Series: Surrender to Freedom

April 8, 2018

Message One:

**Resistance is Futile**

Exodus 5-10

**Intro:** How many Star Trek fans do we have here?

Start Trek is great because they are always saving the entire universe from destruction!

I mean - Batman can beat the Joker - Superman can beat Lex Luthor -

But Captain Kirk, Captain Picard - Spock - Scotty - all those dudes - they save the entire universe from complete annihilation over and over again!

It’s slightly unrealistic - just slightly -

In the series Star Trek: The Next Generation … they run into an enemy that is half biological and half robot - They are called, “The Borg” - The Borg is going around wiping out entire planets - overtaking whatever kind of species is there, and incorporating them into their “collective.”

Individualism is bad - the Borg forces everyone they come in contact with to be subservient to the will of the collective -

When they to through the process of overtaking these societies …

***Clips of The Borg saying, “Resistance is futile…”***

What does this have to do with the Bible?

This is what Moses could have said!

Moses was a Hebrew baby born at a time when all the Hebrew baby boys were being killed. His mother defied the kings orders and she hid her son - she made a basket, put him in it, and sent him out onto the Nile River. He was found by the king’s daughter, of all people!

She was taken with him! She saved his life! She raised him! But Moses still knew who he was!

When he grew to be 40 years old, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, so he killed the Egyptian - he was found out so he fled.

He lived in the wilderness as a shepherd for 40 years - and one day he was herding his sheep and saw a bush that was burning, but didn’t burn up!

God spoke to him from that bush and told him that he was calling him to go back to Egypt and lead the Hebrew people to freedom! These were the people who were the descendants of Abraham - God told Abraham He would make his descendants into a great nation - that is what happened - but they are slaves in Egypt.

God is calling Moses to lead the people to freedom!

Moses hesitated - didn’t think he was qualified or capable - maybe just didn’t want to do it - but he finally yielded to God - and here we are -

Moses - who spent the first 40 years of his life as part of the Pharoah’s family … now finds himself at the age of 80 back in front of the Pharaoh - asking him to let the people go.

Exodus 5:1-2 - …Moses and Aaron went and spoke to Pharaoh. They told him, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Let my people go so they may hold a festival in my honor in the wilderness.”

“Is that so?” retorted Pharaoh. “And who is the Lord? Why should I listen to him and let Israel go? I don’t know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go.”

This sets the stage for the next 6 chapters -

Look up message preached before on these verses …

The story of Exodus is basically the story of a conflict between the one true God, and a man who believes that he is the human incarnation of the sun god.

Pharaoh is saying, “God? Who is God? I don’t know your God! Around here, buddy, I’m god!”

**> Who is God?**

God answers this question in the conflict that happens between Moses and Pharoah over the next few chapters.

* Rivers turned to blood
* Frogs … “Take them away!” - “When?” - “Tomorrow!” - I’ve never understood that -
* Dust is going to turn into gnats
* Flies -
* Livestock die
* Boils
* Hail destroys crops
* Locusts eats any remaining crops
* Land turns to darkness
* Firstborn of Egypt will die -

Exodus 7:5 - When I raise my powerful hand and bring out the Israelites, the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.

Exodus 7:17 - So this is what the Lord says: “I will show you that I am the Lord.” Look! I will strike the water of the Nile with this staff in my hand, and the river will turn to blood.

Exodus 8:10 - “Do it tomorrow,” Pharaoh said.

“All right,” Moses replied, “it will be as you have said. Then you will know that there is no one like the Lord our God.

Exodus 8:22 - But this time I will spare the region of Goshen, where my people live. No flies will be found there. Then you will know that I am the Lord and that I am present even in the heart of your land.

Exodus 9:14 - Then you will know that there is no one like me in all the earth.

Exodus 9:29 - “All right,” Moses replied. “As soon as I leave the city, I will lift my hands and pray to the Lord. Then the thunder and hail will stop, and you will know that the earth belongs to the Lord.”

Exodus 10:2 - I’ve also done it so you can tell your children and grandchildren about how I made a mockery of the Egyptians and about the signs I displayed among them—and so you will know that I am the Lord.

Exodus 11:7 - But among the Israelites it will be so peaceful that not even a dog will bark. Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites.

God is not hidden! God has no desire to hide Himself!

David & Goliath …

1st Samuel 17:45-46 - David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel!

* God revealed Himself to Abraham
* God revealed Himself to Jacob - Stairway to heaven …
  + Genesis 32 …
* God revealed Himself to the world by being born of a virgin …
  + A baby was born to a woman who was too old to have kids … Elizabeth …
  + Zechariah couldn’t speak … then spoke again …
  + Their son would grow to say, “THERE HE IS!! HEY EVERYONE - THERE HE IS!”
  + Angels appeared in the sky … shepherds found everything just as they said … He was born at a time when Bethlehem was busier than it ever had been … Roman census …
  + Wise men travelled across the world ….
  + Jesus did miracles in front of multitudes …
  + Told everyone openly and plainly who He was …
  + He rose from the dead … appeared resurrected over and over again - once to over 500 people …

God has never been interested in hiding Himself!

