

# The promise of life

## The Story of Life- session 3

The story so far...

1	God made people for <b>LIFE</b> .	<i>Submitting to his <b>rule</b>, Experiencing his <b>blessing</b>, Enjoying his <b>presence</b></i>
2	People rebelled and chose <b>death</b>	<i>Rejecting his <b>rule</b>, experiencing his <b>judgment</b>, Banished from his <b>presence</b></i>

God's launches his plan to **restore** the world to life

### 1. Restoration begins with God's promise (Genesis 12-50)

#### a. What God promises (Gen. 12:1-5, 13:14-17, p. 13)

- A Land (12:1, 13:14-15)
- A people (12:2, 13:16, 15:2-5, 17:4-5)
- Blessing (12:1-3)

*Restoration of Eden: "God **blessed** them and said "be fruitful and increase in number" Genesis 1:28*

#### b. How God promises (Gen. 15:8-21, 17:1-8)

... he makes an unconditional **covenant** (= a binding agreement)

#### c. Abram's model response to God's promise

*"Therefore the promise (about being saved through Jesus) comes by faith so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring- not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all" Romans 4:16*

→ **Big application for us: God's promises can absolutely be trusted!**

## 2. Restoration is accomplished by God's rescue (Exodus 1-18)

a. The problem- God's people are in slavery (Ex. 1:8-16, p. 58)

*Jesus said "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." John 8:34*

b. The solution- God comes to the rescue (Ex. 3:4-10, 6:2-8)

→ **Why?**            *Because of his **compassion** (Ex. 3:7)*

*Because of his **covenant** (Ex. 6:5)*

→ **Who?**            *God raises up Moses for the task*

→ **How?**            *Plagues of judgement and an act of grace*

→ **Big application for us: We can't rescue ourselves, only God can**

## 3. The goal of God's rescue- a small picture of restoration

a. Restored to living under God's rule (**Exodus 20-24**)

→ God's Law (Deuteronomy 30:15-18)

b. Restored to enjoying God's presence (**Exodus 25-40**)

→ The Tabernacle and the sacrifices (Exodus 40:34-35)

*"The life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life" Leviticus 17:11*

c. Restored to experiencing God's blessing (**Deut. 28:1-14**)

