

September 3rd, 2023

# Israel's Exodus and the Plundering of Egypt

Exodus 12:33-42

## **Thou must save, and Thou alone**

In the first twelve chapters we have seen the most amazing miracles of the ancient world. Pharaoh refused to let Yahweh's covenant people go.<sup>1</sup> So Yahweh poured out 10 plagues on Egypt. What is simply remarkable, is that Pharaoh didn't release Israel sooner. Plague after plague after plague ruined Egypt. But it wasn't until the last plague—until the Passover Lamb shed its blood, until the firstborn was slain—that Israel was redeemed. And this, loved ones, was designed to display the gospel of Jesus Christ. No power on earth could ever overcome Satan, sin and death. No amount of plagues. No amount of good works. No amount of heroic sacrifice. No amount of money. No amount of penance.

*Not the labors of my hands, could fulfill Thy law's demands  
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow  
These for sin could not atone,  
Thou must save, and Thou alone*

Israel was freed at *precisely* this moment to display that *we are not redeemed* "...with perishable things such as silver or gold, *but with the precious blood of Christ*, like that

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<sup>1</sup> Pharaoh, like modern pagan man, believed *he was in control*. He believed as the poem Invictus goes: "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul." He believed he was god.

of a lamb without blemish or spot” (1 Peter 1:18-19). Israel was freed from Pharaoh’s slavery when the Passover Lamb was slain, and so we were freed Satan’s tyranny when the blood of Christ, our Passover Lamb, washed us and cleansed us from all our sin (1 Corinthians 5:7).

### **History and typology**

Which reminds us that we are not to read the OT as *mere* history. It is history, it is *true* history. But the OT is also filled with types and shadows of spiritual things foreshadowing what would be accomplished by Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself told us that we must read the OT like this. He said in John 5:46 that Moses (who wrote the first 5 books) “wrote of Me.”<sup>2</sup> Paul said that the things that happened to Israel are *types* or *shadows* of what is happening to us (1 Corinthians 10:1-6). So this morning as we at look Israel departing from Egypt, and plundering the Egyptians we must recognize this **1)** as real history and **2)** as a type of our redemption in Christ. If we fail to read it both as history and as a *type* (a prophecy in picture form), we fail to understand the true meaning of the Scripture. With that being said, here is our outline this morning.

★ The Spiritual Plundering of Egypt

★ The Historical Plundering of Egypt

★ The Eternal Plundering of Egypt

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<sup>2</sup> Jesus said the temple pointed to Him Matthew 12:6, that the prophet Jonah was a representation of Him Matthew 12:41, that king Solomon was a shadow of Him Matthew 12:42.

## I. The Spiritual Plundering of Egypt

### Digging graves

Please look with me at v.33 “The Egyptians were *urgent* with the people to send them out of the land *in haste*. For they said, “We shall all be dead.” How urgent were the Egyptians that Israel should leave? Numbers 33:3-4 says “On the day after the Passover, the people of Israel went out triumphantly in the sight of all the Egyptians, <sup>4</sup>*while the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn.*” So while fathers, mothers, and children were digging graves for their dead, they were simultaneously urging Israel to leave. It was that urgent. They thought they would die next. Psalm 105:38 says “Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.”

### Fast food

We see the same haste in v.34 “So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders.” It *seems* the Israelites were intending to add leaven to their bread. Therefore *either* they weren’t given the instructions yet about eating unleavened bread during Passover (v.14-20), or those instructions were for future observances.<sup>3</sup> The point here is that the Egyptians were so urgent for Israel to leave that in the middle of preparing their meals, they had scoop up their bowls

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<sup>3</sup> Grammatically it doesn't seem like Israel knew they were supposed to eat unleavened bread and then chose to disobey. Because the next verse indicates they were in obedience to Moses—“The people of Israel *had also done as Moses told them.*” It seems like it was either not yet told, or it was told them for future observance. 40 years later we read this regarding the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Deuteronomy 16:3 “You shall eat no leavened bread with it. Seven days you shall eat it with unleavened bread, the bread of affliction—for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste—that all the days of your life you may remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt.” Also see Keil and Delitzsch Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament, source: <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/exodus/12-34.htm> accessed September 2, 2023

full of half made food and wrap them in their clothing and be on their way. One author remarked this “...was the original fast food.”<sup>4</sup> And we see this same urgency repeated in v.39.

