

SPEAKER: Matt Stevens

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SERIES TITLE: He Is...

Sermon Title

PROVIDER

Introduction

This week, we continued our series titled “He is...”, focusing on the book of Exodus. This is not a story about Moses, nor a story about Pharaoh. This is a story about God, and seeing who **He is** clearly in a world that has gotten Him wrong. What we see in Exodus time and time again, and what is echoed often in our own lives, is a nature of forgetting just who God is, and seeing the world through the lens of a forgotten, misunderstood God— instead of seeing the world through His lens. Throughout this series, we are going to be diving into understanding more about who **He is**, and what that means for our lives.

Seek the Word: Scripture Passages for the Week: Exodus 16-18; Jeremiah 2:13

HE IS...PROVIDER

What are the areas of provision that you need the most? What are the things that you cannot provide for yourself or your situation that you have to look outside of yourself to find? How does it feel to need to rely on others for provision?

- **God provides what we need, not always what we want.**
 - How have you seen God provide based on your need, not necessarily your want? How did that situation impact how you saw God and how you believe He sees you?
 - Through the manna and the quail, God was not just feeding the Israelites...He was teaching them dependence. Does dependence on God come easy to you or is it a struggle? What makes depending on God difficult?
- **Rest requires trust.**
 - When God introduced the Sabbath to the people in Exodus 16, He promised to provide enough on the sixth day that they would be able to rest on the seventh, an invitation to trust God for tomorrow. What does it mean practically to trust God for tomorrow?
 - The Israelites were told to rest on the Sabbath, and that God would provide to meet their needs on this day of rest. When was the last time that you took a Sabbath day, trusting God to provide completely? What was that step of trust like for you? If you haven't, what is one of your biggest holdups in taking a Sabbath day?
- **Yesterday's provision does not automatically create today's trust.**
 - After experiencing the plagues, liberation from Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, manna and quail, a pillar of clouds and a pillar of fire, the Israelites still ask the question “Is God really with us?” How does this pattern of forgetting who God is show up in our own lives? Have you ever asked that question yourself?
 - The question at the heart of the Israelite issue was, “Is God Himself enough”? Answer that question honestly for yourself. Is God Himself enough for you?

- **Sometimes, God's provision looks like people.**
 - In a moment of deep need against the Amalekites, Aaron and Hur come alongside Moses and help him. God knew that Moses was not able to carry everything alone, and so He provided Moses with people who could help. What is something that you are trying to carry alone right now that you need help with? Do you have an "Aaron" and a "Hur" in your life that are wanting to help you and you aren't letting them?
 - Jethro essentially tells Moses, "You are not built to be everybody's savior". A lot of us struggle with a "savior-complex", often coming from a really well-meaning place. But we were never meant to carry the weight and the work of a savior, Jesus already has that job. Take some time thinking through Jesus' ministry, His death on the cross, and His resurrection. What has God provided you through sending Jesus to us?

Wrap Up

Reminder: **He is...provider.** There are things in this world that we turn to when we are in need. Jobs, relationships, vices, etc. Things that make us feel secure and safe. But time and time again, these things fail us. They fail to provide for us, in the ways that we actually need. But God, in His goodness and love, provides for us perfectly. God knows exactly what we need, when we need it, and day by day He meets our needs in every way imaginable. It is easy to forget about God, in seasons where struggle, frustration, and want make us lose focus. But through the story of God's provision for the Israelites, we are reminded that above everything that tries to take His place, **He is Provider.**

Challenge: Broken Cisterns

We often fill our lives with broken cisterns: things that we seek out for provision and care that ultimately leave us empty and wanting. This could be a number of things for you, so take some time now to identify what your broken cisterns are. Is it an escape from your circumstances through social media? Is it a relationship, a promotion, a new job, or a move that you are hoping is going to make you feel better about where you are at in life? Is it something (or someone) new and shiny that is going to distract you from a broken home or a struggling marriage? What are the things that you are hoping will provide for you, and what can you do this week to start replacing those things with God and His provision? How can you get to a point this week (or soon), where you trust that God Himself is enough for you?

Prayer: Close your time together by praying over the lives of those in your group. Ask that God be moving in wilderness seasons, in places of want and desire, and in the places of need. Pray that God will be revealing in each and every one of you to the Egypts and the broken cisterns that you are wanting to provide for you, and ask that the Spirit be moving constantly to remind you that God is the best and ultimate provider for us.

