

GOD IS...FAITHFUL

Exodus 2:23-25

We value faithfulness; we want it in our personal lives, and we want in our professional lives too. We value it, in part, because we often encounter faithless people and we ourselves sometimes prove faithless. That reality stands in stark contrast to God's always faithful character; He is a God "abounding in...faithfulness"¹ (*Exodus 34:6*). We will therefore explore God's faithful character by considering Exodus chapters one and two as part of our ongoing effort to better understand God's self-revelation through Moses.

God remembered

- Exodus mentions that God heard Israel's groaning and "remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob" (*Exodus 2:24*).
 - The Bible begins Abraham's story by recording God's promise to make him a "great nation" and "to bless [him] and make [his] name great" (*Genesis 12:1-3*).
 - Because of his obedience to God, God expanded His promise to Abraham to include land in which Abraham's many descendants could live "forever" (*Genesis 13:14-17*).
 - A key moment in the story of God's promise to Abraham comes in Genesis chapter fifteen when, in response to his trust in God (*Genesis 14:17-24*), God paired the promise with a formal, "everlasting" covenant with Abraham and his descendants (*Genesis 15:1-21; 17:1-14*).
 - Genesis's story emphasizes the "everlasting covenant" (*cf. Genesis 17:7*) by recording its passage from Abraham to Isaac (*Genesis 26:1-5, 24*) and from Isaac to Jacob (*Genesis 28:3-4, 10-15*).
- Even though Exodus 2 mentions that God "remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob" (*Exodus 2:23-25*), we should not assume that He forgot about it in the hundreds of years separating the scene in Exodus chapter two from the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
 - First, God's covenant with Abraham included the announcement that his descendants would "sojourn in a land that is not theirs" for "four hundred years" where they would be "servants" and where they would be "afflicted" (*Genesis 15:13-14*).
 - Second, Exodus opens its story by revealing God's efforts to fulfill His covenant promise to Abraham. For example:
 - Abraham's descendants "multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them" (*Exodus 1:7, 12, 21*).

¹ All quotes from the Bible come from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version* (ESV Permanent Text Edition, Crossway, 2016) unless otherwise noted.

- The Egyptians, who oppressed the Israelites, “were in dread of the people of Israel” (*Exodus 1:8-12; Genesis 12:1-3*) while God blessed the midwives who shielded Israelite mothers from Egyptian efforts to kill their babies (*Exodus 1:15-21; Genesis 12:1-3*).
- Third, the story of Moses’ birth offers a specific example of the way God providentially worked to fulfill His promises to Abraham’s descendants (*Exodus 2:1-22*).
- Neither Genesis 15 nor Exodus 2 offer an explanation for the Israelites’ oppression in Egypt nor do they seek to harmonize Israel’s experience with God’s promise to bless and protect Abraham and his descendants. The text does, however, offer two insights:

God is faithful (Exodus 2:24)

God can exercise His faithfulness through peoples’ evil actions (Genesis 50:15-20)

Applications

- Even though it sometimes seems to overshadow everything else, evil does not undermine God’s faithfulness to His promises.
- God is faithful, but sometimes we can only see His faithfulness in hindsight.
- We should be careful to avoid questioning God’s faithfulness when we struggle.
- God’s faithfulness seeks purposes far larger than any one person, but His faithfulness always values the individual.

For the coming week:

To help extend the lesson and to encourage you to make it personal, take time during the coming week to consider the following material:

Read, reflect, and pray

Read the following passages this week – Genesis 12:1-3; Numbers 23:13-24; Leviticus 26:1-46. Spend time considering what the passages reveal about God’s faithfulness and praying about the insights they offer you.

Apply

After spending time reading, reflecting, and praying, consider how you can apply your insights into God’s faithfulness into your own life. Identify one way you can be more faithful like God in your relationships in your home, your community, and your workplace.