



Our Promisekeeper

Bible study of Exodus 2:24-25

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A Study of Exodus 2:24-25

“God heard their groaning and He remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.”

Exodus 2:24-25 (NIV)

Week 1 — God Listens

Week 2 — God Remembers

Week 3 — God Sees

Week 4 — God Knows

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Week 1 God Listens



“*God heard their groaning.*” Exodus 2:24a

Four hundred years is a *really* long time. Countless changes can take place in such an extensive time span. For over 400 years two things were certainties for the Israelites—they were aliens in a foreign land and they endured slavery for a portion of that time.

Cruel bondage and bitter enslavement defined the Israelites’ existence in Egypt under Pharaoh’s relentless whip. Several generations of Israelites lived and died never knowing a different life, a better life or freedom. Perhaps some did not even know the one true God having simply grown tired of waiting.

However, through it all and in spite of their grim circumstances, the Israelites could still do one thing: HOPE. They put their hope in God and His promise to send a deliverer to free them from their oppressors.

Imagine for a moment telling your children about a possible deliverer only to never witness it in your lifetime. How would you feel? Would you still hold on to hope? Would you still tell your children to hope? Would your children have the faith not only to hold on to that hope, but pass it along to *their* children?

Where was God? Was He even listening?

Take a moment to write out Exodus 2:24-25:



Now read these verses aloud. These verses are our memory verses for this month. I encourage you to write them on index cards and place them in various locations where you spend the most time.

In this first week, we are studying Exodus 2:24a, which states, “*God heard their groaning.*” Much like the Israelites, amidst impossible circumstances or overwhelming situations we may sometimes ask, “*God, can You even hear me?*”

Some giants of faith throughout Scripture asked those same questions. How did God answer them in the following verses?

Job 34:28

Psalm 4:3

Psalm 18:6

Psalm 34:17

Proverbs 15:29

Micah 7:7

Romans 8:26-27

God hears His people. Joy! The word for *heard* (Hebrew, *shama*) references “to listen with attention or interest.” Allow that definition sink in for a moment.

The God of the universe, Creator of all things, Maker of heaven and earth listens to you *with interest*. We are not insignificant or unimportant to Him. Even though we are minute in the expansiveness of His creation, the interested attention of our all-knowing and all-powerful God falls on us.

What does that mean to you?

The verses above make one thing clear: The groans of the oppressed cry loud in the ears of our righteous God; especially the groans of God’s children and the burdens they groan under. And He listens *with interest*.

Take a moment to look up these examples of our Father’s divine hearing:

2 Samuel 22:7

Psalm 34:15

Isaiah 59:1

God not only hears our cries, but anticipates what we need. Like a parent who hears and anticipates the needs of their children, what does Isaiah 65:24 tell us?

God, ever mindful of the blessings His children groan after, promises to bestow on us with abundance those blessings that He has ordained for each of us to receive.

As Jacob blesses his sons, so we hear God's blessing to us in Genesis 49:25-26a:

As you read those words, what comfort does that bring to you today?

God heard the cries of His chosen people in Egypt and He hears our cries today. He not only hears our cries, He listens *with interest*.

His almighty gaze is focused upon your life today and every day. He will never leave you nor forsake you. That promise alone fosters the hope to endure in every situation.

Let's review our Bible memory verses for this month. Write out Exodus 2:24-25 once more:



If you find yourself groaning and disheartened by present circumstances or difficulties take heart. God listens to you *with interest*, beloved, and He will work out in your life something far better than you could have ever dreamed or imagined.

Have you talked with God about what's going on today? Now is a perfect time.

Close with prayer:

✠Father, who am I that You are mindful of me? That You should listen to me? I give You all praise, Father. I ask that You continue to strengthen my faith in You and Your Word so that I see and hear every circumstance and situation through Your hope. In Jesus' Name, Amen.✠





Notes



Week 2

God Remembers



“He remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.” Exodus 2:24b

One morning not long ago I was running late to work. Houston traffic was getting worse by the minute. My distracted mind was focused on the upcoming freeway conditions rather than what I needed to take with me for the day.

