

# HOW TO GET UNSTUCK

## Why

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – April 23, 2017

1. Open in prayer: "Father, in the Name of Jesus, and through the Holy Spirit's power, give us a greater understanding of your redemptive purposes for us and how to live as expressions of your Kingdom on earth. Get us unstuck in Jesus' Name. Amen."

**NOTE:** Throughout this study guide, Pastor Derwin is using the Christian Standard Bible (CSB). Learn more about the CSB by visiting [CSBible.com](http://CSBible.com).

2. Living in the His-story:

a. Pastor Derwin said, "God (YHWH) redeems or sets us free from slavery so we, His people, can worship Him and be a witness for Him on the earth." Read Exodus 3:12 and Exodus 4:23 (CSB).

- Why is it important to know that just as God redeemed (set free) Israel from slavery in Egypt, God redeems us from the Greater Egypt (sin, death, evil)? How does this help us live in God's story and not our own?

3. WHY is God (YHWH) so passionate about setting people free from Egyptian slavery (sin, death, evil)?

Read Exodus 2:24-25 CSB.

a. **Note:** The reference to the divine covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is especially important. At the heart of this covenant is the promise that the patriarchs' descendants will possess the land of Canaan (Genesis 17:8; 26:3; 28:13; 48:4). Abraham had received an even more specific promise: 'Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and ill-treated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterwards they will come out with great possessions' (Genesis 15:13-14). The time had now come for the deliverance of Abraham's descendants from bondage and oppression in Egypt.

*Alexander, T. D. (1994). Exodus. In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), New Bible commentary: 21st century edition (4th ed., p. 97). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.*

b. At the heart of God's covenant is love. He desires to have a family to love, who in turn, reflect His love in wisdom on earth as image-bearers. Why is this important?

4. Pastor Derwin asked, "HOW DO WE WORSHIP GOD (YHWH) AND BECOME HIS WITNESSES?"

a. Read Exodus 19:5-6 and 1 Peter 2:9-10 (CSB).

Discuss these sections of the scripture references:

1 Peter 2:9 **"But you"** - notice the PLURAL "you" and the contrast.

**"A CHOSEN RACE"** This same descriptive title is found in Deut. 7:6; 10:15; Isa. 43:20–21. Chosen for ministry! This is an OT title for elect servants.

**"A royal PRIESTHOOD"** This title is found in Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 61:6; 66:21. As Israel was chosen to bring the knowledge of YHWH to the world, now the church is called to inform and bring needy, sinful people to YHWH.

**"A HOLY NATION"** This same title is found in Exodus 19:6; Deuteronomy 7:6; 14:2, 21; 26:19. Israel was called to be uniquely holy and thus reveal a holy God (Matthew 5:48) to a fallen world.

**"A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION"** This same descriptive title is found in Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 4:20; 7:6; 14:2; 26:18; Malachi 3:17. This passage speaks of the church as spiritual Israel (Galatians 6:16). These Old Testament titles for the people of God are now applied to the New Testament Body of Christ (Romans 2:28–29; Galatians 3:29, 6:16; Ephesians 2:11–3:13; Revelation 1:6). In some ways the church has replaced Israel as in the world mission mandate (Matthew 28:19–20).

**“may proclaim the excellencies of Him”** the purpose of God’s people is to witness to the greatness of the one true creator/redeemer God!

**“who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”** Darkness and light are biblical metaphors of sin, rebellion, and evil versus hope, truth, healing, and goodness (John 1:4–5; 3:19–21; 8:12; 12:35–36, 46; Acts 26:18; 2 Corinthians 4:6; John 1:5; 2:8–9:11). As the previous phrase might be an allusion to Isaiah 42:12, this phrase may allude to Isaiah 42:16.

**“for you once were NOT A PEOPLE”** (1 Peter 2 :10) This introduces a quote from Hosea 1:10 and Hosea 2:23. The key term is *lo ammi* (the name of one of Hosea’s children), which originally referred to Israel not being God’s people because of their idolatry and covenant-breaking lifestyles. They were (1) trusting in political alliances and not in God and (2) worshiping Ba’al using YHWH’s name.

**“but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD”** This is a further quote from Hosea 2:23. This passage in its Old Testament context affirms that though Israel had sinned and departed from their covenant God, He was ready to reestablish them to covenant status (i.e. marriage metaphor). This same loving and forgiving God now holds out His hand to wayward Gentiles. Multiethnic church

This use of Hosea that originally addressed the wayward northern kingdom of Israel in the eighth century B.C. is now used by Peter to relate to pagan Gentiles. This extension of Old Testament texts from a Jew/Gentile context to a unbeliever/believer context characterizes the New Testament. Believing Gentiles are now included in the covenant people of God (Ephesians 2:11–3:13).

*Utley, R. J. D. (2000). The Gospel according to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter (Vol. Volume 2, pp. 229–230). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.*

b. Read Revelation 1:5-6; Revelation 5:9-12; Matthew 26:28. Notice how the Exodus stream of thought with the love (Covenant) set us free (Redeem) and blood (Passover) which leads to become a kingdom of priest (Royal priest).

5. Pastor Derwin said, “WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO WORSHIP HIM? So you can truly become human and live in the power of the “why” of your life.” Discuss.

**Soul-tattoo:** Embrace Jesus and the why of your existence.

Close in prayer.