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Deliverance & Wilderness

INTRODUCTION

Israel was delivered from Egypt by the mighty hand of the Lord, yet the people rebelled against Him and wandered in the wilderness for forty years before entering into the Promised Land. In this lecture, Dr. Lawson examines the doctrines of grace in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers to show how the light of the doctrines of grace shine even in Israel's darkness.

LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Locate the doctrines of grace in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers
- Provide specific examples for each of the doctrines of grace in the historical narratives of Israel's deliverance from Egypt and subsequent wanderings in the wilderness

KEY IDEAS

- God does not require ideal circumstances in order to save His people but is able to work in the midst of the most trying and difficult circumstances.
- Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers are historical narratives and, as such, display the doctrines of grace through the actions recorded in the narratives.
- The doctrine of definite atonement is vividly pictured in Exodus and Leviticus in the Passover and the Day of Atonement.
- The doctrine of total depravity is significantly present in the lives of the people of Israel in the books of Exodus and Numbers.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

What Do You Think?

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

- What is the most difficult book of the Bible that you have ever read? Why?
- What is the most significant event to occur to the people of Israel in the Old Testament?

Scripture Reading

And the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land. But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them.”

—Exodus 7:1-5

- Who is ultimately hardening Pharaoh’s heart in this passage? What does this passage reveal about the purpose of the exodus?

During the Video

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

Out of Egypt

0:00-13:12

- In what way can Pharaoh be seen as representative of all unbelievers?
- What sin did Israel commit even as it was receiving the law? What does this demonstrate?

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- What does the Passover provide a picture of in the ultimate sense?
 - What is similar about the language of Abram's departure from Ur of the Chaldeans and Israel's departure from the land of Egypt?

Into the Wilderness

13:12-23:47

- Beside the atonement itself, what other reality does the Day of Atonement foreshadow?
- What doctrine of grace is primarily displayed in the book of Numbers? In what ways is it displayed?

After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- Where can the various doctrines of grace be identified in Moses' conflict with Pharaoh and the subsequent exodus and wilderness wanderings of God's people?
- Where can the doctrine of limited atonement be seen in the book of Exodus? Where can it be seen in the book of Leviticus?
- The slogan in Geneva at the time of the Reformation was "After darkness, light." How is this slogan applicable to the time in which Moses was writing the Pentateuch and to our modern day?

PRAYER

Commit what you have learned from God's Word in this lesson to prayer.

- Praise God for making Himself known in the deliverance won in Christ.
- Confess in what areas of your life you are particularly prone to idolatry.
- Thank God for His promise to preserve you from falling from the faith.
- Ask God to strengthen your resolve for holiness by the Holy Spirit.