

February 26, 2021

Read Exodus 2

Key verse: Exodus 2:25

God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

All Bad Things Must Come to an End

Sometimes I feel that the march of human progress is painfully slow. We have moved forward technologically at a rapid pace, but people still struggle to find true peace with one another. The most prevalent peace we experience today is an oppressive peace, a peace that is imposed by rulers upon those who serve them; the rulers feel peace because they have little fear that their servants will rebel, but the servant (or slave) hardly finds peace in this unjust arrangement.

The good news is that God takes notice of injustice. God hears our cries when we suffer unfairly. The God of the Hebrew Bible is unlike the gods of the dominant nations and cultures of the ancient world (or the modern world!). The God of the Hebrews, the God that we have come to recognize as the One True God, is not a god who threatens and intimidates in order to “have his way.” The true God is a God who speaks truth to the human heart, who helps us recognize that *true* freedom comes through relationship with God but who prompts us to love one another, to release anyone that we might be holding in bondage and to persuade others to do the same.

And this is the God who dwells in us, through the Holy Spirit. This is the God who enables us to hear the cries of the needy and respond to those cries. This is the God who sends us his Son, to announce that this world – indeed all creation – belongs to God. Injustice will not endure forever, because the God of justice DOES endure forever.

Prayer: Lord God, during this season of Lent we praise you and thank you for the promise that the cries of the needy will not go unheard. We thank you for hearing OUR cries, and we thank you for changing OUR hearts, enabling us to hear the cries of others and to work to make this world a better place for all your children. Keep our ears open to those cries, and give us the courage to act on behalf of those who endure injustice. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.