



# Redemption by Blood and Power

SESSION 3

EXODUS 12-18

Salvation and the Journey of Discipleship

# Moving from Salvation to Discipleship

## Our Journey Together

This session bridges the decisive moment of redemption with the ongoing reality of spiritual formation. We'll explore how God's people, once delivered, must still learn to trust and obey.

## Key Focus Areas

- Understanding the theological depth of Passover redemption
- Connecting Old Testament deliverance to New Testament salvation
- Recognizing wilderness testing as divine formation
- Learning sustainable leadership from Moses and Jethro

# Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, you will be equipped to teach and apply these essential truths from Exodus 12–18.



## Passover Theology

Articulate the substitutionary nature of redemption and its necessity for deliverance



## Biblical Connections

Bridge Exodus redemption themes to New Testament salvation doctrines



## Wilderness Formation


Interpret testing and provision as tools for spiritual growth and maturity



## Leadership Wisdom

Apply delegation principles that honor God's design for sustainable ministry



 PART I

# The Passover and Substitutionary Redemption

Exodus 12 reveals the foundation of biblical salvation: life through death, deliverance through sacrifice, and redemption by blood.

# Redemption Through Substitution



The Passover lamb wasn't merely symbolic—it was substitutionary. The blood of an innocent life stood in place of the firstborn, absorbing the judgment that would otherwise have fallen on the household.

This wasn't religious ritual; it was divine rescue through vicarious death. Judgment passed over not because Israel deserved protection, but because life had already been given. Deliverance required death in place of death—a truth that would echo through Scripture to Calvary.

# Faith Expressed Through Obedience

Theological agreement meant nothing without corresponding action. The power of redemption remained dormant until faith became visible through obedience.



## Internal Belief

Trust in God's promise of protection



## Applied Action

Blood applied to doorposts and lintel



## Realized Deliverance

Judgment passed over, life preserved

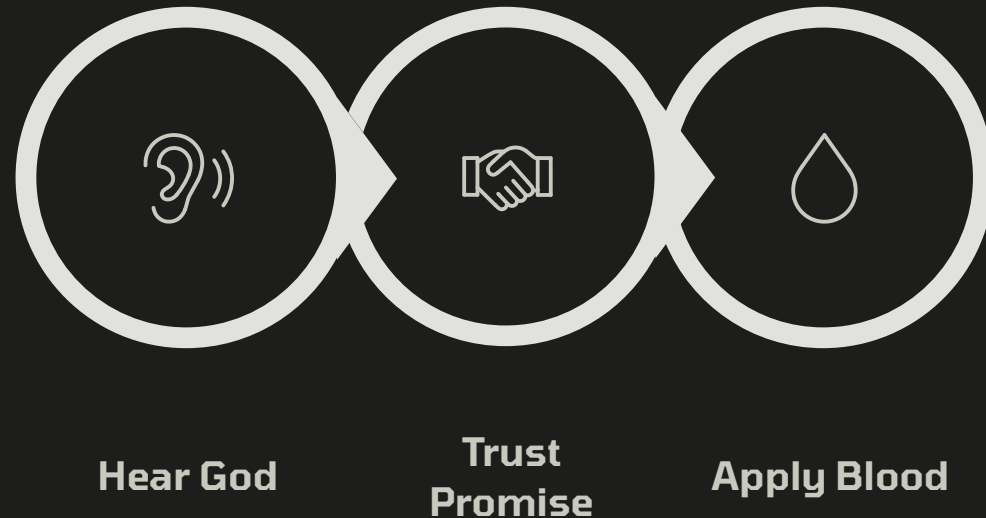
Salvation required trust in God's word, not emotional certainty. Obedience was the visible expression of faith—what James would later call "faith made complete by works." The blood had to be applied, not merely believed in.

# Redemption Applied, Not Assumed

## Personal Responsibility

Heritage didn't protect Israel—obedience did. Every household faced the same choice: apply the blood or face the consequence. Being part of the covenant community offered no automatic immunity.

Each family had to respond personally before protection became corporate. Salvation was personal before it became national. No one could borrow faith from their neighbors or inherit deliverance from their ancestors.



# Overlooked Theological Insight

**The power of the blood was not automatic—it was covenantal and applied through faith.**

Many assume the blood itself possessed magical properties, but Scripture reveals something deeper. The blood marked not just doorways but hearts. It demonstrated covenant trust, not superstitious hope. God honored relational faith, not religious ceremony.

