

- **There are some great sermons on Youtube, but I prefer reading.**
- Microsoft won't transcribe word "Bondage" – Profanity filter.
- Bondage is profane. Takes away dignity, humanity reduced to animal, offensive to God.
- **Definition: To be either physically, spiritually, emotionally or mentally controlled, limited and degraded by another for evil, selfish and destructive purposes.**
- **Satan loves to see humans in bondage because it reduces and distorts the image of God in us. We were created for freedom, not bondage.**

- **The book of Exodus is all about “Bondage” and God’s response to it.**
- But Exodus is part of a bigger story involving God and Satan and people.
- So, this morning I want to give you the background you'll need to understand where the bondage we see in Exodus in our own lives today finds its source. Provide us context for our study of Exodus.

Genesis 1:1-2 (KJV) *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

²And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

• **Without Form, Void, Darkness**

- **Why? Satan lives there. Why's he there? How'd he get there?**

Ezekiel 28:11-19 *¹¹The word of the Lord came to me: ¹²“Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: “‘You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings^[a] were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. ¹⁶Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.¹⁷ Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; **I made a spectacle of you before kings.***

- **A spectacle before kings. That is God made a spectacle out of Satan for his arrogant rebellion.**

It's not enough to destroy Satan. God's glory is worth more than that.

Satan & his followers the demons will be punished and made a spectacle of in the presence of all the angels showing, “Don't do what they did.”

What's God want this spectacle to communicate? What's His point.

- **Without God you are nothing.** *“Satan, you think you are better without God?” I'm gonna prove that even a lesser being than you that will follow me and keep me as Lord in his life will be able to do more than you even though he is only a mortal.” “That's what a dumb idea it was reject me. By doing so you lessened yourself.*
- **I'm gonna make a spectacle of you before all the heavenly angels.**

- **So, God sets up a contest.** The stage is the place Satan has been cast down to: The Earth. It is everything you have in a place where Satan dwells: Void, Darkness, Without form.
- God fixes it up to create an earthly (lesser) Eden. In it, He places 2 lesser beings, Adam and Women.
- 2 Trees - LIFE - KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.
- **Will they remain under God's lordship long enough to eventually get to the Tree of Life and without knowing it, eat from it.**

And so, because Adam and the Women obeying God is an indictment upon Satan, Satan is gonna do whatever he can to make sure they eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil before they ever get to the tree of life.

- Because if they get to the tree of life first, that's gave over. God proved His point, embarrassed him and made a spectacle of him.

- **Genesis 3= God has created the garden. Who's there? Satan.** In the form of a serpent. And Satan manages to get these lesser beings, Adam and the Women to join him in rebellion against God
- **And it looks like only three chapters into this thing, the devil has won.**

- **But it's not over. Cuz' God will not be mocked. God always wins. He begins to lay out the punishment and when he gets to the serpent watch what God says in Gen. 3:14-15** *So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*
- **God says, this ain't over. The angels are watching and I'm going to make a public spectacle out of you and let me tell you how it's going to happen.**

- There are two sides (vs 15) of offspring, those that follow you because of your widespread trade, and the women's (a human) We know this offspring today as Jesus, but at the time the Devil doesn't know what offspring will be the one that crushes his head.
- Adam names his wife Eve, (mother of all living) based on this promise.
- **But to win this battle against God, Satan will have to get rid of that offspring.**

- As we get deeper in the Genesis, **God narrows down the field of what offspring He's talkin' about when He calls Abram in Gen. 12.** Now it's apparent the offspring that will crush Satan's head will be a descendant of Abraham. **Abraham has 2 sons and it is narrowed down further.**
- Then its further narrowed down to be a descendant of Jacob instead of Esau

- **In Gen. 37 we see Jacob has 12 sons but his favorite is Joseph.** He can interpret dreams and is pretty special. Maybe he's the offspring! Satan gets to work.
- **Satan brings division in this family and Joseph's brothers end up selling him into slavery where he ends up in bondage in Egypt.**
- Just like God doesn't just destroy the devil for his rebellion, the devil doesn't just kill Joseph. Through Joseph's brothers the devil enslaves him. He puts him in Bondage.

- **But Joseph trusts God. You see, when you trust God you are able to overcome bondage and Jacob, though Satan caused bondage, rises up and goes from slave to National hero.**

- A great famine would have surely destroyed Egypt but not for Joseph rising to power and listening to God. Unlike the devil, Joseph trusted God and great things happened.
- When we leave the book of Genesis, Joseph is an Abraham Lincoln type here who saved Egypt and all His brothers and their families are in Egypt. They are prospering. They are not in bondage.
- **The debt of gratitude owed to Joseph is large and carries a lot of weight with the standing of all the Israelites in Egypt at the time.**

- **It looks like God's side is winning. God is going to make a spectacle.**
- **In Exodus, Satan will hit back hard. And the devil plays dirty and has no problem eliminating babies who are weak that might grow up to crush his head! His tactics of elimination and bondage are tactics we best understand and be ready for. It's a battle and you and I are smack dab in the middle of it!**

RESPONSIVE READING

Genesis 1:1-2 (KJV) *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. ²And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.*

Ezekiel 28:17 (NIV) ¹⁷*Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; **I made a spectacle of you before kings.***

Genesis 3:15 (NIV) ¹⁵*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; **he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.***"

Prayer: Lord God, we are part of your plan. Our trust and dependance on you makes a spectacle proclaiming that in our weakness, we are stronger. Our fullness and greatness is tied directly to you. Empower us to trust you and love you and serve you. And may the angels see what you are doing and wonder at your glory.