Part 3: The Lord is God

From beginning to end, the story that God is writing for His people is one of freed captives, broken chains, and new life—a story that can only be experienced by a heart that embraces His lordship in all things.

I. The Call to Remember

> "Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created human beings on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of? Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived? Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?" Deuteronomy 4:32-33
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II. The True Exodus

> "You were shown these things so that you might know that the Lord is God; besides him there is no other. From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire. Because he loved your ancestors and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength, to drive out before you nations greater and

stronger than you and to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance, as it is today. Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other." Deuteronomy 4:35-39

Why the urgency? Moses knew, that just like you and I, the Hebrew people were quick to forget their identity...where they had been. What defined them as a people of God?

"In spite of having already experienced both the strength and protection of God, still the people did not trust him. To experience God in their history was not sufficient for the people: they had to be constantly reminded of that experience in order to overcome their anxieties which tended to blot out the memory." – Peter C. Craigie, *The Book of Deuteronomy*

"The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.'" Exodus 16:3

"We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic." Numbers 11:5

"They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea,[c] to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!'" Numbers 21:4-5

III. There Can Only Be One Master

"We will either gaze longingly on Egypt or we will gaze longingly on Christ. We will either worship Pharaoh or we will worship Yahweh. No one can serve two masters. No one can bow to two kings." – Jen Wilkin, The Gospel Coalition

The danger of returning to captivity is always before us.

IV. The Lord is God

"Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no

other. Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the Lord your God gives you for all time." – Deuteronomy 4:39-40

God's calling to obedience is always preceded by a great expression of His faithfulness.

Where has the Lord been faithful to you?

From beginning to end, the story that God is writing for His people is one of freed captives, broken chains, and new life—a story that can only be experienced by a heart that embraces His lordship in all things.

1. Look inward

What are the fears that encroach upon you? Keeping you silent. Keeping you captive. Keeping you from walking boldly as the free child of God he has created you to be. Fear for your safety? Fear that it may not be comfortable? Fear that you won't be accepted? Fear of the future? Fear that you aren't enough? Take a step with me, have the bravery to look inward to see the next boundary of bondage and fear that God may be calling you to break down with his help.

2. Look backward

How has God been faithful to you? Where are the fingerprints of love and care on your life? Where has he redeemed you from fear in the past? Where has he set you free?

3. Look forward

Look to the future, knowing that it may not turn out the way you intended, but with the confidence that the God who has been faithful before will be faithful again. Move forward with him at the center of it all, the God who with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, will fight on your behalf again.