This distinction matters profoundly for discipleship. Redemption flows from relationship with God, not ritual performance. The applied blood testified to applied faith, and God responded to both.

# Illustration: Blood on the Door

A door marked with blood didn't look impressive—certainly not to Egyptian neighbors or even to skeptical Israelites. No architectural beauty, no religious aesthetics, just obedience made visible.

Yet that marked door was the difference between life and death. God honored obedience over appearance, substance over style, faith over feeling. The most humble doorway with applied blood outranked the most magnificent palace without it.

📌 Ministry application: What God honors and what impresses people rarely align. Faithfulness trumps flash every time.

# Personal Connection

## **The Assumption Trap**

Many assume salvation without personal surrender. They affirm doctrine without demonstrating discipleship, claim belief without corresponding obedience.

## **Applied vs. Affirmed Faith**

Reflect honestly: Is your faith applied or merely affirmed? Does your life show evidence of the blood, or just intellectual agreement about it?

## **Obedience as Proof**

Ask whether obedience flows naturally from what you say you believe. True faith produces transformed behavior, not religious vocabulary.

 PART II

# Deliverance Through the Red Sea

Exodus 13–14 demonstrates God's power to complete what He begins—salvation finished, not started and abandoned.

# God's Guidance and Protection

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## Divine Strategy

God led Israel intentionally into a place of apparent impossibility. The Red Sea wasn't a navigational mistake or divine oversight—it was a strategic setup for comprehensive deliverance.

2

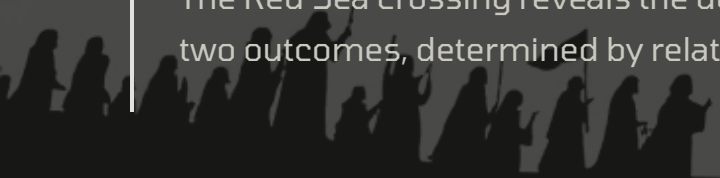
## Divine Intervention

Notice the sequence: God's presence guided before His power parted the waters. The pillar of cloud and fire went ahead, demonstrating that divine companionship precedes divine intervention. Israel learned to trust God's presence even when His purposes remained unclear.



# Salvation and Judgment in One Event

The Red Sea crossing reveals the dual nature of God's redemptive acts—the same water that saved Israel destroyed Egypt. One event, two outcomes, determined by relationship to God.



# The Finality of Deliverance

## Complete Break

Egypt's power was broken completely, not partially. Every chariot, every soldier, every symbol of oppression—gone.



## Permanent Freedom

Israel would never return to slavery. The door to Egypt closed permanently when the waters crashed down.



## Decisive Act

God's deliverance was decisive, not provisional. When God saves, He saves completely.

This finality matters for discipleship theology. Believers aren't partially saved, awaiting Egypt's possible return. Salvation is finished work, complete deliverance, total victory. The Christian life builds on accomplished redemption, not tentative hope.

# Overlooked Ministry Insight

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| **God does not deliver people halfway and leave enemies standing.**

”

Many Christians live as though deliverance is incomplete—as if Egypt might resurface, as if slavery could resume. But Scripture declares otherwise. The God who begins redemption finishes it thoroughly.

Half-measures don't characterize divine deliverance. When God moves to save, He completes the work. This truth should anchor assurance and fuel bold obedience in those He has redeemed.

# Illustration: Half Open Door

1

## False Security

A door that is half open still leaves the threat inside. A partially defeated enemy remains dangerous. Incomplete deliverance provides false security.

2

## Complete Deliverance

God closes doors fully when He delivers. He doesn't crack them slightly or leave them ajar. When the Red Sea closed over Egypt, it closed completely—leaving no possibility of pursuit, no lingering threat, no unfinished business.

3

## Lasting Victory

Apply this to spiritual warfare and sanctification: The enemies God defeats stay defeated. The sins He forgives stay forgiven. The chains He breaks stay broken.

# Personal Connection

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## **Wanting Freedom Without Separation**

Many want freedom without final separation from the old life. They desire deliverance but negotiate with Egypt, keeping options open, maintaining connections to what once enslaved them.

## **Egypt's Still Standing**

Reflect honestly on whether there are "Egypt's" you still leave standing in your life—habits, relationships, mindsets that should have drowned in your Red Sea but somehow survived your salvation.

## **Trust When Escape Seems Impossible**

Ask whether you trust God enough to move forward when escape seems impossible, when waters tower on both sides, when enemies close in from behind. True faith advances when circumstances counsel retreat.

