



EXODUS

A STORY OF
**REDEMPTION
AND COVENANT**



God Sets His People Apart

- God sets His people apart from His wrath
- Exodus 8:20–8:24, Romans 5:8–10
- All of Egypt was affected by the first three plagues. But starting with the fourth plague, God said the land of Goshen, where His people lived, would not be affected.
- He said this was so it would be visibly obvious to all the people that He is sovereign over all things, that He was the one controlling these plagues.

God Sets His People Apart

- God's people lived in the land of Goshen, which was part of Egypt but set apart from the rest of the Egyptians.
- Four hundred years earlier, when they first came to the land, Joseph had set it up that way for them (Genesis 46:31–34).
- He knew that the Egyptians considered shepherds to be “abominations” and would not want to live with them. But this worked well for the Israelites.
- It was almost as if they were in their own nation, even though they were part of Egypt.

God Sets His People Apart

- Being separate but still within the prosperous nation of Egypt seemed like the perfect solution. But once a new Pharaoh arose, who didn't know Joseph and started to be threatened by their numbers and strength, their separateness worked against them.
- He didn't see them as Egyptians but as a foreign threat living among them, and he enslaved them.
- Four hundred years later, they were still serving as slaves and still living in Goshen, separate from the Egyptians. But it didn't feel like independence.

God Sets His People Apart

- Christians today also live in a “foreign land” but set apart for the Lord. We are citizens of heaven living in an enemy kingdom (Philippians 3:18–21).
- This world is an enemy kingdom. Satan is the “prince of this world” (John 12:31), and the rulers and authorities over this present darkness are the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).
- But the other people of this world are not our enemies. They are victims of the schemes of the Devil and the spiritual forces of evil (2 Timothy 2:26). Our job is to share the Gospel that will rescue them from his snares (Jude 1:23).

God Sets His People Apart

- The story of God's setting Israel apart during the plagues reminds us that as we live set apart in enemy territory, God protects us. Not from the sufferings of living in a fallen world, but from His wrath.
- God told Moses that the plagues were not only warfare against Egypt's gods and the way He would get Pharaoh to let His people go, but they were also God's judgment against the sins of Egypt (Exodus 6:6).
- The same was true for the conquest. It was not just about bringing God's people to the Promised Land, it was also punishment for the wickedness of Canaan (Genesis 15:16; Deuteronomy 9:4–5).

God Sets His People Apart

- This story provides a physical representation of the spiritual reality of the new covenant – that God’s people will be spared from His wrath (Romans 5:8-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:9).
- Our mission as God’s people set apart in this world is not to keep ourselves separate in a holy huddle.
- It is to go into the world as His ambassadors and share the Good News of how they, too, can be saved by grace through faith and urging them to join us (2 Corinthians 5:17–21).

God Doesn't Compromise

- God doesn't compromise with human kings who are bent on evil
- Exodus 8:25–9:12
- When the fourth plague came, Pharaoh tried to compromise with Moses and Aaron. He would allow them to sacrifice to their God, but within the land of Egypt.
- Again, the Israelite's being an "abomination" to the Egyptians worked to their advantage. The Egyptians sacrificed animals to their gods, so it wasn't animal sacrifice but the animals the Israelites sacrificed, sheep and goats.

God Doesn't Compromise

- So, they needed to go far away from Egypt to worship their God. This would get them far enough away that they could then escape.
- Pharaoh tried again to compromise, saying they could go into the wilderness, but not that far away. To Pharaoh, this was a bargaining process, where they might meet somewhere in the middle, but God was not willing to compromise.
- Remember that God told Moses that his mission was to rescue God's people from Egypt, not just take them out into the wilderness for a couple of days.

God Doesn't Compromise

- Then Pharaoh asked Moses to intercede with God for him again, as he had done when he realized his magicians couldn't get rid of the frogs but could only make it worse.
- One purpose of the plagues was to show Pharaoh and the whole world who was really God, the only God.
- Pharaoh understood that Yahweh was a god and the god who was causing these plagues. But he never really believed Yahweh was the only God, sovereign over all things and worthy of his worship.

God Doesn't Compromise

- God sent a fifth plague, the death of all of Egypt's livestock. The plagues were getting much worse.
- The first plague (Nile to blood) killed the fish and harmed their harvest.
- The next two, the frogs and gnats, seemed to come and then go without permanent effect. But with the flies, the text tells us that "the land was ruined."
- The fifth plague hit hard. All their livestock "that are in the field" died. And Pharaoh still did not let the people go.

