Out Of Bondage

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday March 26th, 2023

Text: Romans 6:16-23

**Intro**

1. The old adage: “History repeats itself.”
	1. Ecclesiastes 1:9: King Solomon once wrote, “There is nothing new under the sun.”
2. History can be seen as cycles, where common themes are seen in different ways.
3. The Scriptures are full of stories of people in bondage and then freed from bondage…
	1. Israel in the Exodus, the Israelites returning from Babylon, and Jews and Gentiles freed from the bondage of sin.
4. History is full of people in bondage and the celebration of being freed!
	1. From the captives of Egypt, Syria, Assyria, Babylon, the Persians, the Greeks, Romans, all the way to our own country.
5. God wants men to be free.
	1. He created man with free-will thinking.
	2. He wants men to serve Him from their hearts.
	3. He sent His Son, Jesus, to free mankind from the bondage of sin and to be free!
6. We will look at three cycles and see their parallels:
	1. The story of Hagar
	2. The Exodus
	3. These stories are our story: Christians!
7. Christians have come out of bondage…don’t seek to go back into the world!
8. Hagar
	1. The Hagar story prefigures the Exodus, only in reverse:
		1. An Egyptian becomes the slave of Abraham and Sarah, Semites (Genesis 16:1-4; Galatians 4:24-25).
		2. Under them, she is used, then she is mistreated because of envy (Genesis 16:4-6; 21:8-11).
		3. God sees & hears her oppression (Genesis 16:7-11; 21:17).
		4. God promises to make her son into a great nation (Genesis 16:10-14; 21:17-18).
		5. He commands Abraham to let her go (Genesis 21:11-13).
		6. Abraham sent Hagar out with bread & a single water bottle into the desert (Genesis 21:14).
			1. He learns to do better in subsequent years, for when he later sends the sons of Keturah away, he gives them gifts (Genesis 25:1-6).
			2. Keturah is called a “concubine” in I Chronicles 1:32, meaning she was a “lesser” wife (slave) and her sons the sons of a slave. He gave them gifts.
		7. After being freed she wanders through the wilderness and fears that she and her son will die until God provides water from the desert (Genesis 21:15-19).
		8. God took care of Hagar and her son, Ishmael (Genesis 17:20; 21:20-21; 25:12-18: God fulfilled His promise to give to Ishmael 12 princes).
	2. Hagar came out of bondage to freedom and God cared for her & her son!
9. Israel
10. The Exodus of Israel from Egypt parallels Hagar’s but on a grander scale:
	* 1. The sons of Israel become the slaves of the Egyptians (Exodus 1:8-14).
		2. Under them, the people of Israel are used and mistreated because of envy and fear (Exodus 1:9-10, 12; Psalm 105:24-25, 38).
		3. God sees & hears their oppression (Exodus 3:6-9).
		4. God had promised to make Abraham’s descendants into a great nation (Genesis 12:1-3; 22:18; Psalm 105:8-11).
		5. Through Moses, a Levite (Exodus 6:19-20, 26), God commands Pharoah to let Israel go (Exodus 3:10; Psalm 105:26-36).
		6. The Egyptians send Israel away with rich gifts (Genesis 15:13-14; Exodus 3:19-22; 12:35-36; Psalm 105:37-38).
			1. Giving generous gifts to liberated slaves was later codified into the Law of Moses, as God reminds them that they were once slaves and He redeemed them (Deut. 15:12-15).
		7. After being freed from Egypt the people wandered through the wilderness and feared that they would die until God provides water from the desert (Exodus 15:22-25) as well as manna (Exodus 16:1-4, 35) and quail (Numbers 11:4-6, 31-34; Psalm 105:40).
		8. God took care of Israel and brought them to the Promised Land (Psalm 105:42-45)
11. The sons of Israel came out of bondage to freedom and God cared for them & their sons!
12. Christians
13. Becoming a Christian parallels the Hagar and Exodus story, if in a different order:
	1. Unbelievers are sinners, slaves to sin, enslaved by their lusts (Romans 6:16-18, 20; Titus 3:3; II Peter 2:18-19).
	2. God sent Jesus to deliver mankind from their sins (John 3:16) so obedience to Jesus makes one free from sin and a slave to righteousness (Romans 6:16-23).
	3. The world will hate, abuse and persecute Christians who leave the world to serve Jesus (Luke 6:22; 21:16-17; John 15:18; 17:14).
	4. God sees the oppression of His people (Acts 7:54-60; II Thessalonians 1:5-10).
	5. God promises, through Jesus, to accept believers into the family of God and become fellow heirs with Jesus (Romans 8:14-17; II Corinthians 6:14-18).
	6. Freed from sin, Jesus gave gifts to saints to get them through life, either until death or when Jesus comes again, to receive the crown of life and the promised rest (Ephesians 4:11-13; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 2:10; 14:13).
		* + 1. While we wander the wilderness of life, God has given us the best gift of Heaven, Jesus, as an example and Savior as well as the spiritual tools to remain faithful until death (Philippians 2:5-11; Ephesians 1:3, 8-9; Titus 2:11-14; I Peter 1:17-25; 2:21-25; II Peter 1:5-11).
	7. Just when saints fear we may be overcome by the world, God reminds us that we are saved, we are not of this world, and we can call on Him in prayer and overcome the world through our faith! (John 17:13-21; I Peter 5:6-7; I John 5:4-5). He has provided the Bread and Water of Life (John 4:13-14; 6:35).
	8. God promises to take care of the followers of Jesus. Even if they suffer in this life, Jesus has provided the hope of Heaven, the home of God Almighty! (Matthew 6:25-33; John 14:1-6; Revelation 14:13; 21:3-7).
14. Christians have come out of bondage of sin to freedom in Jesus, and God cares for us and has prepared His home for us to live with Him forever!

**Conclusion**

1. God wants men to be free.
	1. He created man with free-will thinking.
	2. He wants men to serve Him from their hearts.
	3. He sent His Son, Jesus, to free mankind from the bondage of sin and to be free!
2. He freed saints from sin to make them His people, a holy nation to receive His mercy!
	1. I Peter 2:9-10: But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.
3. Israel, once freed from Egypt, kept looking back to Egypt. Don’t look back!
	1. Hebrews 11:13-16: The heroes of faith died with faith in God’s promises and didn’t look back.
		1. Heb 11:13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.
		2. Heb 11:14  For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.
		3. Heb 11:15  And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return.
		4. Heb 11:16  But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.
	2. Jesus said once you take hold of the plow don’t look back! (Luke 9:62)
4. In Hagar, Israel’s Exodus, and our story as Christians we can see that no matter how much time has passed, God fulfills His promises!
5. Christians have come out of bondage to sin to freedom in Jesus Christ – Don’t look back! Be fruitful for the Kingdom of Christ!
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Come out of bondage! Repent and be baptized!
7. If a Christian in sin, don’t hesitate to make it right with God! Don’t go back to bondage!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!