A group of men in white robes, some with beards and head coverings, are standing in a temple-like setting with large columns and hieroglyphs. They have their hands raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden-brown color palette. The background shows a large, ornate building with many columns and hieroglyphs, suggesting an ancient Egyptian or Mesopotamian temple.

🎵 PART III

# Worship, Testing, and Provision

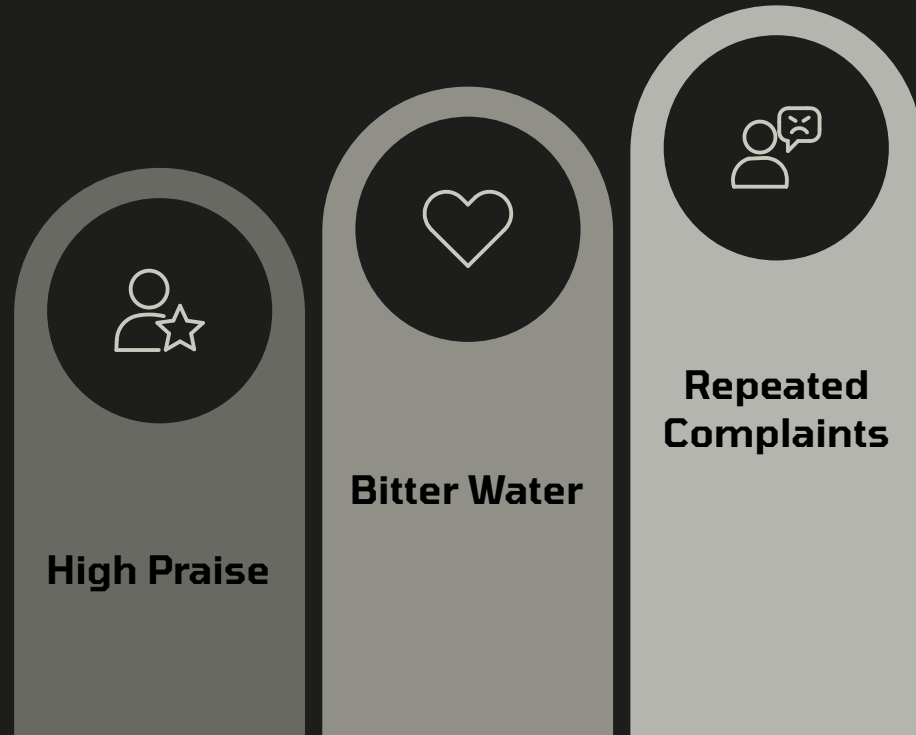
Exodus 15–17 reveals the gap between initial celebration and mature trust, showing how freedom exposes the heart.

# Praise Before Pressure

## Immediate Worship

Israel worshiped immediately after deliverance, and their celebration was genuine. Miriam led the women in dance, Moses composed a song, the people rejoiced with authentic gratitude. Victory produces spontaneous praise.

But notice what Scripture reveals: worship was sincere but shallow. It flowed naturally from spectacular deliverance but hadn't yet been tested by ordinary challenges. Celebration came easily when God's power was undeniable and Egypt lay defeated.



# Testing in the Wilderness

The wilderness revealed what the Red Sea had concealed: the true condition of Israel's hearts. Three days of thirst, gnawing hunger, and uncertain provision exposed fragile trust faster than four hundred years of slavery ever did.

## Marah: Bitter Water

1

Complaining replaced praise within days. "What shall we drink?" revealed unmet expectations.

2

## Wilderness of Sin: Hunger

"Would that we had died in Egypt!" Selective memory romanticized bondage.

## Rephidim: Thirst Again

3

"Is the Lord among us or not?" Testing God replaced trusting God.

Freedom revealed the heart more than slavery did. Comfort, not captivity, exposed what Israel truly believed about God's character and faithfulness.

# God's Daily Provision

## **The Discipline of Daily Dependence**

Manna required daily dependence, daily trust renewed every morning. God provided enough for each day—not excess to hoard, not abundance to stockpile, just sufficiency for today.

## **Sustained, Repeated, Unglamorous Faithfulness**

This tested faith differently than the Red Sea had. Spectacular deliverance requires one moment of trust; daily provision requires sustained, repeated, unglamorous faithfulness. God was retraining people who had forgotten how to trust Him consistently.

## **Spiritual Maturity Through Small Choices**

The lesson: spiritual maturity develops through repeated small choices, not single dramatic moments.