Consequently, after the *third* U-turn to drive back to the house for another forgotten item, I was ready to scream with frustration. There are some days where I think I’d forget my head if it weren’t attached to my body. Been there?

Although you and I may be forgetful on occasion, I can assure you of Someone who is never forgetful: God Almighty. He is mindful of every single promise and covenant He has ever made.

Even if Moses had forgotten about Israel in Egypt, God did not. God remembered Israel, their affliction and the covenant He had made with them.

And in His perfect timing, He was about to show Himself faithful and trustworthy on an epic, unforgettable scale.

Take a moment to write out Exodus 2:24-25:



In this second week, we are studying Exodus 2:24b, which states, *“He remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.”*

God did not turn His attention to Israel because they were such good people, but because of the covenant He made with them.

Covenant is not a word used often in today’s culture. However, it’s vital to understand the Biblical meaning for our study. The word for *covenant* (Hebrew, *beriyth*) refers to *“divine ordinance; so called from the idea of cutting.”* The Hebrew Scriptures often speak of “cutting” a covenant.

In the ancient Middle East, a covenant was often made by the sacrifice and cutting in half of an animal or animals. The halves would be arranged in two rows, and the two covenanting parties involved would walk between the halves. Among other things, this signified the seriousness of intent, saying in effect, “May this happen to me if I violate the covenant.”

When God made the covenant with Abram (as recorded in Genesis 15), only God passed among the halves. In doing so, He signified that He would keep both sides of the covenant. God knew that sinful men, even His beloved Abram, could not.

So why is that important for us to know today? In Christ, One finally stood on our side who could and did keep the agreement perfectly. God faithfully kept His covenant promise and continues to do so.

God's faithfulness is portrayed throughout Scripture:

Deuteronomy 7:9

1 Kings 8:56

Psalm 36:5

Psalm 89:1

1 Corinthians 1:9

What powerful, reaffirming words about God's faithfulness!

I believe it would be fascinating to undertake an in-depth study on what God chooses to remember and what He chooses to forget throughout Scripture. In this week's verse, we see that God *remembered*. According to Webster, to *remember* is defined "to recollect; to bring to mind."

What do we see God remembering in the following passages?

Genesis 8:1

Genesis 19:29

Numbers 10:8-9

Psalm 98:3

God also calls on us to remember specific instructions from Him for our good and protection.
What does God ask us to remember in Exodus 20:8?

Why do you believe it is important for us to remember to keep the Sabbath day holy?

God specifically remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Abrahamic Covenant is found in Genesis 12-17, where God promises four specific items. Take a moment to list them:

#1 (from Gen. 12:1-3) -

#2 (from Gen. 15:13-21) -

#3 (from Gen. 17:1-8) -

#4 (from Gen. 17:9-14) -

Those are incredible covenants! Scripture tells us that God made them with both Abraham and “His Seed.” Who is his “Seed” according to Galatians 3:16?

Traditional Jewish interpretation, and that of most Christian commentators, define Abraham’s descendents only as Abraham’s seed through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob. That specific genetic line is precisely the one that Scripture refers to in this week’s passage.

After reading those promises and covenants from God, how do you see them still true today?

God also made covenants with Abraham's grandson Jacob, which are a continuation of the Abrahamic Covenant. From Genesis 28:12-15, what four promises does God specify through Jacob's dream?

#1

#2

#3

#4

I love the fourth promise that God made to watch over Jacob wherever he went. God still does that today for each and every one of His children. There is not one thing about your precious life that escapes His watchful, loving gaze.

God loves you with an everlasting love! Pause to soak in Psalm 103:17-18:

Why is it important that we know God remembers His covenants? Because He made one to you and me through Jesus Christ.

