

EXODUS

INTRODUCTION

Although few of us have faced the type of persecution that the Israelites faced in Egypt, we do sometimes find ourselves in difficult and challenging circumstances which lead us to ask the questions, “Where are you, God?” and “Why is this happening to me?” As Christians, we all give verbal assent to the truth of Romans 8:28, that God “in all things works for the good of those who love him,” but it is much easier to assent to this truth when things are going our way. When hard providences crash upon the shores of our lives in seemingly relentless waves, the truth of Romans 8:28 is easy to question and doubt.

While it can be difficult to trust God in challenging circumstances, it is often when things seem most perilous that he works most powerfully. God often sows the seeds of redemption in the seemingly barren soil of despair. God enjoys confounding the conventional wisdom of our world, and he often does this by snatching victory out of the jaws of defeat. We can see an example of this in how God delivered Israel from their predicament in Egypt.

Discussion Questions

1. It is very challenging to trust God during difficult times. As we saw this week, Israel faced this challenge during their time of bondage in Egypt. Can you think of a time in your life when you had to trust God during a difficult time? How did you cope? What did you learn from this experience?
2. God commenced his plan of delivering Israel from bondage in Egypt at the very time when all hope seemed lost. Can you think of other times in redemptive history when God delivered his people at a time when all seemed lost? How is this pattern manifested in the work of Jesus?
3. Moses almost perished as a child, but was saved through a chain of providentially orchestrated events. Can you look back on your life and see a similar chain of providence in how God delivered you from a trial?
4. Read Galatians 6:4–5. This text speaks about the providential coming of Jesus Christ in history at the exact time appointed by God. In John’s Gospel, Jesus frequently refers to his “hour” (John 2:4; 4:21, 23; 5:25, 28; 7:6, 8, 30; 8:20; 12:23; 12:27). How do the “hour” texts of John’s Gospel relate to Galatians 6:4–5 and what do these texts reveal about God’s role in history and redemption?