

THE MIGHT HAND OF GOD

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Introduction:

I want to talk with you about the parallels between the people of Exodus and the people today. In the time of the Exodus the people of God were harshly oppressed, in bondage with no power to free them selves.

Today we have people in our churches that are religious but not born again. They struggle with life dominating sins and bondage.

We also have people in our churches that do love the Lord who struggle with unresolved offenses, deep wounds, and emotional pain.

In Ephesians 6:12 the apostle Paul said "... we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places." (NLT)

Saved and unsaved alike we all deal with a spiritually bankrupt world system and demonic forces that want to hold us captive. In ourselves we do not have the power to break free. It is only by the "Strong Hand of God" that our deliverance comes.

Parallels between the People of Exodus and the People Today

- 1) The Jewish people were in bondage to Pharaoh.
People today are in bondage, slaves to sin.

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin."

Romans 6:16 (ESV) Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

2) Harsh taskmasters exploited the people of Israel for their own desires.

Exodus 1:11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens...

Afflict - anah	Hard labor - cabalah
1. To put down, become low	1. Burden, forced labor Compulsory service
2. To be depressed, be downcast	
3. To be afflicted	
4. To stoop	

Today Satan and his demons oppress and demoralize people beating them with lies, deception, and compulsive behaviors.

3) The Jewish people were subjected to cruel and harsh labor making their lives bitter.

Exodus 1:13-14a So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves 14and made their lives bitter with hard service...

People today struggle with bitterness, anxiety, emotional torment, and depression.

4) The Jewish people were powerless to free themselves.
People today are dead in their sins and powerless to save themselves.

5) The people of Israel cried out for a savior and God sent Moses.

Exodus 3:7-8a (ESV) 7Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, 8and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians..."

Exodus 3:19 (ESV) But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand.

People today cry out for a savior and God sent Jesus.

John 3:16-17 (ESV) 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 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.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (AMP) 8 For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God; 9 Not because of works [not the fulfillment of the Law's demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.]

Not by human desire but by "The mighty hand of God."

Zechariah 4:6 (ESV) Then he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.

Might (khah'-yil) and power (ko'.akh) are synonymous terms in the Hebrew expressing human strength in every form, physical strength, learned ability, mental competency, wealth, and military might.

"not by external force, by carnal weapons, or moral persuasion; but by the sword of the Spirit, the word of God; and not by the power of man's free will, but by the efficacious grace of the divine Spirit: it is indeed done by power and might, but not of the creature" -- Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 (ESV) For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

Our freedom does not come by mind over matter; self help material, support groups, positive psychology, brute force, or financial wealth. It comes by the mighty hand of God.

Are there strongholds that need to be pulled down in your life?

Unforgiveness, anger, resentment, bitterness, selfish ambition, lust, sexual fantasies/addiction, jealousy, gossip, quarreling, drunkenness, or drug abuse.

Are you struggling in your mind with worry, anxiety, depression, fear, doubting your salvation, or thoughts of suicide?

Exodus 13:3 (ESV) Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

Exodus 15:6 (ESV) Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power, your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.