# Overlooked Pastoral Insight

Redemption removes bondage, not immaturity. Growth still takes time.

Many pastors and leaders grow frustrated when new believers struggle, complain, or doubt after experiencing genuine salvation. We expect Red Sea deliverance to produce immediate spiritual maturity.

But Exodus reminds us that freedom and maturity are different. Salvation is instantaneous; sanctification is progressive. God delivers from Egypt in a moment but spends forty years forming character in the wilderness. Both are necessary. Both are divine work. Both require patience—from God and from those who lead His people.



## Illustration: Sandals

New shoes still blister feet at first, even quality ones purchased at great cost. The shoes are genuine, the leather is real, but feet must adjust to unfamiliar comfort. Initial discomfort doesn't invalidate the quality of the shoes.

Similarly, freedom feels uncomfortable until trust grows. Redeemed people must learn to walk in liberty after years of shuffling in chains. The blisters are real, the adjustment is genuine, but neither negates the salvation.

### **Pastoral application:**

Expect awkwardness in new believers. Anticipate complaints during adjustment. Patience isn't compromise—it's recognizing that formation takes time even after deliverance is complete.

# Personal Connection

## **Expecting Instant Maturity**

Many believers expect instant maturity after salvation, assuming that genuine conversion should produce immediate perfection. When struggles continue, they doubt their salvation or God's power rather than recognizing the normal process of growth.

## **Testing Daily Trust**

Reflect on how you respond when God tests daily trust through ordinary challenges. Does inconvenience produce complaints? Does delayed provision trigger doubt? Do small trials reveal a faith shallower than you realized?

## **Disappointment or Weak Faith?**

Ask whether your disappointment reveals unmet expectations about the Christian life or weak faith in God's ongoing provision. Sometimes what we call "crisis of faith" is actually maturing faith confronting childish expectations.

A group of six men in ancient attire, including turbans and long robes, standing in a desert landscape with a large pyramid in the background. The scene is dimly lit, creating a somber and historical atmosphere.

👤 PART IV

# Leadership, Delegation, and Sustainability

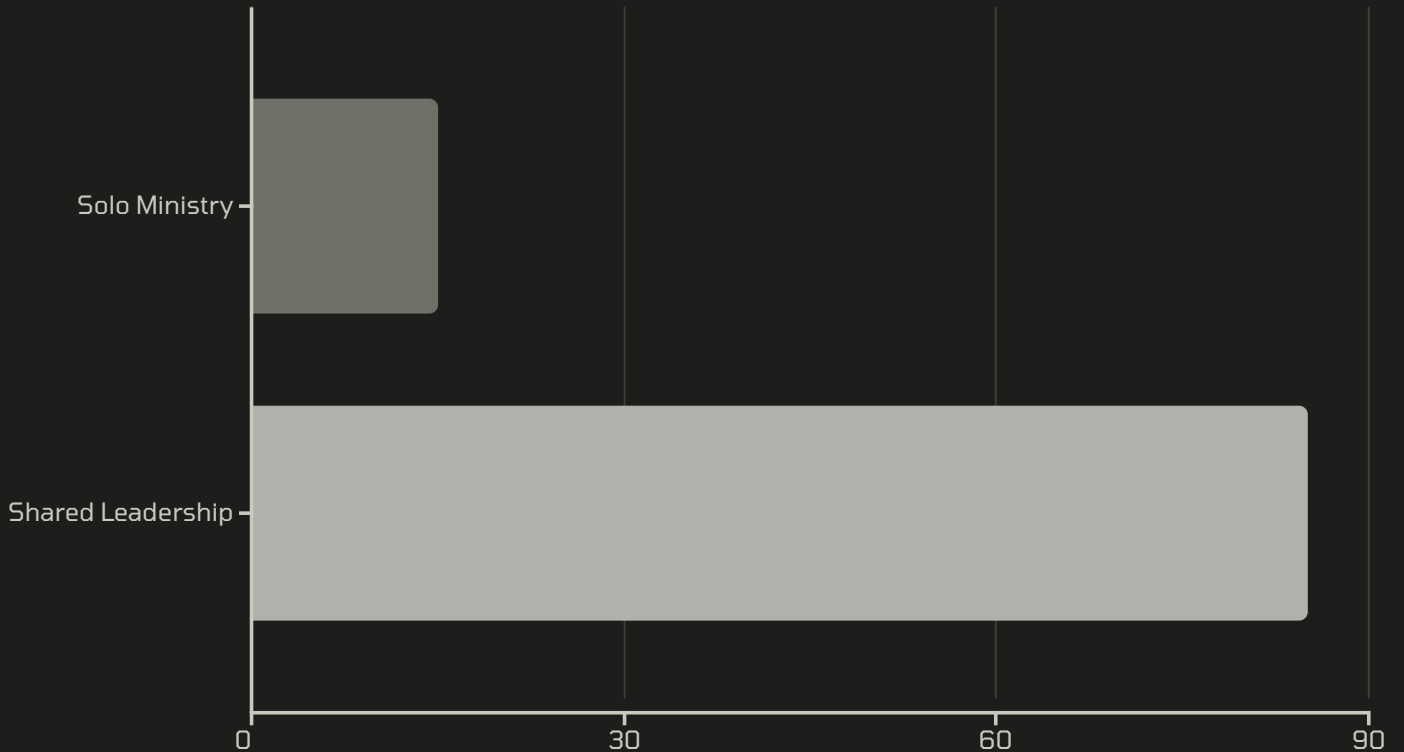
Exodus 18 reveals God's design for multiplied, sustainable ministry through shared leadership.