God Doesn't Compromise

- Can you imagine what the people of Egypt may have been feeling?
- Their fish, harvest, land and livestock had all been destroyed. This power struggle Pharaoh was having with the God of Israel was pummeling them.
- Pharaoh may have had the funds to replace whatever was lost, but it would have really affected the average Egyptian.
- This was a leader who cared more about his own power and reputation than the welfare of his people, the exact opposite of the type of leader God desires, who sees his role as a servant of the people (Deuteronomy 17:14–20).

God Doesn't Compromise

- God sent boils, a sixth plague.
- As with the gnats, God took an ordinary thing and turned it into the boils. With the gnats, He used the dust of the earth, just as He had made Adam out of the dust of the earth.
- Moses and Aaron took handfuls of soot from the kiln and threw it in the air “in the sight of Pharaoh,” and it became boils on every Egyptian.
- This was a small amount of soot, but God multiplied it, showing His great power again.

God Doesn't Compromise

- They did this in the sight of Pharaoh so there would be no doubt where the boils came from.
- The text tells us specifically that even the magicians were attacked with them, showing us again that they and their gods were no match for His power.
- They could not stand before Moses; these boils were debilitating.
- The plagues were getting worse and affecting his people, yet Pharaoh did not listen to the magicians because God had hardened his heart.

God Doesn't Compromise

- The plagues were getting worse and worse for Egypt's land, animals and people, and yet Pharaoh still was unwilling to surrender.
- Even when it was clear he would not win – even when everyone around him was suffering so greatly. This is the irrational behavior of a narcissist, but God in His infinite power can change even a narcissist.
- Anything is possible with God (Matthew 19:26).
- But in this case, God used Pharaoh's hardened heart to accomplish His greater purpose, to show His great power and His great mercy.

God Doesn't Compromise

- This story also shows us that God doesn't negotiate with evil, and He rescues His people fully and completely from evil. Pharaoh was unrelenting, irrationally so. But God, in His omnipotence was also unrelenting.
- God tells us in the new covenant that we can trust His victory. We can know He will always triumph over evil (1 Corinthians 15:57). We can know we will have victory over evil because greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4).
- We don't have to negotiate with evil either. We can have complete and total victory through Jesus Christ by the indwelling power of His Holy Spirit.

Fearing God is Not Salvation

- Fearing God's wrath does not constitute salvation
- Exodus 9:13–35
- The seventh plague was destructive hail that fell all over Egypt, except in Goshen, where God's people were. God was making it very clear that His people were set apart for Him, and His wrath would not fall on them.
- God told Pharaoh again that this plague would prove to them that there is no one like Yahweh in all the earth. He is not just chief among all gods, He is the only God, in a category unto Himself.

Fearing God is Not Salvation

- At this point in the story, God told Pharaoh that had He wanted to, He could have just “put out my hand” and destroyed all of Egypt from the face of the earth. That is how powerful He is.
- But God was using these plagues to show His power so that His name would be proclaimed through all the earth. If God had destroyed them right away, it could have been explained away by a natural disaster.
- This series of events, with Moses speaking about each one before it happened and the distinction made between Israel and Egypt, pointed to the fact this was the work of the God who is sovereign over all things.

Fearing God is Not Salvation

- This plague was unique from the previous ones because God gave Pharaoh a way to spare his people and livestock from destruction. This hail was so strong it would destroy anything that was left outside, people or livestock.
- How did the Egyptians have any livestock if it was all destroyed in the fifth plague? Two explanations for that: 1) we don't know how much time elapsed between those plagues; there could have been plenty of time for them to replenish their livestock, and 2) since Israel's livestock wasn't destroyed and Israel were their slaves, they could have simply taken any or all of the Israelite's livestock.

Fearing God is Not Salvation

- God told them to bring their people and livestock under shelter and they would live. And the text tells us that some of the Egyptians who “feared the word of the Lord” brought their slaves and livestock inside their houses and were spared. As with the blood of the Passover lamb on their doorways, this was an act of faith or trust in God’s word, that what He said was true.
- In this one, it was Egyptians who acted. But it wasn’t actual faith in Him or worship of Him as God. It was just fear. They had seen what He could do and believed He would do what He said, but this belief fell short of conversion.

Fearing God is Not Salvation

- The hail was so heavy that it struck down anything that was outside – people, animals, even plants and trees. But Goshen was spared.
- This time, Pharaoh confessed that he had sinned, a greater step toward humility and surrender than he had ever demonstrated.
- But Moses said he knew Pharaoh still did not really fear the Lord.
- He was just offering lip service to get what he wanted, for the hail to stop.
- But Moses still did what he asked and pled with the Lord, and the hail stopped.

