing redemption but we are given snapshots of His Sovereign love and His grace.



Historically, the book of Exodus tells us of Israel’s deliverance from Egypt; but when viewed doctrinally, it provides word pictures of redemption. The book can be divided up into five divisions.

In Chapters 1 through 6 we see the need for redemption—*pictured by people enslaved*. In Chapters 7 to 11 we are shown the mighty hand of the Redeemer—*displayed as He brings the ten plagues upon Egypt*.

In Chapters 12 to 18 we behold the character of redemption—*purchased by the blood of the Lamb* and then *delivered through the dividing of the Red Sea*.

In Chapters 19 through 24 we are taught the duties of the redeemed— *portrayed by the appeal to obedience to the Lord*. Finally, in Chapters 25 to 40 the provisions made for the failures of the redeemed are revealed, *pictured in the various aspects of the tabernacle services*.

Exodus 15:13 is the key verse of the book.

“Thou in **thy mercy** hast **led forth the people** which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them **in thy strength** unto thy holy habitation.”

It describes the **need** for redemption — “*Thy mercy*.” The **power** of the Redeemer is referred to — “*in Thy strength*.” The **character** of redemption is described in the phrase — “*led forth the people*.” Finally, the **responsibilities** of the redeemed and their

privileges are signified in a reference to the tabernacle — “*unto Thy holy habitation*.”

Furthermore, the book of Exodus begins with seventy souls moving to Egypt (Exodus 1:1a, 5.) And the book ends with the children of Jacob numbering over two million making their way through the Promised Land. By God’s sovereign grace Israel grew from a clan to a nation. From within these pages we find God’s picture book of redemption.

THREE THINGS WE WILL LEARN IN THIS LESSON – EXODUS 1.

First, God is doing something good, even when we do not see it at the time. **Second**, God can allow us to flourish even under the harshest of conditions. **Third**, God blesses those that honor him.

1. How long was Israel in the land of Egypt and how much of that time were they afflicted? — Exodus 12:40-41; Genesis 15:13-14; Acts 7:6

The book of Exodus covers a 430-year period.

“Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. ⁴¹ And it came to pass at the **end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass**, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt” — **Exodus 12:40-41**. We find they dwelt in the land for 430 years — Exodus 12:40-41.

Furthermore, Acts 7:6 says Israel was evilly treated for 400 of those years.

“And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, **and entreat them evil four hundred year**.” — Acts 7:6.

God predicted this cruel treatment would occur.

“And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; **and they shall afflict them four hundred years**; ¹⁴ And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance” — Genesis 15:13-14.

2. **What was God’s reason for allowing Israel to spend so much time in Egypt? Why did He allow them to suffer so cruelly? Why did God make them wait so long in Egyptian bondage? Discuss how this can help us. — Exodus 1:7; John 14:1-4; Genesis 15:16**

TO PREPARE ISRAEL FOR AN INHERITANCE.

- a. **Their trials strengthened them:** The rough schooling of Egypt served to develop their strength.
- b. **Their trials made them more appreciative:** Their bitter lot in Egypt and trials in the wilderness made them appreciate the Promised Land all-the-more.
- c. **The Promised Land was not ready:** The land of Canaan was too large for a single family of 70 people to possess. The 400 years in Egypt allowed them time to grow to over two million people.
- d. **God enabled Israel to prosper under these trials.** Will he not do the same for us? This is a snapshot of how God prepares us for our future inheritance.

“And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.” – Ex. 1:7

Did not Jesus say,

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” — John 14:1-3

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR HIS CHILDREN AND THE UNREDEEMED

- a. The time for God to deal in judgment with the Amorites (unredeemed) was not fully ripe.
“But in the fourth generation they (*Israel*) shall come hither again (*out of Egypt*): for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full” – Genesis 15:16.
- b. God also has the right timing for His Children. God appointed Israel to enter the Promised Land at the same time the iniquity of the Amorites was full.
- c. It may seem long. . . way too long at times . . . BUT “God is doing something good, even when we do not see it at the time.” He is preparing a place for us. At the same time He has appointed the judgment of the wicked. This passage is just another snap shot of these points.

“GOD IS DOING SOMETHING GOOD, EVEN WHEN WE DO NOT SEE IT AT THE TIME.”

3. Find the Sovereign fingerprints of God in Exodus 1:1-14: Prints of His foreknowledge, wisdom, faithfulness, mercy and grace. Genesis 46:3; Isaiah 46:10; 1 Corinthians 1:19-20; 3:19-21

GOD CAN ALLOW US TO FLOURISH EVEN UNDER THE HARSHEST OF CONDITIONS.

- a. **God's Foreknowledge:** Jacob was afraid to leave the Promised Land and go to Egypt but in Genesis 46:3 God said

"I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation"

- b. **Israel's problem and God's provision:** In Exodus 1:8 we are told that a new king reign over Egypt who did not know Joseph. When we carefully read verses 9 to 10 it says, "And he said unto **HIS** people. . ." Apparently, the king was of a different dynasty. Some believe of a smaller ethnic group within Egypt. The king reasoned that if Israel were to join with other groups that were hostile to him and his ethnic group, they would be out numbered. Therefore, Israel was afflicted.

Twice in this passage we are told that Israel grew. In Exodus 1:7, "And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them" and in Exodus 1:12, "But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel."

- c. **God's counsel, power and wisdom:**

Isaiah 46:10 – "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, **My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure**"

1 Cor. 3:19 – "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. ²⁰ And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain"

1 Cor. 1:19 – "For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. ²⁰ Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹ For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

4. Discuss how God blesses those that honor him from Exodus 1:15-22; 1 Samuel 7:11 and Hebrews 6:10. How could God honor the mid-wives when they lied?

