

Who Are We and What Are We Here for?

EXODUS 19:1-6

Introduction

- The answer to our question depends on larger narratives or stories
- Examples of Worldviews
 - Optimism
 - Naturalism
 - Positivism
 - Postmodernism
 - Pragmatism
 - Theism
- The past, future, and present grace of God in Ex 19:1-6

God's Past Grace of Salvation

- “You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself” (Ex 19:4)
- “And God spoke all these words: ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me” (Ex 20:1-3)
- “A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” (Jn 13:34)

God's Future Grace of Mission

- “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex 19:5-6)
- “Moses said to God, ‘Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?’ God also said to Moses, ‘Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you’” (Ex 3:13-15)

God's Future Grace of Mission

- “Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ‘All nations will be blessed through you’” (Gal 3:8)
- “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb’” (Rev 7:9-10)

God's Present Grace

- “Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex 19:6)
- “to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit” (Rom 15:16)
- “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Pt 2:9)

God's Present Grace

- “The Lord said to Moses, ‘Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘I am the Lord your God. You must not do as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Do not follow their practices’” (Lev 18:1-3)
- “The Lord said to Moses, ‘Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.’” (Lev 19:1-2)
- “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession” (Ex 19:5)

Discussion Questions

- How would you describe the story or narrative in which you are living?
- What does being part of “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation” mean to you?
- What are some practical ways you can live out your Christian identity in God’s world?