

Making HIStory My Story

ACT 5: TASTE & SEE

Exodus 3, 19

It's impossible to read much of the Bible without reading about the nation of Israel. While the Bible is God's story, Israel and everyone that includes plays a central role in it. What is that role?

One way to answer that question is to compare Israel to the free samples we get at Costco. Just like Costco gives out free samples to show off its products and entice people to buy them, so the God of the Bible established Israel as a nation 3500 years ago to demonstrate the good things he does for his people and to draw others into fellowship with him.

Through Israel God wanted the people of the world to taste and see that he is good. Through Israel God wanted people to taste and see that living in community, with him at the center, is the only way to live. Through Israel God wanted people to taste and see what it takes and what it means to live in that kind of community.

Last week we saw that God promised to make Abraham and Sarah's family a great nation. They died with only one son, Isaac. Isaac married Rebekah. Together they had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Jacob and his wives had twelve sons that became the twelve tribes of Israel.

In order to escape severe drought and famine, Jacob, his sons and their families moved to Egypt. Thanks to the fact that one of Jacob's sons, Joseph, had become a prince in Egypt, they were welcomed and treated with favour. Thanks to the safety and prosperity of Egypt, Abraham and Sarah's family grew into a nation. When the politics of Egypt changed, however, their descendants were reduced to slaves. *It was time for God to act again!*

Act 5 of HIStory can be summarized by four elements. Together these four points make up God's fifth step toward his goal for HIStory. Together, they tell us what it takes and what it means to be God's people.

An Act of Divine Deliverance – Exodus 3:1-10; Titus 3:3-7

- As he did for Israel in Egypt, God shows his irrevocable love and acceptance to us by delivering us from bondage to sin and self-reliance through faith in the death of Christ.

A Gift of Divine Revelation – Exodus 19:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-3

- As he did for Israel at Mount Sinai, God has revealed himself in these last days through his Son, Jesus Christ.

A Promise of Privilege and Purpose – Exodus 19:5-6; 1 Peter 2:5; 2 Corinthians 5:20

- As he did for Israel through Moses, through Christ God promises to treat us as his prized possessions and calls us to be his priests to the world.

A Call to Build a Culture of Reliance – Exodus 19:5; Galatians 5:25

- As he did for Israel, God gives us a role to play in building a culture of reliance on him. No, it's not to keep the law like Israel was called to do (Romans 6:14; Galatians 5:18). Rather, it is to keep in step with God's Spirit who dwells within us (Galatians 5:25).
- What the law did for Israel, the Spirit of God does for the believer ... *and more*. Not only does the Spirit open Scripture up to us and lead us into all truth; he gives us the desire and the ability to do what we find there. So, since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit and thereby build a culture of reliance so that the world can taste and see that God is good.