

The Big Picture: A Kingdom of Priests (Exodus 3, 19 & 20)

A Kingdom of Priests

- Generations have passed since God's promise to Abraham
- Of Abraham's 8 sons, God chose Isaac to be the one whose line would bear the covenantal promise of a redeemer (see Gen. 21:12; 25:1-2)
- God then selects Isaac's son Jacob/Israel to be the heir to the promise (Heb 11:9)
 - His 12 sons and their families grow to become the people known as the Israelites who inherit both the covenantal role and promises
- Through a series of events centered on Jacob's son Joseph, the family was brought to Egypt and settles in the eastern region of Goshen (Gen 46:32)
- The Israelites were enslaved by a new Pharaoh, and remained that way for 400 years (see Gen 15:13; Act 7:6)
- Then God set a plan in motion to free them from slavery and set them apart (Ex 2:24)

The God who Is (Ex. 3:11-15)

- God calls Moses to bring the Israelites out of Egypt and their slavery
- When asked why he is chosen, God makes it clear it is not about Moses or his abilities, but rather about God being with him
 - Immanuel/God with us theology
 - Just like Adam, Noah, & Abraham
- God tells Moses His name: YHWH = "I AM"
 - He is not like the gods of the Egyptians that they have known for generations
 - He is the Author of Existence

A Kingdom of Priest (Ex. 19:3-6)

- Once God has delivered the Israelites, He gives them instructions on how to live as His covenantal people: The Law
- The reward for obedience was a special duty, to serve as "priests"
 - Act as God's representatives on earth because when the Law was obeyed, they would represent the LORD more accurately
 - Ministry is the responsibility of the entire nation/people

The Law (Ex. 20)

- The Law was given to Israel after God had established a relationship with them (Ex 20:2)
 - The Law was meant for God's chosen people, not the world at large
 - Keeping the Law was an act of obedience due to relationship with God
 - Keeping the Law was never a prerequisite for being in relationship with God
- The Ten Commandments act as a summary to the entire Law
- Community concern: no need for the written Law until there was a large community in place

So What?

- Just like then, God rewards our obedience with a special role
- We are:
 - All called to ministry

- God's representatives to the world
- To be in community with God's people

Meditation Verse: *1 Peter 2:9*