# The Burden of Solo Leadership

## Moses' Unsustainable Approach

Moses carried responsibility alone from morning until evening, judging every dispute, answering every question, solving every problem. The people stood waiting while one man attempted to serve an entire nation.

His intentions were pure—he wanted to serve well, represent God faithfully, help his people thoroughly. But ministry demands exceeded human limits, even for someone as gifted as Moses. Good intentions were leading steadily toward burnout and ministry collapse.



# Wisdom from Unexpected Sources

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law and a Midianite priest, recognized the danger before Moses did. An outside perspective identified what proximity had normalized—that current ministry patterns were unsustainable and unhealthy.

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## Observation

Jethro watched Moses work from morning until evening, saw the waiting crowds, recognized the burden.

03

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## Solution

Practical advice for delegation, qualifications for leaders, structure for shared responsibility.

02

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## Confrontation

"What you are doing is not good. You and the people will surely wear yourselves out."

04

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## Implementation

Moses' humility made reform possible—he received correction and applied it immediately.

Notice that God used an outsider to bring crucial wisdom. Moses' humility to receive correction from his father-in-law demonstrated the secure leadership that makes lasting change possible.

# Shared Leadership as God's Design

## The Multiplication Principle

Delegation protected Moses from exhaustion and the people from endless waiting. But more than problem-solving, shared leadership revealed God's design for how His kingdom operates.

Leadership multiplied effectiveness rather than concentrating it. Authority was distributed, not hoarded. Responsibility was shared, not monopolized. The result was sustainability that honored God's design for community rather than celebrity.

Biblical leadership develops others, not just accomplishes tasks. It builds teams, not followings. It multiplies ministry, not personal influence.

# Overlooked Ministry Insight and Application

Faithfulness without wisdom eventually becomes exhaustion.

1

## Solo Leadership Danger

A single pillar may look strong initially, but concentrated weight produces cracks and eventual collapse. One person cannot sustain what God designed for many.

2

## Distributed Strength

Distributed weight prevents collapse and enables growth. God builds teams, not lone heroes. Biblical ministry multiplies leaders rather than concentrating power.

Many leaders spiritualize burnout instead of addressing it structurally. They call exhaustion "sacrifice," confuse unsustainability with dedication, and mistake organizational dysfunction for spiritual faithfulness. Jethro's wisdom challenges this dangerous pattern.

# Personal Leadership Connection

Moses' story confronts every ministry leader with penetrating questions about structure, sustainability, and stewardship.

## Delegation Resistance

Reflect honestly on where delegation is needed but resisted in your leadership context. What fears drive the resistance—control, perfectionism, insecurity, or mistrust? Name them specifically.

## Structure Assessment

Ask whether your current leadership structure honors God's design for sustainability or merely replicates comfortable patterns. Does your organizational chart distribute responsibility or concentrate it?

## Burnout Warning Signs

Identify early warning signs of unsustainable ministry—physical exhaustion, emotional depletion, relational strain, spiritual dryness. Are you waiting for collapse before addressing the structure that produces it?

## Multiplication Commitment

Consider one concrete step toward leadership multiplication this month. Who can you develop? What can you delegate? How can you build a team instead of a following? What would Jethro observe about your current approach?

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**Next Session Preview:** We'll explore the giving of the Law at Sinai, examining how covenant relationship defines God's expectations and enables obedient living.