

Exodus: Who Is Yahweh, That I Should Obey His Voice?

- Exodus 5.1–2, “Who is Yahweh that I should obey his voice? I do not know Yahweh.”
- God is going to show Pharaoh, Egypt, and Israel exactly who he is, that they might know him

[title] **Who Is Yahweh, That I Should Obey His Voice?**

“To Know” Yahweh in Exodus

- Exodus 1.8; 2.4, 14, 25; 3.7, 19; 4.14; 5.2; 6.3, 7; 7.5, 17; 8.10, 22; 9.14, 29, 30; 10.2, 7, 26; 11.7; 14.4, 18; 16.6, 12, 15; 18.11, 16, 20; 21.36; 23.9; 29.46; 31.13; 32.1, 22, 23; 33.5, 12 (2x), 13 (2x), 16, 17; 34.29; 36.1, “to know” is a theme woven throughout Exodus; it is used especially in connection with God causing Egypt and Israel to know that he is Yahweh, the true God (Egypt) or the only Savior (Israel) [more below]
- Exodus 7.5, 17; 8.22; 10.2; 14.4, 18; 16.12; 29.46; 31.13, “you/they shall know that I am Yahweh” (recognition formula); important in Leviticus and Ezekiel
- Exodus 12.51; 13.9, 14, 16; 16.6, 32; 18.1; 20.2; 29.45–46 (cf. chapter 32 and 33.1), “I am Yahweh, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt”; important in Leviticus and Ezekiel

God’s Plans

- Exodus 6.6–7, his ultimate plan was to save Israel, for Israel to know that he is Yahweh their God
- Exodus 7.1–5, 17; 8.10, 22; 12.12 (cf. Exodus 14.4, 18), to demonstrate that, although Israel had been in Egyptian bondage for several decades, the gods of Egypt were not in control, nor was Pharaoh in control, but that ultimately Yahweh, the only true God, was in complete control; for Egypt and Pharaoh to know that he is Yahweh, the only God
- Exodus 9.16, to make known his name in all the earth; answer to 5.2 (cf. “to know” in Exodus, above)

Pharaoh’s Hard Heart

- Exodus 5.1; 7.16; 8.1, 20; 9.1, 13; 10.3, God’s orders
- Exodus 7.13–14, 22; 8.15, 32; 9.12, 35; 10.1; 14.8 (cf. Exodus 4.21; 7.3), Pharaoh’s rejection

God Sends Ten Plagues

- Exodus 7.4–5, 17; 8.10, 22; 12.12, God’s demonstration of power
- Exodus 7.11–12 (staffs to serpents), 22 (water to blood); 8.7 (frogs) (cf. Exodus 8.18 [gnats]; 2 Timothy 3.8–9), the magician’s initial demonstration of similar power
- Exodus 12.12 (cf. Numbers 33.4), God’s ultimate defeat of ALL of Egypt’s gods and Pharaoh
- Exodus 14.18 (cf. Exodus 7.5), Pharaoh and all of Egypt learned who Yahweh is that they should obey him
- Exodus 15.14–16 (cf. Joshua 2.10–11), indeed, much of the rest of the world heard and learned, too

Israel’s Faltering Faith

- Exodus 5.20–21; 6.9, during the back and forth with Pharaoh (in the beginning) they believed Moses’s efforts made their lives worse and not better
- Exodus 14.10–12, after they left Egypt and were in the wilderness, Pharaoh pursued them, and they thought they were goners, not knowing / trusting the Lord to save them

God Saves Israel

- Exodus 8.22–23 (flies); 9.4–7 (livestock), 26 (hail); 10.22–23 (darkness); 11.4–7 (death of firstborn), God had demonstrated this in several of the plagues that did not affect Israel
- Exodus 12.13, 23, God had demonstrated this in the Passover and subsequent Exodus
- Exodus 14.13–14, 30–31, ultimately God saved them in the crossing of the Red Sea

Lessons Learned

- God is the only true and living God, there is no other god like him; we must know him
 - o This was clearly demonstrated in his mighty acts over Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt
 - o John 10.1–18 (esp vv4–5); 1 Corinthians 1.21; Galatians 4.8–9 (cf. Ephesians 2.11–22); 1 Thessalonians 4.5; 2 Thessalonians 1.8; 1 John 4.8, we must come to know God; a failure to know God results in spending eternity away from God in hell fire prepared for the devil and his angels, while knowing God results in a right and eternal relationship with him
- Even when our circumstances get more difficult, we must continue to trust in God and his deliverance
 - o Israel felt desperate and as if everything was going to end in a horrible way for them
 - o We must trust in God always, when things are going well and when things are not going well (in our eyes)
 - o Matthew 6.24–34; Luke 12.22–34; Philippians 4.4–7; 1 Peter 5.6–7, we must cast all our anxieties on him
 - o Matthew 28.20; Ephesians 3.14–21; Philippians 4.11–13, we must know that he is with us always
 - o Matthew 10.21–22; 1 Corinthians 15.50–58; 2 Timothy 4.6–8; Revelation 2.10; 12.11, even if, unlike the Israelites, our situation means that we lose our lives, we will ultimately gain victory in Jesus Christ
- God is our savior
 - o Acts 20.28; 1 Corinthians 5.7b (cf. 1 Corinthians 12.13), like the Israelites, when we are in the house with the blood (house of God, blood of Jesus), we are saved
 - o Exodus 14.13–14, 30–31; Psalm 106.8–10; 1 Corinthians 10.1–4, as the Israelites were saved from Egyptian bondage when they were baptized into Moses, we are saved from the bondage of sin when we are baptized into Christ (cf. Romans 6)

Pharaoh refused to know God and to obey him. He perished. Do not make the same mistake. Come to know the only true and living God. Obey him and be saved.