

**SERMON SERIES**  
**“FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM: EXODUS PART 1”**  
**“THE FIRSTBORNS OF GOD, PHARAOH, AND MOSES”**  
**Exodus 4:18-31**  
Pastor Steve Cavallaro

**I. God loves His children. (vv. 18-23)**

“Please let me go back to my brothers in Egypt...”

“Go in peace.”

“Go back to Egypt ... the men who were seeking your life are dead.”

“But I will harden his heart ... will not let the people go.”

“Israel is my firstborn son”

**Hosea 11 → Matthew 2**

**Application:** Believe in Christ as the Firstborn who died to make us sons.

**Proverbs 21:1**

**Hosea 11:1**

**Matthew 2:14-5**

**John 1:12-3**

**Romans 8:14, 23**

**Galatians 3:25-6**

**Ephesians 1:4-6**

**Colossians 1:13-20**

**Hebrews 4:12**

**1 John 3:1**

*“God gives the wicked over to a reprobate mind, gives them up to vile affections, blinds their minds and hardens their hearts.”* -John Calvin

*“Pharaoh is going to be hit at his most sensitive spot, the spot where he has touched Yahweh himself, in the love for the firstborn.”* -Cornelius Houtman

**II. Shed blood is necessary for pardon & purification.**

*“the LORD met him and sought to put him to death”*

*“Zipporah ... cut off her son’s foreskin”*

**Physical circumcision → circumcision of the heart**

*“Bridgroom of blood”*

*“... did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed.”*

*“believed .. had seen their affliction ... and worshiped.”*

**Application:** Worship Christ who was cut off to deliver us from sin.

**Genesis 9:11; 17:14**

**Exodus 9:15; 12:15; 31:14**

**Deuteronomy 30:6**

**Hebrews 9:22**

**1 Peter 2:9-10**

**1 John 1:9**

*“If he was going to lead the people out of Egypt, he himself had to keep the covenant.”*

-Philip Ryken

*“Moved by divine compassion, they knelt in the sands of Egypt to praise the Lord.”*

-Philip Ryken

**Structure**

A: Fulfillment: Jethro lets Moses go.

1: Obstacle: God will harden Pharaoh’s heart.

2: Obstacle: God takes the covenant seriously

B: Fulfillment: Elders believe & worship

**Digging Deeper:**

1. How can you become one of God’s sons?
2. What has Jesus done to make us God’s sons?
3. What difference should this make in your life?
4. What bad decisions of yours need to be forgiven thru Christ’s blood?
5. Why would God treat His signs and seals so seriously?
6. What excellencies of God have you experienced & can proclaim?