

## 02/05/06 – “GOD’S UNCHANGING PURPOSE REGARDLESS OF OUR CIRCUMSTANCES”

Man made covenants have room for bargaining or compromise – God’s covenant is on His terms and we either accept or reject

*“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever will believe in Him will have everlasting life and not perish.” – John 3:16*

God doesn’t haggle or negotiate about terms – This is My beloved Son, listen to Him... **There are no other options** – He is the Redeemer

**Salvation not achieved by good works or sincerity**... it is a gift received by grace through faith and not of works lest we boast – Eph. 2:8-9

**No matter what man does to sabotage His covenant promises, God is not deterred from His eternal purposes**

**God created man and all of nature in an original state of goodness** - Adam and Eve sinned... passing their sinful nature to all of humanity

Cain, the very first child of first family was a murderer... sin entered through Adam and is part of our human nature

In short order, the earth became full of violence and God flooded the earth except for Noah and his family... eight people

God made a covenant with Noah and promised to never again destroy the earth by flood and gave a sign... **the rainbow**

After the flood, humanity again turned from God by building a huge monument to themselves (at the Tower of Babel)

God scattered the races to the four corners of the earth... new tongues, new languages and reveals His plan in Genesis 12

He made a covenant with childless Abraham and told him he would be a father of many nations

**The promise God gave Abraham appears so out of reach and so impossible, so unlikely...but Abraham BELIEVED GOD**

Abraham never saw the final results of the promise – But knew the promise was true – **We walk by faith, not by sight**

**God’s promise can never be nullified... it’s bedrock** – **He will never leave us nor forsake us** – **He’s the author and finisher of our faith**

### **400 YEARS OF SLAVERY**

Moses rescued and educated in Pharaoh’s court - Moses needed to be literate in an age of illiteracy to write the Pentateuch

Moses, at the age of 40, committed murder thinking he was helping the Israelites and is forced into exile while Israel remained enslaved

**Two million trapped slaves inside the most powerful nation in the world but God’s promise still in tact despite impossible circumstances**

Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness and at age 80 had “burning bush” experience – God told him he would deliver Israel

Egypt judged and with every plague there is distinction between Egypt and Israel – **Egypt destroyed** – **Israelites unscathed**

Final plague is death of every first-born in Egypt except those with lambs blood over the lintel posts... **Judgment “passed over” Israel**

**Israel plundered the Egyptians**... gold and silver given freely by Egyptians – Left in haste **not even knowing where they were going**

**The Exodus begins**... the great Egypt had been disseminated... **no bow had been shot, no rock had been thrown**... **God did it all!**

God divided the Red Sea and they are saved - They sang unto the Lord in Exodus 15 – Not a word exalting themselves, only God’s goodness!

**“Who is like Thee among the gods, O Lord? Who is like Thee, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?”**

God provides water, manna, cloud by day, fire by night, gave them the Law, principles of worship and numbered the tribes

They defeat Amalek, Esau’s grandson – Aaron and Hur held up Moses’ tired arms to gain the victory (a type of intercession)

**We can’t really appreciate the lessons of the spies until we appreciate what God did for them before they spied out the land**

### **Numbers 14 – Report of Spies**

The land is good, but the sons of Anak are there and the land devours its inhabitants - **Ten of the spies melted everyone’s heart with a bad report**

When Israel heard the bad report, *“...all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.”*

**We can cry for wrong reasons** - Weeping out of brokenness to the Lord is a good thing – **They wept all night because of unbelief and fear**

*“Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!”*... after all the miracles they still didn’t believe God

*“And why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; better for us to return to Egypt?”*

**Our children are safe as long as God makes them safe** – **They’re a gift, but they’re God’s creation and He sustains them through life**

*“Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.”* - **What would Egypt have done if they came back?...irrational, illogical and lacking God’s wisdom**

Went from weeping for themselves to total rebellion, wanting to go back to Egypt as slaves...unbelief shuts out God!

Despite their rebellion, **God’s unchanging covenant would come to pass through the children of the unbelieving fathers** – Psalm 78

*“Fear not little flock, it is the Father’s pleasure to give you the kingdom.”* – God is an ultimate giver and believers will be rewarded

*“Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”* Heb. 11:6