

## Israel is Saved! (Can they boast about this?)

Exodus 6: 1-8

*Welcome to the story of Israel! The story of Israel is (true) history, it is sacred history, and it is our family history. We are telling this story in ten episodes: Promise, **Salvation**, Law, Land, Covenant, Temple, Division, Prophets, Exile, and Restoration. Today is episode #2, as salvation comes to the enslaved people of Israel in Egypt.*

What's wrong with boasting?

- It's deeper than simply 'no one likes a braggart.' Spiritually, it's at odds with the awareness of being rescued, of being *saved*.

Review of episode #1: Promise

- God promised to Abraham a son to be born through Sarah.
- What about the promise of many descendants? Well, it *happened*. But Abraham's descendants ended up in Egypt in slavery.
- What would God do? In a word, **salvation**. God's great act of salvation in the Old Testament. See Exodus 2:24-25.

Episode #2: Salvation

- Our passage: Exodus 6:1-8
- Let's look at this salvation episode through the theme of boasting...

(1) Egyptian boasting

- An introduction to the boasting of the Egyptian gods (the gods of the Nile, sun, etc.)
- And what was Pharaoh's boast? Was he "divine"?
  - Pharaoh Merneptah's Stele (ca. 1220 BC): an empty boast against Israel

(2) Israelite boasting

- "We were slaves in Egypt..." Not exactly a boast. (And who would make this up?)
- But Israel's temptation to boast was still there
  - Israel boasted about why they were saved/chosen—but God corrected them. See Deut 7 & 9.
  - Likewise, we Christians have no reason to boast for our salvation! See Ephesians 2:8-9.

(3) "Proper" boasting?

1. The Exodus salvation can be a boast for Israel – but only if they boast in the Lord.
  - See Jeremiah 9:23-24 and 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.

To the Lord's Supper: "May it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Galatians 6:14)

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Were you (or *are* you) known for boasting? Why is this a problem, and what should be done about it? Consider Proverbs 27:2.
2. How is boasting at odds with the identity of being saved? Consider Ephesians 2:8-9.
3. Consider the idea of "boasting in the Lord." (Jer 9:23-24, 1 Cor 1:26-31)
  - a. What does this sound like practically? Give examples.
  - b. Boast in the Lord in prayer right now!