

Intro:

I entitled this message this way:

Why God Delivers

Why do you suppose God saves people from their sins? Is that a question we can answer? What motivates God to save men who are in rebellion to him?

In our natural state, the Bible teaches us that we are at enmity with God. We are at war with God. We are opposed to his will and his way. We are tainted with sin. We are polluted. We are everything God is not.

On the other hand, God is holy. He is perfect in his holiness, he is of ‘purer eyes than to look upon evil’.

Think of it this way (and I don’t mean to be offensive about this) – but suppose instead of a sewer system or septic fields, we took care of waste in open ditches which flowed into holding ponds in various areas of our city. What would your reaction to that be? Revulsion?

Suppose that instead of ‘staying in the banks’, such a system broke down and everyone’s sewers were over-running the streets, backing up into houses and so on. What would you think of that? Intolerable, right?

Well, to the holy God, our sin is as polluted as a sewer. And here that pollution is in antagonism to him as well.

So I ask again, why would God be motivated to save any men from sin? Remember, no one stands out among men as especially delightful, therefore worth saving. And also remember that salvation is really offered to all, at least in a general way, and that God loves the whole world.

The question remains, why?

Well, we are looking at the Book of Exodus. It can give us a bit of an answer to this question. It might not give us a complete answer, but it gives us something. And from that something, we can build some reasons for our own **worship** of God and for our own **devotion** to God.

If you would track this message in the “Strategy of Sanctification” grid (Romans 6), this message would fall under the Know category. So this is a foundational message for spiritual living.

Proposition: As we understand God’s motives in salvation, we worship, adore, and are moved to serve Him.

I. God's covenant motivates God's deliverance

"God's deliverance of Israel is based first of all upon His covenant promise to the Patriarchs."¹

- A. God is the God of the Fathers (3.6, 13, 15, 16; 4.5)
- B. God made a promise to the Fathers (6.8; 13.5, 11; 32.12; 33.1)
- C. A key initial observation of Exodus (2.24; cf. 6.4-5; 32.13)

"The Hebrew verb translated 'remembered' does not imply that God had forgotten and then recalled something, but rather that by an act of His will He considers and contemplates something."²

- 1. A major reason or motivation for the Exodus was God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- 2. The attribute of God's nature that provides this motivation is his Holiness (subsets of holiness: truth / justice)
- 3. For God to fail to keep his promises to the Fathers would be contrary to God's nature: it would make God evil

II. God's compassion motivates God's deliverance

"The deliverance is based also upon God's observation of Israel's plight."³

- A. God is gracious (22.27)
- B. The Egyptians were cruel (1.11-14, 15-22)
- C. Israel prayed (2.23) and God heard (2.24) and cared (2.25, cf. 3.7, 9, 16; 4.31)
 - 1. The second major reason or motivation for the Exodus was God's compassion on the people of Israel
 - 2. The attribute of God's nature that provides this motivation is Love
 - 3. For God to fail to keep his promises to the Fathers would be contrary to God's nature: it would make God cruel

¹ Robert D Bell, *The Theological Messages of the Old Testament Books* (Greenville, S.C.: Bob Jones University Press, 2010), 40.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid., 41.

III. Consequence: God's determination (6.3-6)

IV. Beyond Exodus: Truth and Love, twin attributes of God's character form God's motivation to all men

A. The promise to Adam and Eve (Gen 3.14-19)

1. Clearly, a promise is made
2. The promise says that the serpent will be crushed by the seed

The Holiness of God stands behind that promise.

B. The problem of hopeless human depravity (Jn 3.16-18)

1. Our study of the Genesis record of the doctrine of sin illustrates quite clearly how depraved men are
2. John says that men are condemned already, the Son came to break the bands of condemnation

The Love of God moved to send His Own Beloved Son into the world as a satisfactory substitute for man's sin.

Conclusion:

A famous verse from the Psalms goes this way:

^{KJV} **Psalms 85.10** Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*.

Why does God deliver?

- God delivered Israel because of a promise and a heart.
- God delivers all who will believe because of a promise and a heart.