



# Geography of Salvation

## Preaching the Map

A Bible Study with Stan Key

### EGYPT: TO LEAVE OR NOT TO LEAVE, THAT IS THE QUESTION

#### Exodus 1–3

Before anyone starts on a journey there must first be \_\_\_\_\_ to begin. If we are content where we are, why leave to go somewhere else? Unless the reasons for leaving are greater than the reasons for staying we will never even begin the journey.

#### I. Egypt: My Native Land?

- A. Story of the eagle that was raised on a \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. A little history.

When the book of Exodus opens, Israel had been living in Egypt almost \_\_\_\_\_ years. For much of this time they were not slaves and life was pleasant. Goshen was a fertile area and Egypt was prosperous, stable and culturally advanced. Yet the Hebrews never \_\_\_\_\_ into Egyptian culture. Why? We must look to their original calling to find the answer.

*Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to \_\_\_\_\_ that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great \_\_\_\_\_, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall \_\_\_\_\_." (Genesis 12:1-3)*

God's people are different! They are recognizable because of three fundamental realities:

1. Home: Ever since Adam and Eve were expelled from Eden, the people of God have been characterized by homesickness; they are wanderers trying to find their place, their land. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Identity: Though the Hebrews lived in Egypt and walked, talked, ate and smelled like Egyptians, they were not Egyptians. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Purpose: Israel was called for a purpose: to be a blessing to the nations. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Spiritually speaking, Egypt is a picture of "\_\_\_\_\_."
- "When [the two witnesses] have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified." (Rev. 11:7–8)
  - "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever." (I John 2:15–17)
  - "You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." (James 4:4)

If you are in love with “this world” then you have no reason to respond when Jesus says, “\_\_\_\_\_.” As the puritan pastor Thomas Brooks (1608-1680) said; “The world and you must part or Christ and you will never meet.”

## II. Why leave?

God has a problem: How to \_\_\_\_\_ people to leave a place they don’t want to leave? The early chapters of Exodus describe how God orchestrated events so that the people actually *wanted* to leave where they had lived for 400 years. God used four ingredients to prompt his people to begin their journey toward Canaan.<sup>1</sup>

### A. \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 1:6-22).

1. God permits circumstances in Egypt to become worse and worse: a “new king,” cruel taskmasters, babies killed, bricks without straw, etc. No one begins this journey until the pain of \_\_\_\_\_ where we are becomes greater than the pain of moving to where God wants us to be!
2. Dr. Paul Brand worked with leprosy patients in India. Leprosy destroys the body’s ability to sense pain. This is not a good thing! “Silencing pain without considering its message is like disconnecting a ringing fire alarm to avoid receiving bad news.” Brand calls pain “\_\_\_\_\_ nobody wants.”
3. “God whispers to us in our pleasures; speaks in our conscience; but shouts in our pain. It is God’s \_\_\_\_\_ to rouse a deaf world.” (C. S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*).
4. The problem with the so-called Prosperity Gospel is that it has no theology of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. “And the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God \_\_\_\_\_ their groaning, and God \_\_\_\_\_ his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God \_\_\_\_\_ the people of Israel—and God \_\_\_\_\_.” (Ex. 2:23–25)
6. “For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” (Heb. 12:11)

### B. A confused \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 2:1–22).

1. For the people: they live in Egypt but they are not Egyptians. Who are we?
2. For Moses: He is the classic TCK (\_\_\_\_\_). He has a birth mother who is Jewish and an adoptive mother who is Egyptian. When he is with the Hebrews he feels like a foreigner as he does when he is with the Egyptians. He names his son Gershom (the alien) (2:22); Who am I? (3:11).
3. Moses addresses his inner pain and search for identity by taking matters into his own hands. He murders an Egyptian (2:11–15). This only makes matters worse! We don’t find ourselves by looking for ourselves: we find ourselves when we \_\_\_\_\_ and find God (3:1–12)!

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<sup>1</sup> Notice that *guilt* is not one of the factors God uses to motivate the Hebrews to begin their journey. Though many evangelicals love to use the law (and the guilt that comes to those who know they have broken God’s law) in an attempt to get people to say yes to Jesus Christ, God has a better way. In Exodus, the law doesn’t even enter the picture until *after* redemption (ch. 20).

4. In the musical *Les Miserables*, a stranger is arrested and put on trial because of mistaken identity: he looks like Jean Valjean. Valjean can't bear the thought of another being condemned falsely so he sings, "Who Am I?"

*If I speak, I am condemned.  
If I stay silent, I am damned!*

*Who am I?  
Can I condemn this man to slavery  
Pretend I do not feel his agony  
This innocent who bears my face  
Who goes to judgement in my place  
Who am I?  
Can I conceal myself for evermore?  
Pretend I'm not the man I was before?  
And must my name until I die  
Be no more than an alibi?  
Must I lie?  
How can I ever face my fellow men?  
How can I ever face myself again?  
My soul belongs to God, I know  
I made that bargain long ago  
He gave me hope when hope was gone  
He gave me strength to journey on*

*[He appears in front of the court]*

*Who am I? Who am I?  
I am Jean Valjean!*

*[He unbuttons his shirt to reveal the number tattooed to his chest]*

*And so Javert, you see it's true  
That man bears no more guilt than you!  
Who am I?  
24601!*

C. Cultivating new\_\_\_\_\_. (Exodus 3:1-9)

1. God spoke of a land of "milk and honey" (3:8) to people who lived in a land of "leeks, onions and garlic" (Num. 11:4-6). Thus the question becomes which appetite will be stronger? God does not want to destroy our appetites and lusts, he wants to \_\_\_\_\_ them! No one starts this journey who is not ravenously hungry for what only God can provide.
2. The Bible is a \_\_\_\_\_ book. Sin entered the world by food (forbidden fruit) and so did salvation (I am the bread of life). It is all about appetite.
3. "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for \_\_\_\_\_." (C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)
4. But how to cultivate right desires and holy appetites? What if I prefer eating a donut to eating an apple? Manna is a bland food intended to cleanse the palate! Thomas Chalmers preached about "the \_\_\_\_\_ of a new affection."

- D. There must be a \_\_\_\_\_ from God (Exodus 3:10–12).
1. First the call came to Moses at the burning bush (ch. 3–4) but then the call came to all the people through Moses and the other events of the exodus (Moses' teaching, ten plagues, Passover, pillar of fire, etc.).
  2. Understanding the call of God:
    - a. Initiated by \_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:16).
    - b. To a \_\_\_\_\_ as much as to a destination.
    - c. To a \_\_\_\_\_ more than to a task.
    - d. To a team, \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 2:18).
    - e. Will cost you \_\_\_\_\_. Salvation is free, but not cheap.

### TABLE TALK

1. Have you ever felt like an eagle on a turkey farm? Explain.
2. In what way was pain a gift to the Hebrews in Egypt? Has pain ever been a gift to you? Explain.
3. How does one discover his true identity?
4. How does one get to the place where the appetite for "milk and honey" becomes stronger than the appetite for "leeks and onions"?
5. Describe Moses' call. How did this moment at the burning bush change his life?
6. Have you experienced a call? How did the call come to you? How has it changed your life?
7. Are you ready to start the Journey?

## This World Is Not My Home

Jim Reeves

This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through;  
My treasures are laid up, somewhere beyond the blue.  
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

*Oh lord you know I have no friend like you,  
If heaven's not my home then lord what will I do.  
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door,  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.*

Oh lord you know I have no friend like you,  
If heaven's not my home then Lord what will I do;  
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.