John 14:21 - Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and *reveal* *myself* to each of them.

Sometimes we want more tangible evidence of what we think we have - but if we really think about it, God has revealed Himself to us.

* He has given us this Word … preserved through 1000’s of years -
* Written by over 40 authors, over a period of over 1600 years - through all the changes of history, this book tells the same story!

This God has revealed Himself to me -

* I fell into a bomb shelter when I was 5 years old …
* I had a temperature that exceeded 107 degrees …
* My mother had a stomach ailment for over 30 years …
* Bob McCauley has been raised from the dead …
* Don Budd has survived leukemia … no one else who was in the ward at that time survived …
* Every time a baby is born, God is revealing Himself to us!
* If you don’t think God has made Himself plain to you - take a breath -

How did you do that?

What’s going on? Oh - your heart is beating - how is it doing that?

How is it that that muscle has been flexing and contracting for your entire life, and you don’t even think about it -

Oh - electrical impulses? How did those electrical impulses get there?

How does your brain work? How do you think? More electrical impulses? Those electrical impulses just randomly produce thoughts which make people invent things like cars - cell phones - satellites -

How does all this work?

In every aspect of our lives, God is shouting at us - “HEY! IT’S ME! I’M GOD! I’M HERE! I LOVE YOU!”

This story is a story of God shouting both at the Pharaoh and the Egyptians - “You want to know who God is? I’m right here!” - and God shouting at His own people - “I’m your God! I’m here! I’ve come to rescue you!”

Jesus is God shouting at the world - I’m here - I love you! I came to rescue you!

**> He is a God who loves His people!**

This is not exclusive …

Romans 10:9-13 - If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.”

Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

1st Peter 3:18 - Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God.

John 3:16 - For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

**> He is a God who protects His people!**

Exodus 8:23 - I will make a clear distinction between my people and your people.

The distinction is not in who can be His people - but the distinction is that for those who chose to be part of His people - He will be there for you!

Does this mean we escape all trouble? No - but it does mean we are never alone no matter what trouble.

Psalm 46 -

John 16:33 - I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

We have been preserved through the years … in spite of persecutions through the centuries … we are still here!

Romans 8:31,35-39 - …If God is for us, who can ever be against us? …

Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?…No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Back to David & Goliath -

1st Samuel 17:47 - And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people…

**> He is a God who keeps His promises to His people!**

Back to Genesis prophecy - slaves in a foreign land …

Genesis 15:13-14 - Then the Lord said to Abram, “You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth.”

Exactly what happens in the Exodus story …

Back to Exodus 4 -

Exodus 4:21-23 - And the Lord told Moses, “When you arrive back in Egypt, go to Pharaoh and perform all the miracles I have empowered you to do. But I will harden his heart so he will refuse to let the people go. Then you will tell him, ‘This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son. I commanded you, “Let my son go, so he can worship me.” But since you have refused, I will now kill your firstborn son!’”

God knows what He is going to do. Sometimes He reveals what He is going to do.

He always keeps His word!

A lot is made of this saying God would harden Pharoah’s heart.

God hardened Pharoah’s heart because Pharaoh chose to Harden his own heart. Pharaoh chose to disbelieve.

Pharaoh said,

Exodus 5:2 - “And who is the Lord? Why should I listen to him and let Israel go? I don’t know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go.”

And God responded - Resistance is futile!

God’s got a plan - He’s going to work that plan!

* He worked it through the history of the Israelites -
* He worked it in spite of Israel’s repeated rebellion through the centuries -
* He worked His plan by sending His Son -
* Fulfilling all the prophecies
* He worked His plan by Jesus dying on the cross for the sins of the world -
* He worked His plan by raising His Son from the dead -
* He worked His plan by establishing His Church as His people all over the world -
* He is going to work His plan by coming back again - He is going to keep that promise …

Jesus is going to come back …

Anyone who is not following Him will be destroyed worse than Egypt was destroyed -

Jesus is going to rule on this earth for 1000 years … I know - right? Yes - that’s what the Bible says - it’s been right about everything else up to this point - so guess what - BANK!

Jesus coming back is more certain than an Adam Vinatieri field goal attempt!

After that 1000 years, He is going to defeat Satan once and for all - there will be a new heavens and a new earth and we will live with Him in a New Jerusalem!

He is going to come to this world and say, “Resistance is futile!”

**Concl:** Thankfully, I heard Him a long time ago. I gave in a long time ago.

How about you?