



## BELLVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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# **You have been Redeemed by God's outstretched arm**

**Exodus 6: 2 – 12**

**Hebrews 11: 1 – 29**

**Mark 13: 5 - 13**

**~ Brent Russell ~**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- Today the lectionary points us to the redemption of Israel under Moses
- Last week Rod and I preached on the covenant given to Abraham
- God called Abraham
- Promised Him land
- Promised to Bless him
- Promised to use him to bless others
- And the promises are given to Him and thus to us

- But God did not stop there -
- God's revelation did not stop with Abraham
- God continued to reveal more and more clearly His plan for us
  
- Moses gets the law a later stage than where we have read from
- Listen to what God says to Moses in this exodus passage
- " I appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob but only as God almighty"
- To you I have revealed my name "the Lord"
- The JKV phrases it like this *"And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them."*
  
- When I was young we where bought up to call adults uncle or aunty
- Or in afrikaans oom and tannie
- But at some point you where now old enough to begin to call them by their first names
- And all of a sudden a whole world was opened up to you
- You where no longer a child but an adult
- You no longer spoke up to
- But rather alongside adults
  
- But you where now included part of the circle of adults
- Seen as a peer rather than an underling

- In *Moses* God reveals himself to humankind more fully than ever before
  - All of a sudden we are pulled further into that inner circle
  - We are no longer on the outside looking in but have been included
  - We are no longer outsiders but in vs7 we are told you will be my people
  - You will belong to me and I will be your God
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- In *Moses* God's continued revelation to humankind is deepened
  - The relationship between us and him is made that bit more intimate
  - A little bit like a boss saying ok you can now call me by my first name
  - No Longer just God - But JEHOVAH
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- As this intimacy with God increases
  - As God's revelation of himself is made more and more clear through the scriptures
  - So to the consequences of this revelation are more and more beneficial to us
  - The promises of God to his people are made more and more sharp
  - As God reveals himself as our God so the result of what it means to be his people is made more and more clear to us

- God tells Moses that he has redeemed Israel
  - To be redeemed means to be purchased for a price
  - You buy something that is yours for a price
  - Story of young boy and boat
  - Mine twice
  - I made and I paid for you
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- In the days of Israel one would have redeemed a friend or family member from slavery
  - You would literally have bought their freedom
  - People would often sell themselves into slavery to pay for a debt
  - And so one was able to purchase someone's freedom
  - In Exodus God tells Abraham that he will redeem His people
  - They are his
  - He made them
  - But he will purchase them back
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- As we look at Exodus passage theologically, we cannot say whom the price was payable
  - But as I have preached before the things of the OT are shadows of the NT
  - So the OT has only shadows of the realities that we understand in the NT
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- And so it is only when we look at the bigger picture of our bondage to the world and to sin that we begin to understand the idea of redemption
  - God reveals his plan to Moses of redeeming His people
  - But it is only really in the context of Jesus that this has any real meaning

- So let me reread the Exodus passage slightly changing a few things
- *Therefore, say to the Church: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the World. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the World. And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.'"*
- The church has been redeemed by God
- Jesus paid the price to God that would give the church her freedom from slavery
- The price would break our bondage the world and to worldliness
- God demanded the price then he paid it himself through Jesus
- Christ paid the price by giving up part of his divinity
- By taking on the mortality and limitations of being human
- He could die, he could bleed he could weep
- But ultimately it was his death on a cross that gave us, the church our freedom
- Freedom from sin, freedom from the world
- We have been redeemed by God
- As we look at the life of Israel they have one pattern of behavior that we as the church have mimicked
- Over and over again Israel even Moses himself forgot that they had been redeemed
- Again and again Israel forget that they belong to God
- After all God has done Israel forget who's they are

- Manner and quail from heaven
- Water from the rock
- All these fantastic miracles
- Moses heads up the mountain to get the 10 commandments - Israel builds a golden calf
- Again and again almost like clockwork Israel forget that they belong to God
- The church across the world has often like Israel forgotten who's they are
- The church has forgotten what it means to be free
- We have been lulled into worldliness forgetting that we have been redeemed
- The church has forgotten that God purchased her freedom 2000 years ago
  
- We have allowed the world to tarnish our image
- The church has been lulled into a humanistic view on life and religion
  - We approach God by looking at people around us
  - We look at things the world considers 'normal' and think that that is what God intended even though it be against the Bible
  - To take the scriptures literally would mean having to change our lifestyles
  
- In places we have become cynical and despondent
  - Christians and the wider church have in places fallen into the trap of cynicism
  - We have forgotten that we have a hope in Jesus
  - a message of hope that promise the best is yet to come
  - We look at the word around and instead of being positive we become bitter, negative and pessimistic
  - We look at crime and corruption and we allow ourselves to wallow in the hopelessness of the world

- We have forgotten that we don't have to live like the world
- Even though we live with them
- Our attitudes towards money and material wealth have been flawed
  - We no longer see money merely as a tool given to us by God
  - We see it as an end in itself
  - We drive ourselves in a never ending cycle of greed and consumerism
  - We comment about how materialistic the world is but when we look at our own lives are we really any different
  - We have been duped into behaving exactly as the world does wrt money
  - We have forgotten that what we spend without blinking on yet another needless expense could supply a weeks food to a destitute family
- The church and we as Christians in so many ways have become worldly
- Like Israel we forget that we have been redeemed by God
- We have been cheated into believing that we must live as the world does
- We have become servants of the indifference, greed and selfishness of the world out there
- Paul tells the church in 1 Cor 6:20 that *"we have been bought with a price therefore glorify God with your body and spirit"*
- And then in chap. 10:31 *"Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do it to the glory of God"*
- We have been redeemed
- Jesus has paid the price and we are FREE
- We are no longer slaves to sin as Paul writes in Romans
- But out of Love for Jesus we have become slaves to righteousness

- The promise Given to God's people through Moses is that we are free
  - For Israel they where delivered out of slavery from Egypt and lead to the promised land
  - In Christ our promised land is yet to come but we have been freed from the decay of sin
  - And we must remember that we are free
  - Sin has no hold on us any more
  - The church like Israel need to keep in mind that they are no longer slaves but are free!
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- Have you ever watched one of these hypnotist shown on the box
  - And the hypnotist tells some guy that he cannot move his arms and then snap he wakes up
  - And try as he might he cannot lift his arms from his sides
  - He strains but he simply cannot move his arms at all
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- The evil one is using the traps of the world to hypnotize us
  - We have been lead to believe many false things about the world
  - About the church
  - About God
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- But the promise of the redemption by God has not changed
  - *I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the World. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the World. And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give*

*to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD."*

## **CONCLUSION**

- Your freedom has been purchased for you and given to you without cost to you
- You were bought at a price - glorify God with spirit and body
- Glorify God with all that you are
- And so Christ tells us and the church
- I made and I bought you
- You have been redeemed
- Your freedom has been purchased with my life
- I have called you and you belong to me
- The church must live as citizens of heaven
- As free people
- As people who serve a God who has revealed himself to them