
"The Miracle of the Exodus"

Sermon Text: Micah 6:1-8 / 1 Corinthians 1:26-31/ Matthew 5:1-10
Mariner Sands Chapel

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Today we look at a miracle that took place in the desert thousands of years ago. An event that changed world history, the exodus of the Jewish nation from Egypt. I'm curious though Do you believe this event really happened? Or is it just a story? There something about miracles that leaves us with just a little doubt. In the face of perplexing situations, we naturally respond with what we know and understand. Since we believe that God exists, it is not irrational to believe the God who made the world can still intrude creatively into it.

You know the scripture has no single word for miracle. The concept is a blend of thoughts expressed by three terms: wonder, mighty work, and sign. A miracle is an observed event that triggers awareness of God's presence and power. The miracles of Scripture are clustered around the time of the exodus, Elijah, Elisha, and Jesus. The mighty acts of God they performed were meant to express a profound truth to you and me. God will do anything to rescue us from the bondage of sin. The whole concept of rescue is connected with the concept of being saved. Just as God saved a nation of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, so also God can save us from our slavery to sin.

Exodus literally means "the way out." It was the way out of Egypt for a lot of people. The book of Numbers tells us that at the census of the young warriors, there were 603,550 men of fighting age. And with that fixed number, we can estimate that there were an additional 600,000 wives. If each family had an average of two children, then we can add another 1.2 million children to the census. Let's not factor in Grandma and the additional farm animals which add greatly to this number. That is the equivalent of all the population of Miami-Dade county and Broward county today.

Now if you cannot believe yet in the miracles God performed in 1400 BC, then let me try to explain to you how in logistical terms, we would have to plan for such a mass migration. First, we have to cross the Red Sea. With 2.4 million people walking "parade style" past us, with 300 people walking in rows upon rows at 4 mph (typical marching speed), The parade would start on Monday morning and continue until the last children and goats would bring up the rear on Wednesday afternoon. Once in the desert of Sinai, the people complained they needed water, so Moses struck the rock at Rephidim and water gushed forth to satisfy their thirst. But if we had to transport water to them, say by train car, we have a huge problem. It would take 100 Union Pacific tank cars to bring water to them. Each day with 10 liters per day per person. And to get food, well, God brought them Manna to eat, fresh every morning. To bring this also by boxcar each day would require an additional 410 cars for a quart jar of manna per person /day. God also brought them quail to eat: millions of pounds of barbecued wings for the people.

It is mind-boggling to try to explain this miracle in logistical terms for even one day of survival. And God did this for forty years. So let me ask you, if God can take care of his people in the desert for forty years and bring them into the promised land, do you think He is able to take care of your needs?

Can you trust a God who performs signs and wonders every day in our world, Who has given us His only Son for our redemption, Who has offered us freedom from the bondage of sin with His powerful Holy Spirit working in us, and Who can be called upon to help you 24 / 7 / 365?