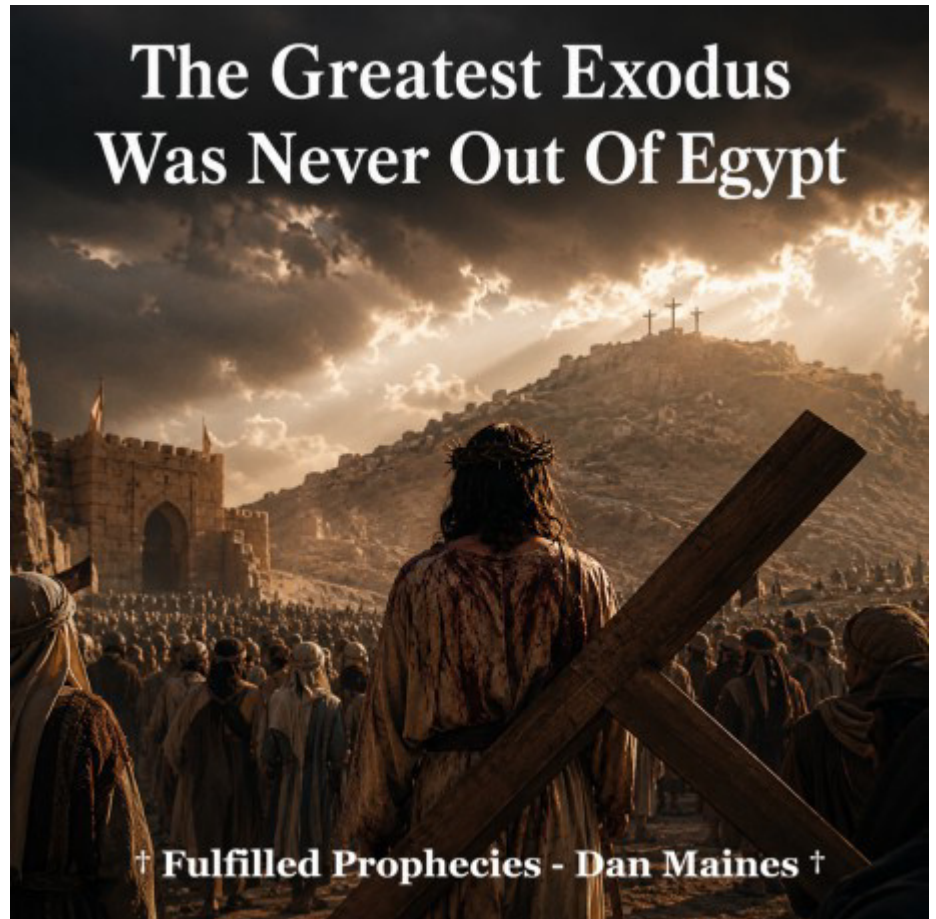


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The Greatest Exodus Was Never Out Of Egypt



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† The Exodus from Egypt was one of the greatest events in Israel's history, but it wasn't the final deliverance God had planned. Moses led Israel out of physical slavery, while Jesus delivered His people from sin, condemnation, and the bondage of the Old Covenant. The first Exodus was a shadow, but Christ brought the greater reality. (Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 10:1)

† Moses led Israel through the sea toward an earthly land, but Jesus led His people through death into the everlasting Kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 10:1-4; Colossians 1:13)

† The greatest Exodus wasn't merely from one country to another. It was the covenantal deliverance from slavery under the Law into freedom, life, and direct access to God through Christ. (Galatians 4:4-7; Hebrews 10:19-22)

Exodus 12:41-42

And at the end of 430 years, on this very day, all the multitudes of the LORD departed from the land of Egypt.

It is a night to be observed for the LORD, for having brought them out of the land of Egypt; this night is for the LORD, to be observed by all the sons of Israel throughout their generations.

† The first Exodus delivered Israel from slavery under Pharaoh and brought them out of Egypt as God's covenant people. (Exodus 6:6-7)

† That physical deliverance became the pattern for the greater salvation Christ would later accomplish. (Luke 9:31; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4)

† Egypt represented bondage, but the deeper slavery of mankind was sin, death, and condemnation under the Law. (John 8:34; Romans 7:10-11)

Exodus 14:21-22

Then Moses reached out with his hand over the sea; and the LORD swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right and on their left. † Israel passed through the sea as God delivered them from Pharaoh's bondage. (Exodus 14:21-22)

† Paul later identifies this crossing as a shadow pointing to Christ and the greater deliverance. (1 Corinthians 10:1-4)

† The first Exodus began with passing through the sea, but the greater Exodus came through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Luke 9:31; Romans 6:3-4)

Deuteronomy 18:15

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen; to him you shall listen.

† Moses promised that God would raise up another Prophet like him, but greater than him. (Acts 3:22-23)

† Like Moses, Jesus came as a covenant mediator, but He established a better covenant founded on better promises. (Hebrews 8:6)

† Moses led Israel out of Egypt, but Jesus led His people out of covenant bondage and into the liberty of the sons of God. (Galatians 4:4-7; Hebrews 3:3-6)

Matthew 17:1-5

Six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James, and his brother John, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Peter responded and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If You want, I will make three tabernacles here: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice from the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!"

† Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus because the Law and the Prophets pointed to the Messiah and found their fulfillment in Him. (Luke 24:44)

† The Father's command, "Hear ye him," fulfilled Moses' prophecy that God would raise up a Prophet like him to whom the people must listen. (Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 3:22-23)

† The Transfiguration prepares the reader for Luke's account, where Moses and Elijah discuss the greater Exodus Christ was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. (Luke 9:30-31)

Luke 9:30-31

And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure, which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

† The word translated "decease" is the Greek word exodos, showing that Jesus was about to accomplish the greater Exodus at Jerusalem.

† Moses, the leader of Israel's first Exodus, appeared with Jesus and spoke about the Exodus Christ was about to fulfill

through His death, resurrection, and covenant victory. (Luke 9:30-31)

† Jesus' Exodus wasn't an escape from Rome. It was deliverance from sin, death, and the fading Old Covenant order. (Hebrews 2:14-15; Hebrews 8:13)

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud and they all passed through the sea; and they all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and they all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

† Paul explains that the Exodus itself pointed to Christ from the very beginning. (1 Corinthians 10:4)

† The cloud, the sea, the manna, and the rock all foreshadowed the greater work Christ would accomplish. (Colossians 2:16-17)

† The first Exodus was never the destination. It was preparing God's people for the greater redemption found in Christ. (Hebrews 10:1)

John 8:34-36

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. Now the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.

† Israel's first slavery was physical, but Jesus identified the deeper bondage as slavery to sin. (John 8:34)

† True freedom couldn't come through Moses or the Law because the Law exposed sin but couldn't remove it. (Romans 3:20; Hebrews 10:1-4)

† Christ brought the greater freedom because He delivered His people from condemnation and gave them life in the New Covenant. (Romans 8:1-2; John 8:36)

Hebrews 3:3-6

For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. Now Moses was faithful in all God's house

as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold firmly to our confidence and the boast of our hope.

† Moses was faithful as a servant, but Christ rules as the Son over God's house. (Hebrews 3:5-6)

† Moses' ministry was a testimony pointing forward to the greater things that would later be revealed in Christ. (Hebrews 3:5; Hebrews 10:1)

† The true house of God isn't national Israel or an earthly temple, but the people joined to Christ under the New Covenant. (Hebrews 3:6; Ephesians 2:19-22)

Hebrews 12:18-24

For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words, which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. For they could not cope with the command, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

† The first Exodus brought Israel to Mount Sinai, but the greater Exodus brought believers to Mount Zion and the heavenly Jerusalem. (Hebrews 12:18-24)

† Moses mediated the Old Covenant at Sinai, but Jesus became the Mediator of the New Covenant. (Hebrews 8:6; Hebrews 12:24)

† The writer didn't say believers would someday come to Mount Zion. He said, "ye are come," showing that this was already a present covenant reality. (Hebrews 12:22-24)

† The first Exodus ended at Mount Sinai with the giving of the Law, but the greater Exodus brings believers to Mount Zion under the New Covenant. (Exodus 19:20; Hebrews 12:22-24)

Historical References

† Moses recorded Israel's departure from Egypt as the foundational deliverance of the Old Covenant nation. (Exodus 12:41-42)

† Luke deliberately used the word exodos to describe what Jesus was about to accomplish at Jerusalem, connecting Christ's work directly to the pattern established through Moses. (Luke 9:30-31)

† The writer of Hebrews presented Moses as the servant and Christ as the Son, showing that the first Exodus pointed forward to the greater covenant deliverance accomplished by Jesus. (Hebrews 3:3-6)

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't look back to Egypt as the greatest act of deliverance because Christ has brought us into the freedom and life of the New Covenant. (John 8:36; Romans 8:1-2)

† We haven't come to Sinai with fear and condemnation. We've come to Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, and Jesus the Mediator of the New Covenant. (Hebrews 12:18-24)

† Our freedom isn't political, national, or geographical. It's freedom from sin, condemnation, and separation from God through the finished work of Christ. (Romans 6:17-18; Ephesians 2:13-18)

Q & A Appendix

Q: Was the Exodus from Egypt the final deliverance God intended?

A: No. The first Exodus was a physical shadow pointing to the greater deliverance Christ would accomplish from sin, death, and covenant bondage. (Luke 9:31; Hebrews 10:1)

Q: Why does Luke call Jesus' death an Exodus?

A: Luke used the Greek word exodos because Jesus was about to accomplish the greater deliverance at Jerusalem through His death, resurrection, and New Covenant victory. (Luke 9:30-31; Hebrews 2:14-15)

Q: How is Jesus greater than Moses?

A: Moses was a faithful servant in God's house, but Christ is the Son over the house and the Mediator of the better covenant. (Hebrews 3:3-6; Hebrews 8:6)

Q: Where did the greater Exodus bring God's people?

A: It brought them to Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, and direct access to God through Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 12:22-24; Ephesians 2:18)

Q: Why did Moses appear with Jesus at the Transfiguration?

A: Moses appeared because the first Exodus pointed to the greater Exodus Christ was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. (Luke 9:30-31; Deuteronomy 18:15; Matthew 17:5)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Exodus 12:41-42, Deuteronomy 18:15, Luke 9:30-31, John 8:34-36, Hebrews 3:3-6, Hebrews 12:18-24

† Moses, Luke, John the Apostle, the writer of Hebrews

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