### **The Master of hearts**

But they did something before they left. v.35-36 “The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. <sup>36</sup> And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.” This is incredible! Why would this dragon nation, this murderous nation who was given over to every abominable practice under the sun (Leviticus 18:3) give their wealth to their slaves? This would be like George Soros bankrolling every Christian Church in America. What would explain that? *God is Master over the heart of man.* Just as God said “let there be light” and there was, so God says to the heart “go this way” and it goes. v.36 “...*the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians*, so that they let them have what they asked.” Just as God was Master over Pharoah’s heart, so He is over the heart of every human being. Jeremiah 10:23 “...the way of man is not in himself... it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.”

### **Plundering the dragon**

So the Egyptians bankrolled Israel. This wasn’t a couple pairs of earrings and some socks. Later in Exodus 38:24-25 we see Israel giving gold and silver

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<sup>4</sup> Philip Graham Ryken, *Preaching the Word: Exodus, Saved for God’s Glory*, (Wheaton, IL.: Crossway, 2015), pg. 320

for the construction of the tabernacle.<sup>5</sup> 2,200 lbs—a metric ton of gold—was given, and over 7,500 lbs of silver according to my calculations. In today's monies, that would be over 50 million dollars. And that was *merely* what they contributed, not what they actually had taken from Egypt. In Exodus 36:6 the people were told to stop bringing contributions for they already had more than what they needed. They absolutely plundered Egypt, fulfilling God's promise to Abraham that they would "...come out with great possessions" (Genesis 15:14).

### **The pattern of redemptive history**

Now there were multiple reasons for this plunder<sup>6</sup> as we will see as Exodus proceeds, but what we ought to see here, is that event sets *the pattern of redemptive history*. Proverbs 13:22 "...the sinner's wealth is laid up for the

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<sup>5</sup> "It is to be noted that the tabernacle in the wilderness was made of these spoils the children of Israel took from the Egyptians. It was made of those jewels of silver, and gold, and raiment; so all the utensils and holy vessels of the tabernacle, the ark, and the mercy-seat, and the cherubim, and the candlestick, and table of shew-bread, and altar of incense and laver, and his seat, and also the priests' vestments, the twelve precious stones of the breastplate..." Jonathan Edwards, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards Vol. 2*, (Carlisle, PA.: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009), pg. 719-720

<sup>6</sup> Biblical Theologians have long said that the Exodus is a re-enactment of Creation. Which shouldn't be surprising in the least because our salvation is described as a re-enactment of Creation. What does 2 Corinthians 5:17 say? That if we are in Christ, we are a new creation (also see Ezekiel 36:26; Galatians 6:15; Ephesians 2:10) Here at the Exodus, the pattern is set. "In saving Israel God was constituting them a New Creation." The parallel between the Exodus and the Genesis account is unmistakable. At the end of Exodus 13 God's glory cloud "fluttered" over Israel Deuteronomy 32:10-12 just as the Spirit of God "hovered" over the earth Genesis 1:2 - same Hebrew Word. In Exodus 14 God would save their lives by dividing the waters of the Red Sea Exodus 14 just as God brought all life out of the chaotic waters of Genesis 1:2 (Morales 49). Moses would lead Israel to Mt. Sinai to meet with God Exodus 19 just as God met with Adam and Eve on the Garden of Eden which was a Mountain Ezekiel 28:13-14 from which the rivers watered the earth Genesis 2:10-14. And finally Exodus will end with the tabernacle being built where God's Shekinah glory will reside with the people of God. That tabernacle is patterned after Eden as we will see. What does this have to do with the silver and gold? Well the Garden of Eden was a beautiful place and it was filled with all sorts of precious gems--silver god, bdellium, onyx, sardius, topaz, diamond, beryl, jasper, sapphire, emerald and carbuncle. Genesis 2:11-12 Ezekiel 28:13-14 The Garden was beautiful and precious in order to signify that being in God's presence fellow shipping with Him is the greatest blessing ever given to man. Remember that the streets are said to be pure gold in Heaven Revelation 21:21 In fact go read Revelation 21 and you'll find the City of God to be filled with every precious gem just like the Garden. Salvation is re-creation. This silver and gold--in addition to enriching the Hebrews, giving them the ability to build a new nation--was going to be used for the the re-building (as it were) of Eden: the Tabernacle.

righteous.” Job 27:16-17 “Though he heap up silver like dust, and pile up clothing like clay, <sup>17</sup> he may pile it up, but the righteous will wear it, and the innocent will divide the silver.” Ecclesiastes 2:26 “...to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God.” The ungodly only *temporarily* hold onto wealth. They store it up for God's people. It is the meek who will inherit the earth and all it's plunder (Matthew 5:5).