GOD BLESSES THOSE THAT HONOR HIM

The Hebrew Mid-wives are found in Exodus 1:15, 19-21. "Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. ²¹ And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses." God also said in Hebrews 6:10 "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

5. What do we learn of Pharaoh's attempt to destroy all the male Hebrew children in Exodus 1:15-16, 22 when we compare his actions with Revelation 12:1-4, Genesis 3:15; 2 Chronicles 22:2, 10.

1. There is a parallel here that points to Satan's attempt to destroy the Messianic Seed – Rev. 12:2-4

“And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. ³ And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. ⁴ And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”

Gen. 3:15 — “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

2Chr. 22:2 — “Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri. . . .¹⁰ But when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah.”

- b. Brief exposition of Revelation 12:1-4:

Since the fall of Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12-15), the great conflict of the ages began where Satan opposes God and His plan of redemption. From the Garden of Eden onward, Satan's desire has been to capture the will and souls of men so they will worship him and forsake God their Creator. This chapter will show anti-Semitism [the hatred of Israel and the Jewish people] to be the worse the world has ever seen. In light of this age-old conflict, this twelfth chapter introduces seven great actors of the Tribulation period, five are listed in chapter 12 and two are found in chapter 13. They are the woman, the dragon, the man-child, Michael, the archangel, the remnant seed of Israel, the beast out of the sea – the world dictator (Antichrist) and the beast out of the earth – the false religious leader (the False Prophet).

The woman in Revelation 12:1-2 is the first of the seven great personages described in this chapter of Revelation. The word “wonder” is better translated as a great sign a sign or symbol of a great truth. Although the sign is seen in heaven, it portrays a reality on the earth the persecution of the Jewish people. Her clothing is described as clothed with the sun, moon, and stars. This is an allusion to Genesis 37:9-11 where the heavenly bodies represent Jacob and Rachel and their twelve sons the nation of Israel. It is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant the source from which all nations would be blessed (Gen. 12:1-3).

She is pregnant with child. The woman (the nation of Israel) is seen travailing in birth and awaiting the delivery of her child. It was through this nation that the Messiah was to be born (Micah 5:2). This male-child is none other than Jesus Christ. Frequently in Scripture, Israel is pictured as going through great trials and tribulations. Israel has suffered greatly, but her greatest persecution is yet to come in the time of Jacob's trouble (Jer. 30:7; Matt. 24:21-22).

THE NATION OF ISRAEL HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE OBJECT OF SATAN'S HATRED AND WRATH. IF HE CANNOT KILL THE MESSIAH, THEN HE WILL TRY TO DESTROY THE NATION [THE WOMAN] THAT BROUGHT FORTH THE MESSIAH.

The Great Red Dragon in Revelation 12:3-4 is the second great sign appearing in the heavens. He is none other than Satan, God's adversary. He is called *A great red dragon* (v. 3). The color red depicts him as the main source or cause of much bloodshed throughout history, beginning with Adam & Eve spiritual and physical death and then the first human killed (Gen. 4:8).

That old serpent (v. 9) is a reference to Satan's first mention in the book of Genesis where he deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden. He was very clever for he got Eve to doubt God's Word. He is also called *The Devil* (v. 9). This is the name used of him in the gospels (Matt. 4:1-3). The word devil means *slanderer* or *accuser* (Job 1:8-10; 2:3-5). He is finally called *Satan* in Revelation 12:9. This name means *adversary, an opponent*. He is the one who opposes God and all of God's children. He is *the accuser of our brethren* (v. 10) which indicates his work before the throne of God today, seeking to accuse the saints before God.

The seven heads, ten horns and seven crowns found in Revelation 12:3 is referring to Satan's rule over the earth through human governments. The seven heads refer to seven kingdoms (Rev.17:9-10) Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece (past), Rome (one is) and the revised Roman Empire (one yet to come). The ten horns refers to the ten kings who will be in power during the Tribulation period. These ten kings will endorse the authority and power of the Antichrist (Dan. 7:24). The seven crowns refer to the seven kings that remain loyal to the Antichrist (Dan. 7:24). (Note that three of the ten kings will rebel against Antichrist's rule and will be subdued hence the seven crowns.) Under this evil dictator, wickedness, death, destruction and human suffering will be beyond human comprehension.

The fall of Satan is recorded in Revelation 12:4. This probably refers to the original fall of Satan where Lucifer influenced one-third of the angels to follow him in disobedience against God. Lucifer now known as Satan fell because of his pride (Isaiah 14:12-15). He will continue to try to thwart God's redemptive plan until he is thrown into the eternal lake of fire (Rev. 20:10). Although Satan and his evil angels were thrown out of heaven after his fall, Satan himself still has access to the throne of God to accuse believers (Job 1:6-10).

Satan is opposed to God in three areas: As an accuser of the brethren, he is in opposition to Christ as priest (Heb. 6:20). As the one who brings forth the first beast (Antichrist), he is in opposition to Christ as king (Rev. 19:13-16). As bringing forth the second beast (the False Prophet), he is opposed to Christ as prophet (Matt. 21:11).

Satan's conflict with the woman. Ever since the promised of a Messiah (Gen. 3:15), Satan has been determined to destroy "the seed of the woman" – the murder of Abel (Gen. 4), the pollution of the human race (Gen. 6), the decree of Haman (Esther 3:8-15) and Herod's decree to kill babies (Matt. 2:16). This conflict will reach its climax during the Tribulation period.