At the Last Supper, Jesus alludes to the prophecies of a New Covenant (found in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Isaiah 49:8) saying that the cup of the Passover meal was "*the cup of the New Covenant in [his] blood.*" What does that mean? Jesus is implicitly asserting that the Old Testament rituals of atonement are fulfilled in Him. Jesus is making a strong reference to the blood of the old covenant in Exodus 24. In other words, all who believe by faith that Jesus lived, died for their sins by the shedding of His blood, and was resurrected to prepare a place for all believers in heaven are part of His New Covenant.

When comparing the old and new covenants, it is interesting to note how God uses the sacrifices of animals, especially with regard to the atonement for sin. Starting when Adam and Eve committed the original sin, God killed animals to provide clothes for them. Basically, one lamb for one person.

During the Passover, one animal could stand for one whole family. Later at Sinai, God taught by the instructions for the Day of Atonement that one animal could stand for the entire nation.

The climax was when John the Baptist declared in John 1:29, “*Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*” The blood of Jesus Christ alone atones for sin - *all sin* committed by each and every person in the world. There is no salvation apart from Him.

Let’s review our Bible memory verses for this month. Write out Exodus 2:24-25 once more:



This week’s lesson was technical, but necessary in order to understand (as much as we can this side of heaven) the totality of God’s love for us. Bravo for hanging in there!

God went to extreme lengths to ensure that there was a way to bridge the sin gap between us and Him. In obedient love, Jesus laid His life across that gap to provide the only path toward the place that He has prepared for us in heaven. He listens intently to our cries and remembers perfectly His covenants. Friends, there aren’t enough HALLELUJAHs or WOO HOOs to express our gratitude and thanksgiving for a love so great.

How will you apply what you have learned through this lesson?

Close with prayer:

✠Father, I am awed by You. Your plans are so much better and greater than anything I could possibly conceive. Your love for me draws me to facedown worship. Thank You for Your covenant promises and Your loving, divine memory to remember them completely. In Jesus’ Name, Amen. ✠



Notes



Week 3 God Sees



“So God looked on the Israelites.” Exodus 2:25a

When it comes to grieving, I am an intensely private person. I can count on the fingers of one hand how many dear ones I entrust with my pain and hurts. Are you the same way?

When we hurt, we need to know that the one to whom we are entrusting our tears loves us unconditionally and has our best interests at heart. In those hard times, we turn to those trusted souls who provide solace, strength and encouragement.

As God’s children, we have the highest privilege of turning our eyes on Jesus to provide for our *every* need. He knows our every hurt and exactly the salve we need. He looks on us with His divine compassion and loves us unconditionally.

When the Israelites cried out to God in their slavery, God heard them, remembered His covenant with them, and *looked* on them with His divine compassion and love. He noticed every tear, looked upon each face, and saw His incredible future for them.

Take a moment to write out Exodus 2:24-25:



In this third week, we are studying Exodus 2:25a, which states, “*So God looked on the Israelites.*” The enemies of God – especially Satan himself – continually try to persuade God’s people to believe that God does not see us or what is going on in our lives.

The Psalmist quotes such enemies in Psalm 94:7

But that Psalm goes on to reveal that God *always* sees: Psalm 94:8-9

People do not see as God sees. Take Moses for instance. Moses looked upon the Israelites and pitied them; but God looked upon them and helped them. God’s eyes were fixed upon Israel not with detachment or mild curiosity, but with loving kindness.

Speaking in human terms, when God sees His people in grief He is moved with compassion. God sees. He sees your situation today and in each tomorrow.

Write the assuring words of Psalm 34:15, 18 here:

Along with His compassion comes God's divine protection. What do the following passages tell us about God's protective providence?

Psalm 115:9-13

Matthew 6:31-33

Luke 12:7

1 Peter 5:7

God looked on the Israelites with His divine compassion and love. The word *looked* used in Exodus 2:25 (Hebrew, *ra'ah*) references "*to be selected; to give attention to.*"

What does that bring to your mind?