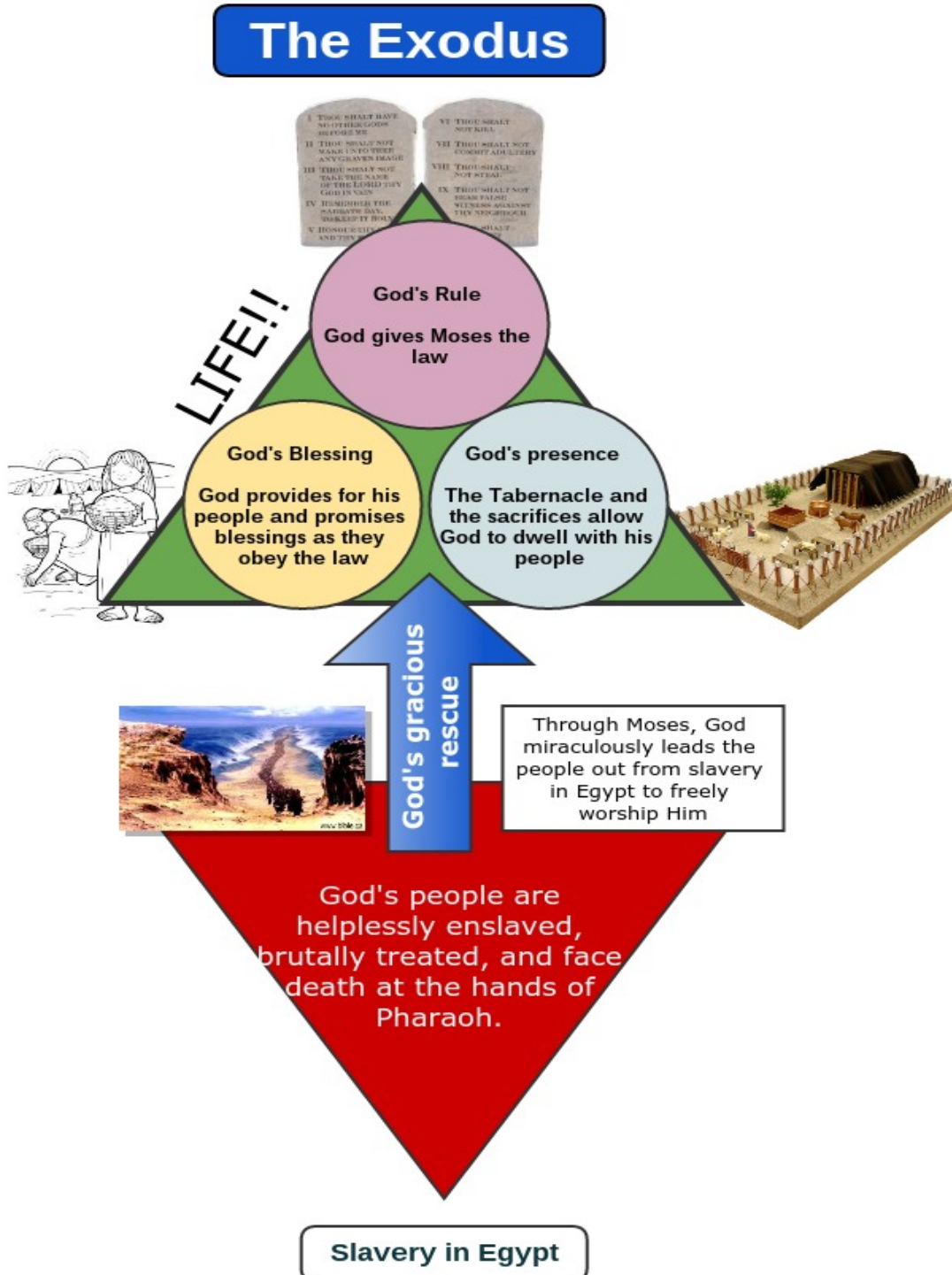
→ God's provision and promise

*"If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands that I give you today... all these blessing will come upon you..." Deut 28:1-2*

# But it's not the final restoration yet...

- Grumbling (Ex. 15-16)
- Disobedience (Ex. 32-34)
- Desert wanderings (book of Numbers)
- The heart problem of **sin** still needs to be dealt with

→ **Big application for us:** Enjoy the full restoration we have in Jesus!



# Small Groups – Exodus 12

## Next Time

Next time we follow the story as God’s people enter the promised land. It’s the the biggest picture of God’s restoration we get in the Old Testament.

Reading for next week: **Joshua 1, 24; Judges 2:6-23, 1 Samuel 16-17**

## Tracing the **LAW** through the Bible

The law was given as a good gift from God. However, God always knew that people wouldn’t be able to keep the law. Trace through how the law pointed ultimately to Jesus...

- **Deuteronomy 31:14-22.** How does God expect the people to fare in obeying his law?
- **2 Chronicles 36:15-21.** What was the result of the people’s lawbreaking?
- **Galatians 3:21-25.** What was the ultimate purpose of the law?
- **Romans 7:7.** How does the law showing up our sin lead us to Christ?
- **Romans 6:14.** Is a Christian bound to obey the law now?

## For the book-worms

<i>God’s Big Picture</i>	Vaughan Roberts	A book tracing out the big story-line of the Bible.
<i>God’s Big Design</i>	Vaughan Roberts	A short and accessible book charting out the lessons we learn from the first chapters of Genesis
<i>Raiding the Lost Ark</i>	Jonty Rhodes	An introduction to how God’s covenant plays a key role in His plans for the world