### **Our 1st Principle**

That brings us to our **first principle**: *being delivered by Christ from Satan's kingdom results in unspeakable plunder.* The Hebrews did not leave Egypt in poverty. Dear congregation, when God delivered you from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of His beloved Son, He did not leave you in poverty. He gave you inconceivable wealth.

### **Salvation described as precious stones**

In fact, God *specifically* describes salvation as adorning us with treasure. Turn with me to Isaiah 54:11-12 “O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted, behold, I will set your stones in *antimony*, and lay your foundations with *sapphires*. <sup>12</sup> I will make your pinnacles of *agate*, your gates of *carbuncles*, and all your wall of *precious stones*.”<sup>7</sup> Now this is prophetic imagery. What would these represent? We don't have to guess. The next two verses tell us. v.13 “All your children shall be *taught by the LORD*, and great shall be the *peace* of your children. <sup>14</sup> In *righteousness* you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for *you shall not fear*; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.” These treasures represent all the spiritual blessings that are ours in Christ

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<sup>7</sup> also cf. Isaiah 60:5-6, 9, 11

Jesus.<sup>8</sup> “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every *spiritual blessing* in the heavenly places.”<sup>9</sup>

### **Celebratory Use: the spiritual blessings wrought by Christ<sup>10</sup>**

So consider just 3 spiritual blessings Christ plundered when He delivered us from Spiritual Egypt. This is *but* the smallest sampling

#### **I. A pure conscience**

First, while in Spiritual Egypt we had a *defiled conscience*. Titus 1:15 “...to the...unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are *defiled*.” Oh loved ones when I lived in the prodigal country, my conscience was so burdened. I was daily haunted by it. I couldn’t turn up the music loud enough, I couldn’t drink enough, I couldn’t do enough drugs to silence the accusations against me. I had no peace. Do you remember what that’s like to have a conscience defiled by sin? But what did Christ do for you loved one when He paid for your sin? You gave you a gem more precious than gold: *a clean*

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<sup>8</sup> “When a person is redeemed by Christ out of spiritual bondage, at the same time they are set at liberty they are also enriched, they have great substance given, as it were gold tried in the fire, and those riches are the spoils of their enemies, all that spiritual wealth, glory, and blessedness, and even heaven itself...” Edwards, pg. 719

<sup>9</sup> I’m not pitting material blessings against spiritual blessings. I actually believe that those redeemed by the Lamb will be materially rich at the end of this age. Those who have the faith of Abraham will inherit the world (Romans 4:13). God created the spiritual *and the physical world* and said both were good (Genesis 1). *But* the spiritual blessings we received from Christ when He delivered us from Egypt, from Satan’s domain, far exceed all material blessings. Children, boys and girls, you know this to be true. If the devil offered you 50 million dollars in exchange for your soul would you give it to him? Why not? Because nothing you possess or could ever possess is more valuable than your soul. Jesus asked: “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:36)

<sup>10</sup> Before salvation, all of us were under the domain of darkness—your soul, my soul—held captive by the devil to do His will. Oh think about those poor Hebrew slaves under Pharaoh’s control, oh how they were afflicted. Mistreated, and beaten, and even murdered. They lived in chains. They lived in fear. Their master Pharaoh was a most cruel tyrant. So much more was our bondage to the devil before Christ redeemed us. In every way, you and I were without hope and without God in the world. The good news is that not only has Christ delivered us body and soul, but He has given us unspeakable spiritual plunder.

*conscience.* Hebrews 9:14 Christ “...through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, [to] *purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*” All human beings feel guilty because they are. And no amount of money in the world can erase that guilt and purchase a pure conscience. But Christ plundered it by His own blood and gave it to when He brought you out of spiritual Egypt.