I think of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. He carefully watches over His flock – even to the point of laying down His life:

Isaiah 40:11

Psalm 100:3

Ezekiel 34:11-12

God sees what is behind and what is ahead in our lives. He sees all the threats, temptations and dangers. He also sees our suffering and assures us over and over that He will be with us:

Joshua 1:5

Isaiah 41:10

Isaiah 43:5

We are always under our Father's watchful care.

In the Cherokee Indian nation, there is a legend of a boy's rite of passage. The boy's father takes him into the forest blindfolded ... and leaves him ... alone. The boy is required to sit on a stump the whole night, and not remove the blindfold until the sun shines through it. He is to be brave and not cry out for help. If he survives the night, he is considered a man.

Imagine that scenario from the boy's perspective. He can't see a thing yet hears all kinds of noises. It may be bad weather – rain, cold, or perhaps a howling storm. But he sits stoically and waits knowing that it is the only way he can be a man. Finally, after a long, dark, agonizing night, the sun appears and he removes his blindfold. Only then does he notice his father sitting on the stump next to him. He had kept watch all night.

Does God do any less for us? You and I are never out of the watchful gaze of our Heavenly Father. Even when we may not know it, He is protecting us, watching over us, and sitting right beside us through the dark nights and violent storms.

How have you seen God doing that in your life recently?

Let's review our Bible memory verses for this month. Write out Exodus 2:24-25 once more:



It had been a long, long night for the Israelites. Specifically, a 400 year-long night. They could not see an end to their darkness. They heard the terrifying noise of whips, screams, cries and groaning. It had been a violent storm for them, but they waited. They waited on the promised deliverer and kept the hope alive from generation to generation that God would remember His promise.

And He did. Of course He did.

God was always with them, watching over them. And He watches over you each and every day. He knows your grief, suffering, heartaches, desires, dreams, hopes, circumstances, and situations. God looks on you with His divine compassion and love. He carefully tends to you - the precious sheep of His pasture.

God *sees* you. He knows you like no one else does and calls to you to walk toward Him by faith.

What comfort does that give you as you head into the rest of this week?

Close with prayer:

✠Father, I am so thankful that Your eyesight is greater than mine. You see my every need and have a plan for my life. I would rather live one day under Your watchful care, than a hundred without it. I will praise You in the storms, Father, because You promise there will always be a rainbow. And when it appears, I will point others to see the colorful beauty of Your stunning glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen. ✠



Notes



Week 4 God Knows



“And [God] was concerned about them.” Exodus 2:25b

We are in the midst of some trying times. Between the downturned economy and the war overseas, we have reason to be concerned. We might wonder what lies ahead for our families and future generations.

The Israelites found themselves in trying times, as well. But I would suggest that their situation was a bit more trying than ours. They were in cruel bondage and bitter slavery. Their daily lives consisted of hard labor, violent treatment, and brutal circumstances. Most likely they wondered what lay ahead for them, their families and future generations. They had reason to be concerned.

However, there was Someone concerned about them who had the power to change their destiny in an instant.

Take a moment to write out Exodus 2:24-25:



In this final week, we wrap up our study by looking at Exodus 2:25b, which states, “*And [God] was concerned about them.*” Over the past three weeks, we have studied three out of four wonderful verbs that God uses in Exodus 2:24-25. We studied how God *heard*, *remembered* and *looked* on the Israelites – His chosen people.

This week we look at the final verb, which says that God was *concerned* about them. This particular part of Exodus 2:25 has several Biblical translations which will lend richness to our study:

King James Version: “*God had respect unto them.*”
New Living Translation: “*[God] felt deep concern for their welfare.*”
English Standard Version: “*God knew.*”
Revised Standard Version: “*God knew their condition.*”

I love the English Standard Version, which simply states, “*God knew.*” We can be assured that God knew the problems of the Israelites and was concerned about them.

However, in the context of Exodus 2:25 “*God knew*” means much more. Think for a moment. What else does God know that is relevant to the Israelites’ condition?

Let's bring it closer to home. What does God know that is relevant to *your* situation today?

This week, we are going to take a look at four specific things that God knew about the Israelites and knows about us today.

