



GROW GUIDE

Week of March 6, 2017

SERMON NOTES

Building Pyramids

Sermon 2 of 11 in *The Roots of Redemption*

Exodus 1:1-14

Rev. Dr. R. Brandon Harris

Pharaoh's Pyramids

The pyramids of Giza were completed by 2,500 B.C., about 800 years before the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt.

Salvation from Building Pyramids

For most of us in North America, salvation such as the Israelites experience is a hypothetical concept.

Salvation from misery is not the only salvation story the Bible tells.

If we have a hard time identifying with the misery of the Israelite slaves, it's ok so long as we listen to the story of Exodus with the ears of pharaoh.

Our Pyramids

Salvation involves those on the bottom of sinful systems being delivered from captivity and those on the top being relieved of their sinful delusion that they are gods.

God is not asking big deals to pity those at the bottom, but to sincerely repent of their contributions to the system of domination God detests.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. 3/6/2017 Genesis 3:1-7 *People want to become "like God"*

The story of the fall is not just a story of disobedience; it is a story of selfish desire of that which was not ours to have. This is the story of people refusing to be God's partner people and choosing instead to be "big deals" in our own right.

Tue. 3/7/2017 Gen. 6:1-8; 9:8-17 *How God deals with human rebellion*

Creation nearly ended in destruction because of human greed and lust to be big deals. God chooses the way of covenant love and opens the possibility for the redemption of creation from human sin.

Wed. 3/8/2017 Genesis 12:1-5 *God chooses a partner people*

God makes the first overture at redemption. He chooses Abraham and his family to be signs of his covenant way and a means of God's blessing flowing into all the earth.

Thu. 3/9/2017 Genesis 50:15-26 *Joseph lives out God's vision for mercy*

Just as God had shown mercy through Noah, now Noah's descendant Joseph shows mercy to his brothers who had wronged him. Joseph, through his faithfulness, had helped to bring God's manna and mercy to Egypt, living out the promise made to Abraham that through Abraham's descendants God would bless all the world.

Fri. 3/10/2017 Exodus 5:1-9 *Big deal pharaoh wonders "who is God?"*

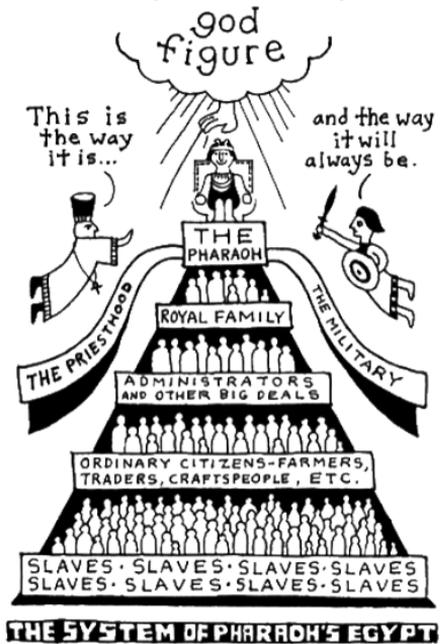
In brazen rejection of God's message delivered by Moses and Aaron, pharaoh implies that he need not heed the word of God and proceeds to exploit the Israelites even more harshly. These are the words and actions of someone who believes he is entitled to the lives of those below him.

Sat. 3/11/2017

Exodus 15:1-21

The songs of liberation

Israel's leaders, Moses and Miriam, lead the people in songs of triumph after they arrive safely on the far bank of the Sea of Reeds. The songs testify to God's power at work in their salvation and the foolishness of the powerful in thinking that their systems of domination would withstand God's judgment. These same themes will be repeated by another "Miriam" in Luke 1:46-56.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Download this week's prayer list from <http://tinyurl.com/prayer-2017-03-01>

Get a filled-in version and listen to the audio of the sermon at rbcfumc.org/sermons. The Grow Guide is available at noon Sunday; sermon audio available by Tuesday at 8am.