## **2. Eternal life**

Second, while in Spiritual Egypt, we were enslaved to *the fear of death*. Everyone out of Jesus Christ is afraid of dying, there is no exception. Hebrews 2:15 says that all mankind “through fear of death [are] subject to lifelong slavery.” What is the unbeliever afraid of? Facing the judgment of God. How can a sinner stand before a holy God? But because Christ has freed us from Spiritual Egypt, we can say “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” (1 Corinthians 15:55). Every believer of God has been given the gem of eternal life. Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Eternal life is the plunder you were given when Christ rescued you from Spiritual Egypt.

## **3. Fullness of Joy**

Third, while in Spiritual Egypt, *the devil robbed us of all joy*. Slaves to sin can never be happy. The Rolling Stones’ song is the anthem of every unbeliever.

I can't get no satisfaction. I can't get no satisfaction

'Cause I try, and I try, and I try, and I try. I can't get no, I can't get no



No matter how hard we tried to find joy in Egypt, none could be found. God has put eternity in the heart of man, and nothing but an eternal God can fill that void.<sup>11</sup> But when Christ snatched us out of Egypt, that's *precisely* what He gave us: *God Himself*. 1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, *that he might bring us to God*." That is where all joy is. Psalm 16:11 "...in your presence *there is fullness of joy*; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

### **Elenctic Use**

"But" you might say "...I still feel the accusations of Satan, I still feel guilty." Well loved one, consider what else was plundered for you. It wasn't just gold and silver. Look at the end of v.35. What else were they given? New *clothing*. The Hebrews left Egypt with *new clothing*. You were given new clothing when you left Spiritual Egypt. The very righteous robes of the Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah 61:10 "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, *for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness*." Dear believer the moment you first believed, God imputed the righteousness of Christ to you. God does not look at your old sinful clothing. He looks at the robes of His own Son that have been put upon you. You are covered by Christ's own righteousness. If that old serpent accuses you, you can just say "Yes my old clothes were stained with sin, and for that I deserve hell. But now I have been clothed with the perfect righteous robes of Christ, and God will accept me, because He has already accepted His Son."

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<sup>11</sup> Ecclesiastes 3:11

### Admonitory Use

All these spiritual blessings—a pure conscience, eternal life, fullness of joy, imputed righteousness (and much more)—are the gold, silver and clothing that was plundered when Christ freed us from spiritual Egypt. When you left Egypt, you lost nothing. You won your choicest jewels. But to those outside of Christ, there is no plunder. No peace. No life. No joy. No righteousness. Those left behind in Egypt will not only have all their wealth taken from them at death, but God will require from them an accounting of their soul. There is only one hope: Jesus. Friend if you are still in the bondage of Spiritual Egypt, then turn to Jesus in faith. The Scripture says Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” That’s our **first point**: *When Christ delivered us from Satan's kingdom, He gave us unspeakable plunder.*

## II. The Historical Plundering of Egypt

### A little Biblical Theology

Let’s do a little Biblical Theology now. Look at the passage as a whole. These 10 verses had centuries long effects. The Exodus shaped the entire ancient world. From the Exodus until the coming of Christ—approximately 1,500 years—this event gave birth to everything good in the world. Israel became a nation. The law was given from Mt. Sinai. The tabernacle was established. The whole OT canon was written. The kingdom was established. The prophets prophesied. The Seed of the Woman was protected from the Seed of the Serpent until the fullness of time would come. The most important event

in the ancient world between 1500 B.C. and the coming of Jesus Christ was the Exodus. That's why you see it everywhere in the OT. Not only it is prophesied about in Genesis 15:13-14, but You will be pressed to find a book where you don't hear the same refrain over again.

Leviticus 11:45 "For I am the LORD who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God" (also see Numbers 15:41; Deuteronomy 5:15)

Joshua 24:17 "...for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt" (also see Judges 2:1; 1 Samuel 8:8; 2 Samuel 7:23).

1 Kings 8:51 "...for they are your people, and your heritage, which you brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace" (also see 2 Kings 17:7; 1 Chronicles 17:21; 2 Chronicles 6:5; Nehemiah 9:18).

Psalm 81:10 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt" (also see Isaiah 10:26; Jeremiah 7:25; Ezekiel 20:5).

