

Exodus 20:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Analysis

I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

The Decalogue's preamble establishes relationship before requirements. 'I am YHWH, anokhi YHWH)—the covenant name revealed at the burning bush. God identifies Himself not abstractly but redemptively: 'which have brought thee out' (אֶשְׁר הַצְאָתִיךְ, asher hotzatikha) uses causative form—God actively extracted them. 'House of bondage' (מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים, mibbeit avadim) means 'house of slaves'—God rescued them from slave quarters. LAW FOLLOWS GRACE. Israel obeys not to earn salvation but because they're already redeemed. The gospel pattern appears: God saves, then commands. We love because He first loved us. Every command rests on this foundation: I am YOUR God who SAVED you—therefore live like it.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern treaties began with the suzerain's self-identification and recitation of benefits granted. God adopts this structure but fills it with covenant grace—He redeemed before requiring.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the order (redemption THEN law) shape your understanding of obedience?
2. What does God identifying Himself as 'thy God' (personal, covenantal) mean for your relationship with Him?

Interlinear Text

אָנֹכִי	הַוֹּצְאָתִי	יְהִי	אֱלֹהָי	אָשֶׁר
H595			H834	
I am the LORD	which have brought			
H3068	H3318			
מֵאֶgypt	מִבֵּית	מִצְבֵּה	מִן	עֲבָדָה
thee out of the land	of Egypt	out of the house		of bondage
H776	H4714	H1004		H5650

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 5:6 (References God): I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Hosea 13:4 (References God): Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no saviour beside me.

Exodus 13:3 (References Lord): And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

Leviticus 26:13 (References God): I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.

Psalms 81:10 (References God): I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.

Leviticus 19:36 (References God): Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 7:8 (References Lord): But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 5:15 (References God): And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.

Leviticus 23:43 (References God): That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 13:10 (References God): And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.