



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -
GRAND THEMES 6 - EXODUS



WELCOME TO “GRAND THEMES”







Each week we will trace a major theme through the
whole Bible.

EXODUS



Theme gallery



<p>TEMPLE</p>	<p>COVENANT</p>  	<p>COVENANT</p> 	<p>COVENANT</p> 	<p>COVENANT</p> 	<p>EXODUS</p> 

Story overview



- God's Covenant Plan – the Promised Land.
- But now, God's people were enslaved.
- God needed to deliver the people out of their bondage and slavery.
- God used flawed people to do that.
- Exodus is the story of that deliverance.



Joseph in Egypt



- Joseph had become the No. 2 guy in Egypt
- When the news reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph's brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan, and bring your father and your families back to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you can enjoy the fat of the land.'
- You are also directed to tell them, 'Do this: Take some carts from Egypt for your children and your wives, and get your father and come. Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours.'
- How would you describe the relationship between Pharaoh and the family of God here?



Fast forward a few hundred years...



- Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them. (Ex 1:6)
- What are you hearing in this verse?
- God's blessing language.
- God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." (Gen 1:22, 1:28, 8:17, 9:1, 9:7 etc)
- But a Pharaoh arose who did not know Joseph (Ex 1:8). Worried about their numbers.



Bondage in Egypt

- So they put slave masters over them to **oppress** them with **forced labor**, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They **made their lives bitter** with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly. (Ex 1:11-15)





Bondage in Egypt

- The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, “When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. (Ex 1:16-18)
- Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.” (Ex 1:22)





Let's reflect...



- What do you see going on with the story of the Hebrew people in Egypt so far?
- What do you see is different between the Pharaoh in the time of Joseph, and the later Pharaoh in Exodus.
- What do you think God might do here?



Birth of Moses (Ex. 2)



- Pharaoh now commanding infanticide - Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live. (Ex 1:22)
- Moses' mother hid him in a basket "among the reeds along the bank of the Nile".
- Pharaoh's daughter sees the child while bathing and takes pity on it...
- Moses' sister watching and suggests getting a Hebrew woman to nurse the child... comes back with Moses' mother! And she got paid for it.
- When older, Moses returned to Pharaoh's daughter and he grew up in the royal household.



The impact of the women



- Moses' mother.
- The courageous midwives – named in the text!
Whose names were Shiphrah and Puah
- Moses' sister.
- Pharaoh's daughter.
- Zipporah – Moses' wife.
- All contribute to the overturning of the evil rule of this Pharaoh.



Tale of two kingdoms



- Pharaoh's rule is by force and oppression.
- Symbol of "the stick"
- On a collision course with God's kingdom plan.
- What qualities characterise godly leadership?
- Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; **not lording it over those entrusted to you**, but being **examples** to the flock.... (1 Pet 5:2-3)

Moses grows up



- Grew up in Pharaoh's household- best of everything. Acts 7:22
- Killed an Egyptian who was beating a slave (Ex 2) and had to flee.
- Went to Midian.
- Jethro (the priest) of Midian show great hospitality to Moses and gives him one of his daughters as a wife (Zipporah). Moses probably had to work for Jethro in return (Ex 3:1)
- During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he **remembered his covenant** with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them. (Ex 2:23-25).
- What's going on for Moses?

Call of Moses



- Moses at Horeb (Mt Sinai)
- Angel appears in the bush
- God calls Moses.
- Holy Ground.
- God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.
- God: I've seen the misery.
- I'm sending you.
- Moses reluctant.

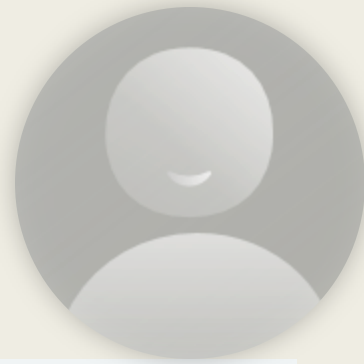
Moses – the one they pushed away



- Acts 7:17-43 Life of Moses in Stephen's speech
- Acts 7:27–28 (HCSB): “But the one who was mistreating his neighbor **pushed him away**, saying: Who appointed you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me, the same way you killed the Egyptian yesterday?”
- Acts 7:35–36 (HCSB): This Moses, **whom they rejected** when they said, Who appointed you a ruler and a judge? —this one God sent as a ruler and a redeemer by means of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. This man led them out and performed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, at the Red Sea, and in the wilderness 40 years.
- Acts 7:39–40 (HCSB): Our ancestors were unwilling to obey him, **but pushed him away**, and in their hearts turned back to Egypt. They told Aaron: Make us gods who will go before us. As for this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we don't know what's happened to him.
- Acts 7:51–52 (HCSB): You stiff-necked people with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are **always resisting** the Holy Spirit; as your ancestors did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute?

I am who I am

- Tell them. “I Am” sent you... (Ex 3:14)
- Very personal.
- John has 7 “I am” statements:
- the bread of life (6:35)
- the light of the world (8:12)
- the door (10:7)
- the good shepherd (10:11, 14)
- the resurrection and the life (11:25)
- the way the truth and the life (14:6)
- the true vine (15:1).



Moses/Exodus => Jesus/Redemption



- Moses – Rejected. Jesus – Rejected.
- Lead people to promised land in a rescue.
- Acts 7:37 (HCSB): This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your brothers. [Deut 18:15]
- Acts 3:22–23 (HCSB): Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to Him in everything He will say to you. And everyone who will not listen to that Prophet will be completely cut off from the people.
- Jesus : the new Moses – rescuer, authoritative revelation.



Reflection



- Reflect on what you have learnt about “The Story”
- What’s my “leadership style” like?
- Time scales?

Next time...



Captivity, Exodus & Rescue II