

“God’s Relationship With His People”

Adapted by: Michael R. Hughes

Text: 1 Peter 2:9,10

Theme: To study God’s relationship with his people.

Introduction:

1. One of the most familiar books of the Bible is the book of Exodus.
 - a. It tells, in marvelous detail, of the relationship between God and his people.
 - b. This is a relationship that has existed in all of the various periods of God’s dealings with man and continues until today.
2. Therefore, we would do well to understand it.

Discussion:

- I. God hears and is concerned about his people.
 - A. As the book of Genesis closed, his people were in Egypt as guests of the king.
 - B. However, things have changed by the time of Exodus
 1. They are no longer guests, but slaves.
 2. The reason? Exodus 1:8.
 - C. Now, at first glance, it might seem that God had forgotten them.
 1. But then we come to Exodus 2:23-25.
 2. Notice: as soon as one reads of their crying to God, God hears them.
 - a. He had not forgotten them.
 - b. Though they had forgotten him.

D. Just as God heard them and cared for them, so he does for his children today.

1. Cf. **II Peter** 3:12; **I Peter** 5:7.
2. No night is so black that God cannot see, no tempest so loud that he cannot hear.

II. God delivers his people.

A. What good would it have done the Hebrews if God had heard only?

B. He is more than simply an observer; he is a helper.

1. **Isaiah** 41:8; **Exodus** 3:11.
2. **II Chronicles** 20:7; **James** 2:23.

C. God delivered his people in Exodus chapters 3-12.

D. Today, we are in danger of bondage as well.

1. Not necessarily physical slavery, but spiritual.
 - a. Sin and Satan are taskmasters.
 - b. They are ready and willing to enslave.
2. Yet, God will deliver us too.
 - a. **I Corinthians** 10:13.
 - b. **Galatians** 3:4.
 - c. **II Peter** 2:9.

III. God guides his people.

A. When the Hebrews left Egypt, God did not abandon them.

1. He provided them with guidance.
2. Pillar of cloud/fire – **Exodus** 13:21.

B. He has not left us today without guidance either.

1. We do not wander through the wilderness of life just making the best of it.
2. We have all the guidance that we need.
 - a. In the Bible.
 - b. **John** 6:13; **II Peter** 1:3.

IV. God disciplines his people.

A. Notice the events of **Exodus** 32.

1. God did not bless his people in rebellion he did not ignore their wrong.
2. He disciplined them.

B. Yet this is the same God who heard their cries, delivered them and guided them.

1. Why?
2. For their own good.

- C. However, today, we have the idea that discipline is a thing of the past.
 - 1. We seem to think that since God does not execute his discipline miraculously and personally that he does not discipline at all.
 - 2. Yet we are wrong in such thinking.
 - 3. Notice certain New Testament passages.
 - a. II Thessalonians 3:6,14.
 - b. I Corinthians 13.
- V. God rewards his people.
 - A. In the very next chapter of Exodus, after witnessing God's discipline, he sent them off toward "a land flowing with milk and honey" Exodus 33:1-3.
 - 1. They did not deserve it, but if they would be faithful it could be theirs.
 - 2. What love!
 - B. There is still reward for the faithful child of God.
 - 1. Hebrews 4:9.
 - 2. But there is a requirement, v. 11: "Let us *labor* therefore to enter into that rest."

Conclusion:

- 1. We must do our part.
 - a. Obey.
 - b. Be faithful.
- 2. Have you done that?

Invitation:

Bibliography:

This is an adaptation of a sermon originally by Jeff Clark, Memphis School of Preaching, class of 1985.