Fearing God is Not Salvation

- Pharaoh again hardened his heart and didn't let the people go, "just as the Lord had spoken." This assures us that God knew all along exactly what would happen. He knew Pharaoh would continue to renege on His promises. None of this took Him by surprise.
- Which means that today, no matter how bleak things may seem or what twists and turns we go through, we can trust that God has a plan, and He is working. Nothing that happens to us takes Him by surprise.
- He is orchestrating all to work for our good and for His glory (Romans 8:28).

Fearing God is Not Salvation

- Fearing God's wrath isn't enough.
- For the Egyptians who put their people and animals under shelter to hedge their bets, if that fear of God never led to confession and worshipping Him as Lord of the universe, it wasn't enough.
- Their trust in His word about this one plague was enough to save them from that one plague that one time but not enough for salvation.
- Those with a true saving faith put their trust in the Lord as Savior and follow Him with their whole lives.

Update: Chaos on Campus



Rules for Campus Radicals

- Who is funding these protests? Who is directing these protests?
- Are they following the playbook of Saul Alinsky (*Rules for Radicals*).
- “The recent anti-Israel protests are often portrayed as a spontaneous uprising of student indignation against the Gaza War. But we’re learning that behind the young idealists is an organized movement of leftists who want to spread disorder and whose candid strategy is to defy school administrations and police to achieve their radical goals.”

Wall Street Journal, May 2, 2024

Rules for Campus Radicals, 2024

A website reveals the planning and strategy behind the current college mayhem.

By [The Editorial Board](#) [Follow](#)

May 2, 2024 5:48 pm ET



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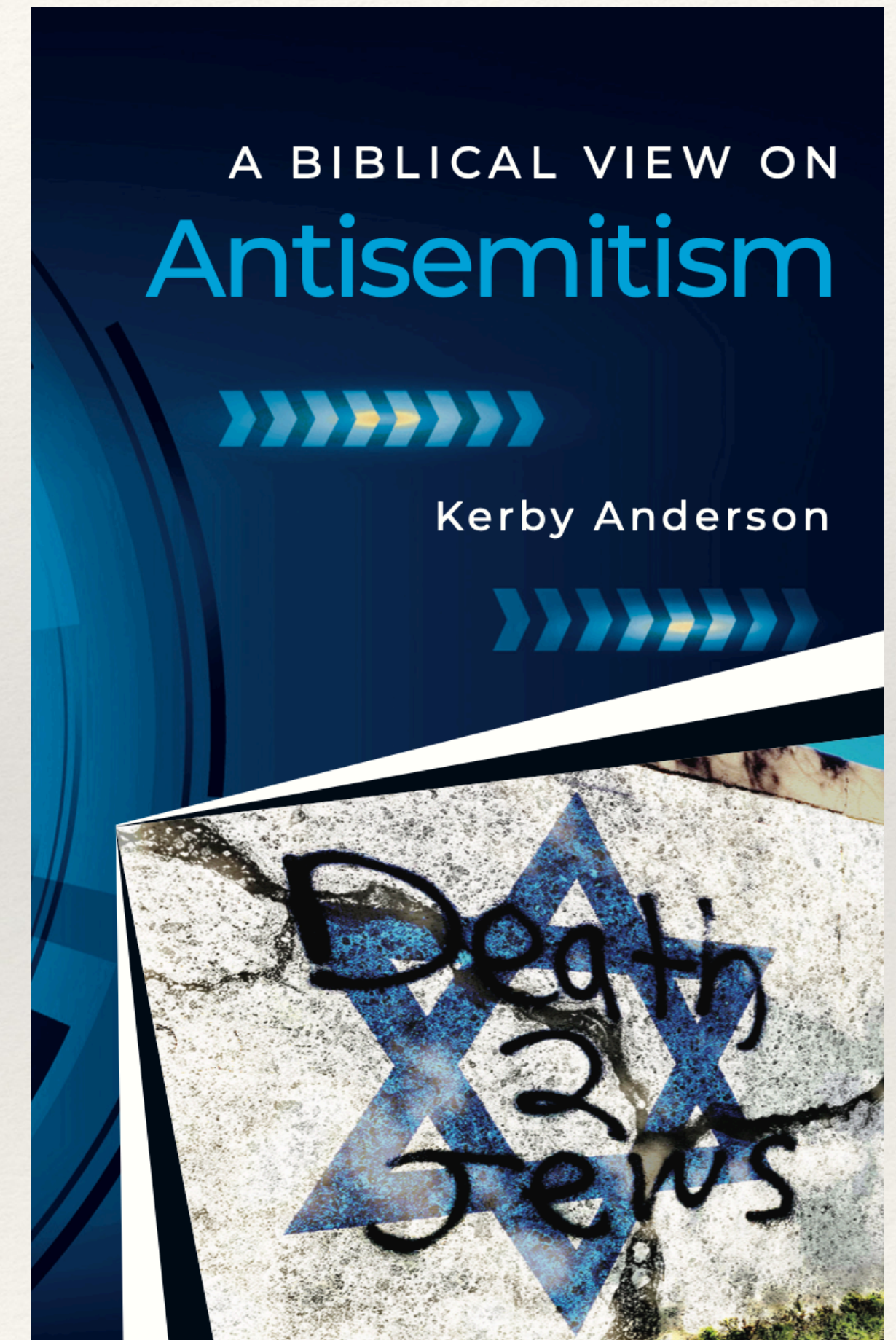
Protesters refused to leave as CHP officers in riot gear take down a pro-Palestinian encampment on the UCLA campus on Thursday. PHOTO: GENE BLEVINS/ZUMA PRESS

