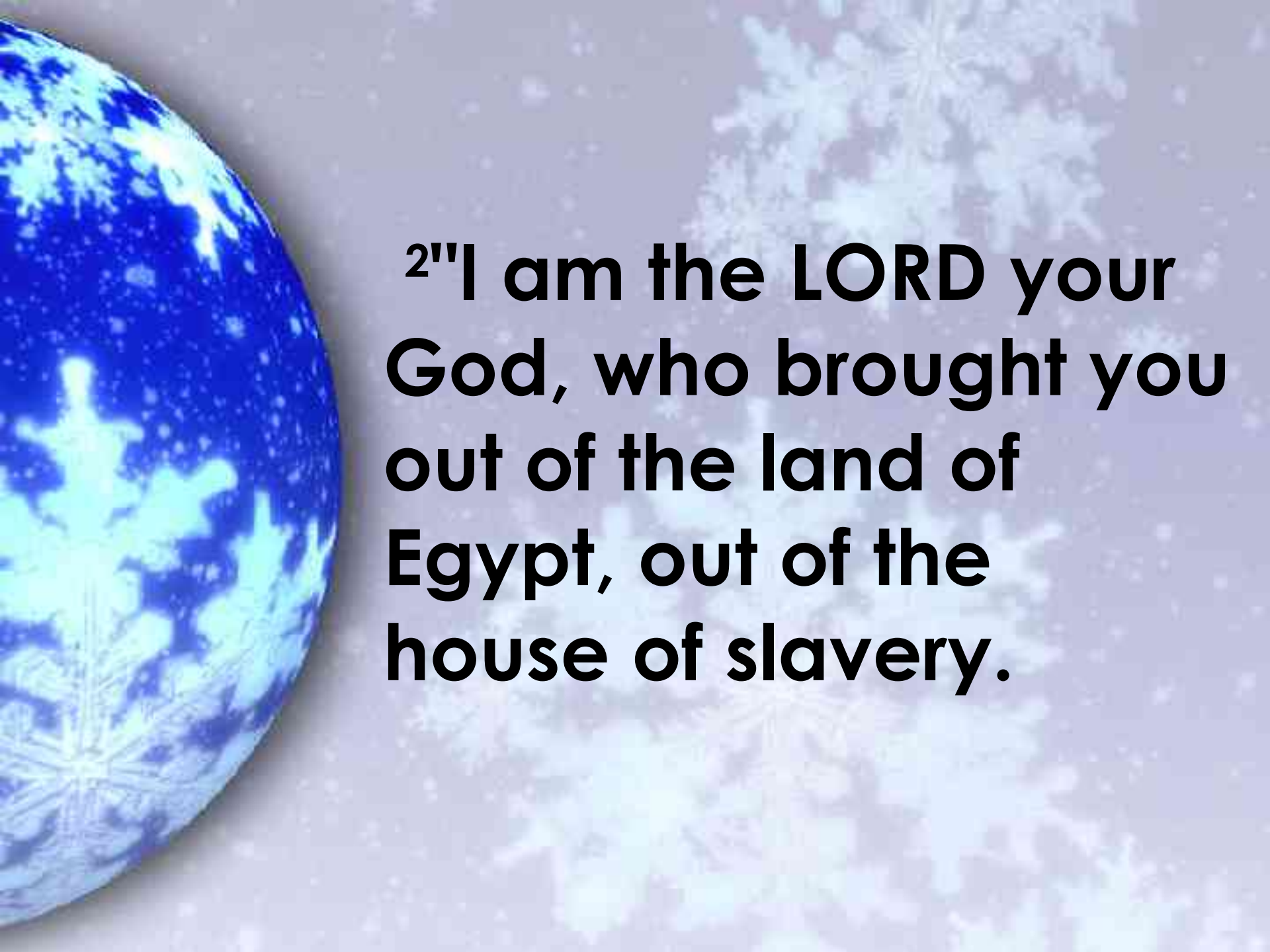




# The Prologue - Exodus 20:2

December 24, 2006



**2" I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**



# A solid footing

- ❄ The prologue is not a distinct commandment
- ❄ 3 Elements of the prologue
  - ❄ God announces Himself in His majesty
  - ❄ God announces Himself as the great Liberator
  - ❄ God announces Himself as the Lawgiver



# God's Majesty

❄ Exodus 19:16 - 20

❄ A visible image of God's majesty

❄ ...and how were the Israelites to respond?

❄ Deuteronomy 4:10

❄ Deuteronomy 6:6 - 9

❄ <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.