Daniel 9:15 "And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand" (also see Hosea 11:1; Amos 2:10; Micah 6:4; Haggai 2:5).<sup>12</sup>

The most important historical event in the ancient world was the Exodus. It shaped the destiny of humanity.

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<sup>12</sup> Indeed, all the world heard of God's fame of the Exodus - Joshua 2:9-11; 9:9; 1 Samuel 4:8 as per Exodus 9:16

## A second Exodus

But woven throughout the OT canon are whispers of a second Exodus.<sup>13</sup> Isaiah 11:11 says “In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people...”<sup>14</sup>

## Out of Egypt I called my Son

This second Exodus begins in Matthew’s gospel. Please turn with me to Matthew 2:15. This was where Joseph took Mary and baby Jesus to Egypt to flee from the wicked Herod. We pick up in 2:15, they “...remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “*Out of Egypt I called my son.*” Wow. Just as Israel came out of Egypt so did the Lord Jesus Christ.

## The plundering of Satan’s house

And not only that, but He immediately began plundering Satan’s house. Turn with me to Matthew 12:28. This is where Jesus was casting out demons. And the Pharisees accused Him of doing it by the power of Beelzebub. He responded that if Satan casts out his own, then he tears down his own kingdom. Then He says this in v.28-29 “But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>29</sup>Or how can someone enter a strong man’s house and *plunder his goods*, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may *plunder his house.*”<sup>15</sup> Do you see? The Exodus was a

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<sup>13</sup> But this second exodus far exceeds the first because the first exodus didn’t affect the hearts of God’s people. But the in the second Exodus, “God would do a work within the hearts of his peoples” as Michael Morales says “the deliverance would include an inward spiritual exodus.” L. Michael Morales, *Exodus Old and New: A Biblical Theology of Redemption*, (Downers Grove, IL.; IVP Academic, 2020), pg. 119

<sup>14</sup> Also see Deuteronomy 30:1-6; Jeremiah 16:14-15 et. al.

<sup>15</sup> Also see Isaiah 53:12 and Ephesians 4:8

faint whisper of what Jesus Christ came into the world to do: to plunder Satan house! And this second Exodus—this plundering of Satan’s house—didn’t end when Jesus ascended into Heaven. It continues to this day.

## Our 2nd Principle

That brings us to our **second principle**: *Christ is still defeating enemies and plundering Satan's kingdom down to this day.* The second Exodus is still taking place. Children, boys and girls, sometimes an effect lasts but a short time, and sometimes an effect lasts a long time. If I freeze some water and make an ice cube, how long will that effect last if I take the ice cube and put it in a glass of water? A few minutes. What about if I mow my lawn, how long will that effect last before I have to mow it again? A week maybe? Now consider, if the effects of the first Exodus lasted 1,500 years, how long with true and better Exodus—the gospel of Christ last? Until the end of this age. Just as the first Exodus shaped the ancient world, so the second Exodus, the cross of Christ and His blessed resurrection is shaping the world today. This is the movement of history.<sup>16</sup>

## Consolatory Use

I have a fascinating book called “The Day and the Hour: Christianity’s Perennial Fascination with Predicting the End of the World.” It chronicles century by century Christians attempt to pin the tale on the antichrist, or guess the identity of Gog and Magog, or predicting that this next war would be the end of the world. Listen to this quote:

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<sup>16</sup> The book of Revelation is another Exodus account. Christ called His people out the new Egypt (Revelation 7:1-14)—apostate Israel (Revelation 11:8; 14:8; 16:19; 17:18) by pouring forth plagues on her (Revelation 9:18, 20; 15:1, 6, 8; 16:9; 18:4, 8).

