

Way Maker; 1 Peter 1:3-4

I. Way Maker

- A. We get a glimpse of God's plan to redeem mankind in Genesis
 - 1. In Chapter 3 we read that Satan will bruise the Redeemer's heel, but the Redeemer will crush Satan's head
 - 2. In Chapter 12 God gives Abram the promise of the Redeemer through his lineage
 - 3. That promise is repeated to Isaac in chapter 22 and to Jacob in chapter 26
- B. God rescues Jacob's (renamed Israel) family which had grown from 70 people (that entered Egypt) to 2.4 million that were redeemed from slavery
 - 1. Numbers 1:17–19 (ESV) ¹⁷ Moses and Aaron took these men who had been named, ¹⁸ and on the first day of the second month, they assembled the whole congregation together, who registered themselves by clans, by fathers' houses, according to the number of names from twenty years old and upward, head by head, ¹⁹ as the LORD commanded Moses. So he listed them in the wilderness of Sinai.
 - 2. Numbers 1:45–46 (ESV) ⁴⁵ So all those listed of the people of Israel, by their fathers' houses, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war in Israel— ⁴⁶ all those listed were 603,550.
 - 3. These are just the men of fighting age; there are likely around 2.4 million Israelites
 - 4. God promises the Redeemer through Israel
 - 5. Deuteronomy 18:15–18 (ESV) ¹⁵ "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.
- C. Esther
 - 1. Around 480 BC Esther (an Israelite) becomes queen of the Persian empire
 - 2. During her reign as queen a Persian named Haman plotted to have all the Israelites (the entire nation) murdered
 - 3. Esther 3:5–6 (ESV) ⁵ And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury. ⁶ But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.
 - 4. Esther 3:8–11 (ESV) ⁸ Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king's laws, so that it is not to the king's profit to tolerate them. ⁹ If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will

pay 10,000 talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king's business, that they may put it into the king's treasuries." ¹⁰ So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. ¹¹ And the king said to Haman, "The money is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you."

5. Esther 3:12–13 (ESV) ¹² Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and an edict, according to all that Haman commanded, was written to the king's satraps and to the governors over all the provinces and to the officials of all the peoples, to every province in its own script and every people in its own language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring. ¹³ Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.
 6. An edict of the king could not be reversed, not even by the king (Esther 8:8)
 7. God's promise of the Redeemer through Israel was in jeopardy
 8. Esther is asked to go appeal to the king
 9. Esther 4:11 (ESV) ¹¹ "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days."
 10. Esther faced death for daring to enter the inner court without being called, but that is only part of God's 'way making'
 11. Esther 8:10–11 (ESV) ¹⁰ And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed it with the king's signet ring. Then he sent the letters by mounted couriers riding on swift horses that were used in the king's service, bred from the royal stud, ¹¹ saying that the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to gather and defend their lives, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any armed force of any people or province that might attack them, children and women included, and to plunder their goods,
 12. When the day came, the Jewish people defended themselves and killed 75,000 of their enemies (Esther 9:16)
- D. God's promise from Genesis 12:3 was fulfilled
- E. Galatians 3:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.
- F. God is truly a Way Maker!
- II. Miracle Worker
- A. The 10 plagues of the exodus
1. 10 is significant in Biblical numerology; it means fullness of quantity
 2. The 10 commandments represent the fullness of God's moral law
 3. The 10 plagues of Egypt represent the fullness of God's justice and Judgment on those who refuse to repent, 'completely plagued'

4. Pharaoh was given 10 opportunities to repent, change his mind and turn to the one true God
 - a. Water to blood – Hapi, the Egyptian god of the Nile
 - b. Frogs – Heket, the Egyptian goddess of fertility, water, and renewal had the head of a frog
 - c. Gnats – Geb, the Egyptian god of the earth; gnats from the dust of the earth
 - d. Flies – Khepri, the god of creation movement of the sun, and rebirth had the head of a fly
 - e. Cattle – Hathor, the Egyptian goddess of love and protection, usually depicted with the head of a cow
 - f. Boils – Isis, the Egyptian goddess of medicine and peace
 - g. Hail and Fire – Nut, the Egyptian goddess of the sky
 - h. Locusts – Seth, the Egyptian god of storms and disorder
 - i. Darkness – Ra, the Egyptian god of the sun
 - j. Death of the firstborn – Pharaoh was worshipped as the greatest Egyptian god, said to be a son of Ra
5. Egypt was completely destroyed by these plagues
- B. The resurrection
 1. Jesus was completely dead at his crucifixion (John 19:28-30)
 2. Jesus was completely buried in his tomb (Matthew 27:62-66)
 3. The tomb is completely empty (only the grave clothes remained behind) Luke 24:1-13
 - a. Could you imagine being a member of the party that wrapped Jesus in cloths and spices?
 - b. Watching Jesus being sealed in the tomb
 - c. Then seeing the tomb open and empty!
- C. God truly is a miracle worker!
- III. Promise Keeper
 - A. We have mentioned the promise in Genesis 12:3
 - B. On the day of Pentecost, Peter addresses the gathering crowd in Acts 2
 1. Peter tells them that the Lord (Messiah, Christ) is Jesus whom they crucified
 2. Peter tells them how to call on His name in verse 38
 3. Acts 2:39–41 (ESV) ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
 4. The promise God gave Eve in Genesis 3, the promise God gave Abraham in Genesis 12 (Isaac and Jacob in Genesis 24 and 26, too) was fulfilled
 5. God weaves this promise throughout the Old Testament
 - a. Psalms 22-24 are about the Messiah
 - b. Isaiah 53 is called the suffering servant (the Messiah)
 - c. And there are so many more

- d. "One scholar, J. Barton Payne, has found as many as 574 verses in the Old Testament that somehow point to or describe or reference the coming Messiah. Alfred Edersheim found 456 Old Testament verses referring to the Messiah or His times. Conservatively, Jesus fulfilled at least 300 prophecies in His earthly ministry."¹
 - C. We are the recipients of the promise
 - D. 1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- IV. Light in the Darkness
- A. All the books of the Bible are grounded in this promise
 - B. All the books of the Bible are written around God making a way for the Messiah
 - C. All the miracles point to the Messiah
 - D. God is light, in Him there is no darkness at all
 - E. Jesus the Light of the World

¹ GotQuestions.org. "How Many Prophecies Did Jesus Fulfill?" *GotQuestions.org*, 5 Nov. 2019, <https://www.gotquestions.org/prophecies-of-Jesus.html>.