# Have things changed?

❄ Hebrews 12:18 - 24, 28 - 29

❄ Do we approach our worship with the same reverence and awe God inspired (and should still inspire in us) among the Israelites?

❄ Is your god God?



# The great Liberator

- ❄️ Yahweh - “I am who I am”
  - ❄️ Who was God saying he was in His prologue announcement?
    - ❄️ “I am the saving and liberating one who fulfills the promises I made to Abraham and Jacob”
    - ❄️ Moses is reminded of this covenant with God’s prologue announcement
    - ❄️ Was God’s liberation dependent on the Israelites behavior?
      - ❄️ Exodus 5:21 - 23; 6:9
    - ❄️ How did Moses plead for the Israelites when God wanted to destroy them?
      - ❄️ Deut 9:26 - 29
      - ❄️ Recall your covenant - *Did God need to be reminded of His covenant?*



# The Lawgiver

- ❄ The Law follows the undeserved deliverance
  - ❄ God freed the Israelites and he wants them to *REMAIN FREE* by the Law
  - ❄ But the Law limits my freedom?
    - ❄ Do traffic signs limit your freedom on the road?
    - ❄ Does water limit the freedom of a fish?
    - ❄ James 1:25 - *Law of Liberty*



# The Context

- ❄ How were the Israelite father told to instruct their sons on the Law?
  - ❄ Deut. 6:20
- ❄ Trivial christianity
  - ❄ The “hard parts...”
  - ❄ Jesus is the answer...*to what question?*



# Holiness and the Law

❄️ Escape from Egypt (slavery) is tied to living differently - living a holy life

❄️ Lev 11:45

❄️ Yahweh had separated His people from the nations - they needed to live separate

❄️ Lev 20:26

❄️ To an “other” God belongs an “other” people

❄️ Exodus 19:6



# From Old to New Testament

- ❄ The “better” covenant is not *another* covenant
- ❄ The New Testament covenant does NOT differ in “essence and substance” but only in administration
  - ❄ One nation (Israel) vs. all believers from all nations of the world (Acts 2:39; Rom. 9:24 - 26; Eph. 2:11 - 22)
  - ❄ Worship with priests and sacrifices vs. Christ (Col. 2:16 - 17; Heb. 5 - 10)
- ❄ *We cannot talk about the 10 commandments without relating them to the work of Jesus*



# Majesty revisited...

- ❄ Exodus 19:55 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for ***all the earth is mine***
- ❄ In light of the New Testament we can see:
  - ❄ How all things are of Him and through Him and to Him (Rom. 11:36)
  - ❄ How He is worthy to receive glory, honor, and power from all nations (Rev. 4:11; 21:26)
  - ❄ How all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Christ (Matt. 28:18)
  - ❄ How before Jesus every knee must bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:10 - 11)



Merry Christmas...

**That Baby is That God**



# Great Liberator revisited

❄ Deliverance from Egyptian slavery in light of the New Testament is now deliverance from the slavery of sin

❄ Col. 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9

❄ Deliverance from Egypt was by God - this is no less true of your deliverance from sin

❄ Eph. 2:8 - 9



# Lawgiver revisited

- ❄ Deliverance into freedom is followed by living a life to remain free (Gal. 5:1)
- ❄ First the gospel, then the law
- ❄ Our holy walk of life is in contrast to the world - we are to be blameless, unspotted children living without fault (Phil. 2:15)



# Its Personal

- ❄ The prologue and law is directed to the individual
  - ❄ “I am Yahweh, your [singular] God who free you [singular] from Egypt, the house of slavery.”
- ❄ The covenant was directed to His people but for them to remain free each one personally had to know their individual responsibility
- ❄ What is real freedom?
  - ❄ Exodus 23:2
  - ❄ People are free even if obedience leads to social isolation



# Is it negative?

- ❄️ “You shall not...”
- ❄️ The law is a mirror to see who we really are...murderer, adulterer etc.
- ❄️ The law of God erects a chasm that cannot alone be crossed (*pun intended*) - “Apart from Christ, the law condemns us; but in the hands of Christ, the law remains a charter of our liberty.”



# Rules for interpretation

- ❄ Must be interpreted spiritually
  - ❄ The law is understood in its depth only when we see it fulfilled in Christ
- ❄ Negative commandments include positive commands, and vice versa
- ❄ Each commandment must be interpreted *per synecdoche* - where one sin is mentioned, the commandment intends to cover the entire range of related sins
- ❄ Commandments that concern love toward God supercede those commandments that concern love toward neighbor
- ❄ The starting point and goal of all the commandments is love