“...wars continue frequently to prevail...death and famine accumulate anxiety...health is shattered by raging diseases...the human race is wasted by the desolation of pestilence, *know that this was fore-told*: that evils should be multiplied in the last times...it was predicted by the voice of the Lord, and by the testimony of the apostles, that now that the world is failing, and the Antichrist is drawing near, everything good shall fail, but evil and adverse things shall prosper.”<sup>17</sup>

Can you guess when that was written? 250 A.D. by Cyprian of Carthage. Just in case you didn't know it's 2023. Dear friends. How did the first Exodus end? In victory. In the plundering of Egypt. How will this second Exodus end? Will Satan—the spiritual Pharaoh—get the upper hand? Did he somehow escape Jesus' binding of him? Is Christ not plundering His house still? What is the promise of Scripture? 1 Corinthians 15:25 “For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.” Jesus is still plundering. This Exodus will end like the first. That doesn't mean that there are no hard times ahead. We may have to make bricks without straw, our labors may get more difficult. But Christ will plunder this world. He will not fail. That's our **second point**: *Christ is still defeating enemies and plundering Satan's kingdom down to this day.*

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<sup>17</sup> Francis W. Gumberlock, *The Day and the Hour: Christianity's Perennial Fascination with Predicting the End of the World*, (Atlanta, GA.: American Vision, 2000), pg. 13

### III. The Eternal Plundering of Egypt

#### 2.5 million +

Let's turn back to our text in Exodus 12. Please look with me at v.37. "And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot<sup>18</sup>, besides women and children." This number is rounded down. In 38:26 the number is 603,550. But this only counts men 20 years old and up. Many commentators put the number at 2.5 million once you add women and children.

#### The mixed multitude?

But there was also all their livestock (which would have been a massive collection by itself) and look at v.38 "A mixed multitude also went up with them..." Now there is two interpretations on this *mixed multitude*. **1)** This mixed multitude is full of enemies. They are the one who stirred up the people to rebel against the Lord in the wilderness.<sup>19</sup> **2)** This mixed multitude typifies the Lord's redemption of both Jews and Gentiles.<sup>20</sup> The promise to Abraham was that in his Offspring "shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 22:18). I think there is truth in both of them. Jews and Gentiles are both in rebellion against the Lord, and He saves both by grace, through faith.

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<sup>18</sup> cf. Exodus 38:26; Numbers 1:46; 2:32; 26:51

<sup>19</sup> Pink says "It was this same "mixed multitude" who first became dissatisfied with the manna and influenced Israel to murmur. (See Numbers 11:4)." pg. 182 Source: <https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/pink/Gleanings%20In%20Exodus%20-%20Arthur%20W.%20Pink.pdf> accessed September 3, 2023

<sup>20</sup> It seems certain from Exodus 9:20 that there were Egyptians who feared the word of the LORD, perhaps this was part of the "mixed multitude."

## Helpful skepticism

The point is when you add all these Gentiles, Jews and animals up, you get such an incredible number that one author says “When they traveled, they must have formed a column more than ten miles long.”<sup>21</sup> Unbelieving historians look at this data and scoff and say *impossible*. They did the math. This would have been several million creatures leaving Egypt. They say this group would have “...formed one of the largest populations anywhere in the world at that time.”<sup>22</sup> They say the land couldn’t have supported them. They say this is either complete myth or the numbers are wildly over inflated. I think their skepticism is so instructive to us. They understand this magnitude of people being delivered is unparalleled. It’s too incredible, it can’t be conceived, therefore it must be false. Salvation can’t be that great.

## Our 3rd Principle

That brings us to our **third principle**: *The multitude of human plunder (souls) that Christ gathers for eternity will be immeasurable.* What does the Exodus deliverance foreshadow? What does it point to? The incalculable number of souls that Jesus will save before the end of the age. Fight that inner skeptic. What does the New Testament say? John 3:17 “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that *the world might be saved through him.*” This is not *merely* a statement about Jesus saying both Jew and Gentile. Nor does this verse endorse universalism—the idea that every one will be saved.

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<sup>21</sup> Ryken, pg. 322. Moses validates these conclusions in Deuteronomy 1:10 saying to Israel “...behold, you are today as numerous as the stars of heaven.” But lest someone say “Well then that promise has already been fulfilled (anticipating what I’m going to say below) and no greater number is to be expected,” I answer with what Moses says immediately after this: “May the LORD, the God of your fathers, make you a thousand times as many as you are and bless you, as he has promised you!” (v.11)

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid*



But it is a statement about the massive scope of salvation.<sup>23</sup> Listen to what Charles Spurgeon says here:

