

Title: Ordinary Hopeful People

Main Passage: Exodus 6:10-27

Secondary Passages: Psalm 139:1-28; Luke 10:20; John 1:12

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Psalm 139:13-14

Overview: At first glance a genealogy doesn't seem all that important. To us it is simply a list of unfamiliar and hard to pronounce names of people we know little about. And so it is tempting to skip over this section of Exodus. Yet everything in the Bible is inspired by God and profitable for us.¹ As such, this genealogy has much to teach us about God's goodness and grace.

One way to see the significance of this genealogy is to contrast it with the genealogies in Egypt. The genealogies preserved in Egypt contain the names of great Pharaohs and dignitaries – men who made a massive impact in their world. Not so with the names in this genealogy. Most are unknown and unimpressive, but they are remembered because they are part of God's story of rescue and redemption.

Another way to see the significance of this genealogy is to consider this question: *What if your name were written in this genealogy?* This would make the genealogy deeply significant because it would mean that you were included in God's story of rescue and redemption. God had a plan and a purpose for you. The good news of the gospel is that if we believe in Jesus, God has included us in his genealogy. He has written our names in his book, and this is reason for great joy.²

The genealogy also becomes significant when we remember that the Israelites were ordinary, yet hopeful people. This reality is seen from the names recorded in the genealogy. Philip Ryken's commentary is helpful in understanding the meaning of a few names in the genealogy:

Pallu's parents must have been demanding, for his name means "extraordinary." Korah means "baldy," and we can surmise that he was hairless when he came out of his mother's womb. Nepheg means "clumsy," which is not very flattering, but then it is simply a fact that some people are less coordinated than others. The Israelites were ordinary people. Even if we didn't know anything about them, we would know that they were very much like us. They were men and women created in the image of God. They were fallen sinners in desperate need of God's grace. If anything distinguished these men and women, it was the way they looked to God for grace. This, too, is evident from the meanings of their names. Shaul must have been the answer to his parents' prayers because they named him "Prayer's Answer." Similarly, Eleazar means "God Has Aided," Elzaphan means "God has Treasured," and Elkanah means "God Has Created."³

These names reveal that the Israelites saw themselves as ordinary people who were loved by an extraordinary God,

1 2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Luke 10:20

3 Exodus, Philip Ryken

a God who answered prayers and treasured his people. The good news of the gospel is that in Jesus we too have a God who answers our prayers and treasures us. As such, this genealogy isn't just a declaration of what God did in the past, it is a declaration of what God will do today. In and through Jesus he will write down our names in his book and treasure us forever.

Opening Question

- What excites you most about studying the book of Exodus?

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 6:10-27. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- Why do you think that God inspires Moses to write down a genealogy at this point in Exodus?
- What does the genealogy reveal about God's involvement with his people?
- Look at Psalm 139:1-28. What does this passage reveal about God's involvement in your life?
- Look at Luke 10:20. What does Jesus reveal about your name being written down by God?
- Look at John 1:12. How are we included in God's family?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?

Application Questions

- How would you feel if your name was written down in a genealogy of God's work in this world?
- How have you seen God at work through your family tree?
- What would you like the legacy that comes from your family to be?
- How has this lesson challenged the way you think, speak, or act?

Table Time With Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family read aloud Exodus 6:10-27. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- What is the silliest name in Exodus 6:10-27?
- What do the names in Exodus 6:10-27 reveal about God? *God has intimate, personal relationships with his people.*
- How has God been at work in your family?
- Look at John 1:12. How are we included in God's family?
- ***Parents, if you had a specific reason for giving your son or daughter their name, share it with them this week. Also share with them some of the stories of God's work in your life and in other people in your family.***