

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

“A Step Backwards?”
Exodus 5-6

A Step Backwards?

Setting: Promise of deliverance

- God chose Moses as His appointed deliverer; promised His presence
- The sons of Israel believed Moses

The stage is set for God's deliverance of His people through Moses...

A Step Backwards?

Exodus 5:1-21

- *Moses' obedience to God...*
 - Made things worse for the people
 - Caused the people to be angry at and resentful of Moses

A Step Backwards?

Principles:

1. God's presence does not guarantee immediate results
2. In obeying God, sometimes things get worse before they get better

A Step Backwards?

Moses' Question: *“Why, Lord?!”*

- An appropriate question – not a lack of faith or show of disrespect
- A demonstration of faith – took his complaint/questions to the Lord

A Step Backwards?

God's Response

1. **“Now you will see what I will do...”**
 - deliverance from Egypt is clearly shown to be humanly impossible
 - deliverance is possible only “by a strong hand” (i.e. God's power)

A Step Backwards?

God's Response

2. "I am Yahweh"

- God aims that His people know that He is Yahweh their God
- In the exodus, God will display the meaning of His name Yahweh

A Step Backwards?

Summary: Why this step backwards?

1. To make clear that this deliverance was something only God could accomplish; so that...
2. God alone would be exalted, and known and trusted as Yahweh

Kingdom Application

➤ *Our Deliverance in Christ*

1. Our salvation is humanly impossible

- our sin is all-pervasive
- God's judgment is just and certain
- all human achievement is useless

Kingdom Application

➤ *Our Deliverance in Christ*

2. God alone accomplishes our salvation

- salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone...
- to God's glory alone (no boasting)...
- that we might treasure God alone

Kingdom Application

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

– Ephesians 2:8-9