1. God knew their *present* weakness.

God knew that the Israelites were powerless on their own to help themselves. He knew that unless He acted, they would be lost.

What does John 15:5 tell us?

2. God knew their *future* failure and sins.

Even though the Israelites were crying out to God for relief from their bitter enslavement, these same Israelites became very rebellious. Even though God knew their future failure and sins, God rescued them with a series of great miracles. And rescued them again and again and again.

After God took them to Mount Sinai to give them His Ten Commandments, what was their response in Exodus 24:3?

Yet just a few days later, do you remember what happened? They became impatient when Moses did not return to camp believing they had no leader, so they made an idol – a golden calf – and worshipped it.

Despite that grievous sin, God nevertheless chose the Israelites to be His people. You and I resemble the Israelites, don't we? We cry out to God under life's pressures and promise to be faithful to Him only to slide back into our waywardness and pet sins once the pressure is off.

God knows that about us and our grievous sins. And He still chooses to love, guide and protect us.

3. God knows the *power of the enemy*.

Whether that power is a physical disease or an oppressive state, whether it is a human enemy or Satan himself, God knows its strength. He knows all of Satan's plans and ploys, and all the tricks and deceitfulness of every human being.

He also knows what they will do tomorrow – how the disease will advance, how the thieves plan to rob, and whom Satan will try to throw down.

How does the author of Hebrews put it in Hebrews 4:13?

God sees and knows not only our actions but also our hearts. He knows the power of the enemy – and He limits it according to His good and perfect will. He knows that we can handle only so much pain and suffering, so He does not allow Satan free reign in our lives. Satan has to get permission from God to mess with God's children.

4. God knows *His plans* for the Israelites.

God rescued Moses from death in the Nile by placing him in a basket, because God had ordained Moses for a greater destiny. He placed Moses in the household of Pharaoh so that he would learn all that was necessary to play his future role – reading, writing, and people skills.

He had already placed in Moses' heart a desire to save his people from the Egyptians. Then, when the time was right, God appeared in a burning bush to let Moses in on His plan and the role he would play as God's instrument. God knew all these plans.

God has an incredible destiny planned for each of us, as well. What does the Lord tell us through Jeremiah in 29:11?

So what does God require of us? He calls us to put our lives in His basket. All of our lives -- not only that part which we feel like handing over. The current of God's plan for your life will take you to places that you would have never dreamed. We can do it His way or His way, know what I mean?

In Isaiah 46:10, God declares: "My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose."

God has a purpose and plan for each and every life He created.

Let's review our Bible memory verses for this month. Write out Exodus 2:24-25 one last time:



So what are your concerns? What are your sorrows and pains? Why are you crying out to God? Whatever they are, know this truth: Your God *hears, remembers, sees* and *knows*! He hears every word you cry out loud and silently.

All of God's promises are a YES in Jesus Christ, our atoning sacrifice. He sees the entirety of your life and He *knows* you.

He knows your enemies, triumphs, sins, failures, joys, weaknesses, sorrows and hurts.

And God, Our Promisekeeper, has the perfect plan for Your life.

The only question is: Will you put your life in His basket?

What are you hesitant to place in God's basket? Why?

Close with prayer:

✠ *Father, thank You for knowing me - and loving me anyway. Some days I can be so knowingly rebellious. Father, regardless of any circumstance, I know that You are with me. You hear me, remember Your promises, see my need and know the path You have ordained for me. Help me to see Your plan for my life. To You alone I give my praise and all honor. In Jesus' Name, Amen.* ✠



Notes

Prayers

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** Our hope and prayer at Artesian Ministries is that you were encouraged and strengthened in your Christian walk as you dug deeply into God's Word through this study. There are many resources available through Artesian Ministries, including AM Devotions (that you can sign up to receive in your email inbox each Monday morning), a daily Bible reading program, Scripture memory work, journaling opportunities, and numerous Bible studies. Thank you for the privilege and honor of serving you. If you'd like to contact us, email us inquiry@artesianministries.org, or visit our website at www.artesianministries.org.**