“How much grandeur is there in the thought of the multitudes Christ redeems with his blood. Christ did not die to save a few; “he shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be abundantly satisfied. By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many” (Isaiah 53:11). "A multitude which no man can number" shall stand before the throne of God and of the Lamb (Revelation 7:9)...let us remember that God hath promised to Abraham—"As the sand upon the sea shore, even so shall thy seed be." "Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth part of Israel?" (Genesis 22:17)... Oh! mighty God! how great is that deliverance which bringeth out a host of thine elect, more countless than the stars and as innumerable as the sands upon a thousand shores! All hail to thy power that doeth all this!"<sup>24</sup>

## **Elenctic Use**

Someone might say “But what about the Scripture that says that only few find the narrow gate that leads to life (Matthew 7:14) and many are called but few are chosen (Matthew 22:14).” True. But go read those places in the context of the whole book. Who is Jesus talking to in Matthew? That most wicked generation of Jews that crucified Him. The axe was laid at the root of the tree. They were going to be cut off. Only a few in that generation would be saved. But those statements don’t reflect God’s plan in all of redemptive history. The

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<sup>23</sup> In Revelation 7:9, John sees it, he says “After this I looked, and behold a great multitude that no one could number from every nation, from all tribes and people and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.”

<sup>24</sup> Source: <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-exodus/> Accessed September 3, 2023

incredible deliverance at the Exodus is a type of what Jesus is going accomplish in history. He is going to take a plunder of human souls into glory.

### **Consolatory Use**

Please look with me at v.40. "The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years." The apostle Paul tells us in Galatians 3:17 that this 430 years started when God gave the promise to Abraham in Genesis 15. So from Abraham to the Exodus was 430 years.<sup>25</sup> If that's confusing, just ask me afterwards. The point here is the exactness of God's deliverance. Look at v.41 "At the end of 430 years, *on that very day, all the hosts of the LORD* went out from the land of Egypt." On that very day. Comfort yourselves with this truth loved ones.

### **I. Not one second longer**

First, God did not allow His people to be in Egypt one second longer than what He had promised. At the predestined moment they were free. Dear congregation, God's timing in our lives is according to His most wise plan. He saved you at the exact right moment. And for those of you who are in a severe trial right now, for those of you who feel like you are back in Egypt, take heart, God will not allow you to be in this trial one second longer that is necessary for your good and His glory. He had a perfect plan for Israel, and He has a perfect plan for your life.

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<sup>25</sup> How then do we reconcile "the people of Israel lived in Egypt 430 years?" I know Exodus 12:40 says they lived there 430 years. But Galatians 3:17 says that it was 430 years from the covenant with Abraham to the giving of the law. How do we reconcile? The LLX (Greek translation of the OT in 3rd century BC) translated Exodus 12:40 in this manner "And the sojourning of the children of Israel, while they sojourned in the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan, four hundred and thirty years." Translated this way it fits with Paul's statement in Galatians 3:17. And make no mistake, even before Israel made it to Egypt, the spiritual seed was always under oppression. Isaac was afflicted by Ishmael. Jacob was afflicted by Esau. Joseph was afflicted by his brothers.

## 2. Not one will be snatched from my hand

But there is also a **second** comfort here. Notice it says “*all the hosts of the LORD* went out from the land of Egypt.” All. Not one child, one beggar, one backslider, one sinner got left behind. All of God’s people were rescued. Dear congregation, Jesus has promised not to lose one of those the Father has given Him. John 6:39 “...this is the will of him who sent me, *that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me*, but raise it up on the last day.” In fact look at the last verse in our passage. v.42 “It was a night of watching by the LORD, to bring them out of the land of Egypt.” The Lord was keeping a watch—a vigil—to make sure all of His people are rescued. Loved ones, you might lose your way, you might backslide, you might be unfaithful, but Jesus is keeping watch over you. You will not be lost. You will be delivered. He will keep His covenant promise to all who have put their hope in Him.

### Hortatory Use

So what’s the take away? What does this passage call us to do? You have left Egypt with great plunder. Do you know how to gain strength for long journey you have ahead? It’s in the gold and silver and clothing. It’s in all those spiritual blessings that you have in Jesus Christ. Loved ones, search them out in the Scripture. Keep a plunder journal of all that Christ has done for you and promises to do: imputed righteousness, peace with God, a pure conscience, fullness of joy, a future resurrection, sanctification, glorification, eternal life with God Himself and a million other treasures. Study your plunder. That gospel plunder will give you strength for the journey all the way to the promised land.