Rules for Campus Radicals

- “A window on this movement is CrimethInc.com, a website that has become a hub for anarchists, Antifa activists and radical leftists. In recent weeks it has published anonymous reports from around the country drawing lessons from various campus protests.”
- “A post-mortem on protests at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign notes that “encampment is escalation. Putting tents up on campus is against almost every campus policy. Refusing to take them down means refusing to listen to a ‘lawful command.’” In other words, breaking school policy and law isn’t an accident; it’s the point of the exercise.”

The New Anti-Semitism

- Attacks on Jewish students have risen significantly in 2024. They have increased because of critical theory and intersectionality.
- Intersectionality is a concept that discourages looking at unique individuals but instead focuses on groups as stereotypical images with certain traits.
- Modern Jews enjoy financial stability and even political power.



Pro-Hamas Classroom Rhetoric

- Joseph Masad is a tenured professor at Columbia University and chairman of a department.
- He said the October 7 attack was “astounding” and an “incredible victory.”
- He still has his position and chairmanship.



From the River to the Sea

- Do the students even understand what they are chanting?
- A professor at the University of California, Berkeley hired a survey team to poll 250 students.
- He found that less than half (47%) of the students who chanted the slogan (From the River to the Sea) were able to name the river and the sea. Some of the alternative answers were the Nile and the Euphrates, the Caribbean, the Dead Sea, and the Atlantic.

Victim-LARPing and other Progressive Fads



Columbia University students and pro-Palestinian protesters march in front of Hamilton Hall in New York City, May 1, 2024.

(Roselle Chen/Reuters)

USC Leaders Censured for Handling of Anti-Israel Protests, Commencement Cancellation



USC Public Safety officer informs students that they must disperse as they build a protest encampment in support of Palestinians at the University of Southern California's Alumni Park in Los Angeles, Calif., April 24, 2024. (Zaydee Sanchez/Reuters)

Calls for Northwestern President's Resignation Mount, Concessions to Protesters Draw Legal Scrutiny



Signs in front of an encampment of students protesting in support of Palestinians at Northwestern University campus in Evanston, Ill., April 25, 2024. Inset: Northwestern University president Michael Schill (Nate Swanson/Reuters; Northwestern University/YouTube)

Tale of Two Presidents

- How two different university presidents handled student protests.
- President of Northwestern University

COLLEGE

Northwestern University deal with anti-Israel protesters tantamount to 'paying off hostage takers'

Northwestern University has been heavily criticized over a deal reached with anti-Israel protesters to end their illegal encampment on campus

The Adults Are Still in Charge at the University of Florida

Higher education isn't daycare. Here are the rules we follow on free speech and public protests.

By Ben Sasse

May 3, 2024 5:26 pm ET

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A pro-Palestinian demonstration at the University of Florida in Gainesville, April 25. PHOTO: TAMPA BAY TIMES/ZUMA PRESS



President Ben Sasse

- “At the University of Florida, we tell parents and future employers: We’re not perfect, but the adults are still in charge. Our response to threats to build encampments is driven by three basic truths.”
- “First, universities must distinguish between speech and action. Speech is central to education.”
- “Second, universities must say what they mean and then do what they say. Empty threats make everything worse. “

President Ben Sasse

- “Actions have consequences. At the University of Florida, we have repeatedly, patiently explained two things to protesters: We will always defend your rights to free speech and free assembly—but if you cross the line on clearly prohibited activities, you will be thrown off campus and suspended. In Gainesville, that means a three-year prohibition from campus. That’s serious. We said it. We meant it. We enforced it.”
- “Third, universities need to recommit themselves to real education.... Universities have an obligation to combat this ignorance with rigorous teaching.”

Resources

