



**Notes for lifegroup and personal reflection
April to July 2021**

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“See, I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil... I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life!” Deuteronomy 30:15

“Concepts create idols; only wonder grasps anything.” Gregory of Nyssa

‘Hard times don’t erase Gods promises.

Harsh treatments don’t escape Gods notice.

Heavy tests don’t eclipse Gods concern’. Chuck Swindoll.

“The desert shatters the soul's arrogance and leaves body and soul crying out in thirst and hunger. In the desert we trust God or die.” Dan Allender

“Moses’ vision of God began with light; afterwards God spoke to him in a cloud. But when Moses rose higher and became more perfect, he saw God in the darkness.” Martin Luther

**“Fear not! Stand your ground...
the Lord himself will fight for you; you have only to keep still.”** Moses



Introduction

Exodus is not a standalone story but a continuation of an older one, Genesis. Exodus means 'departure, going out'. The book of Exodus records the departure of the Israelites from Egypt, the liberation and rescue from slavery of a people through God's appointed, if reluctant, leader, Moses.

Moses is the key figure in this book and the opening chapters trace the story of his birth, his call and his response. Examining his life, challenges us and calls us to live by faith, to step outside of our comfort zone and be obedient to God's call even when we believe we are ill-equipped or have nothing to offer. In Moses' reluctance, we recognise ourselves; in Moses' leadership we have much to learn; in Moses' weariness we are encouraged to lean into others. Moses features in the 'by faith ...' hall of fame in Hebrews 11 v 23-28 as an example of a man whose choices, sometimes suspect, sometimes spur of the moment but oh so very human, help him keep his eye on the long term goal whilst walking in the wilderness surrounded by grumbling, ungrateful people: 'He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward'.

Throughout the drama and the difficulty of Exodus we are encouraged to find the one to whom Moses directs our faith – Jesus Christ. Moses name itself (Hebrew - meaning 'drawn out', of the water) is an abiding testimony to the providential care of God. In His goodness, God constantly preserves His people. We too have been rescued, we too have wandered and grumbled and we too have reason to be grateful to our God who doesn't give up on us, who extends His gracious hand despite those grumblings and leads us on into freedom and abundance. We may feel unqualified, uneducated, untrained, unworthy but, as we will see, these appear to be excellent qualifications for God to use and achieve His purposes. Dwight L Moody said 'Moses spent his first forty years thinking he was somebody. He spent his second 40 years learning he was nobody. He spent his third forty years seeing what God could do with a nobody'.

Lockdown and restriction may have been an unwelcome wilderness, but there is much to learn and draw strength, hope and comfort from in this book. As Peter Enns writes, '... the exodus story is a big deal. It's not an isolated event, a singular story; rather it provides the background for key moments throughout the Bible.'

Let's discover together what God can do with you and I in these days, for His glory.



Week 1
'Promises and Provision'
Exodus 1 v 1-21

One of the themes throughout Exodus is that God cares for the oppressed.

1. Exodus not a standalone story but a continuation of an older one, Genesis. In what ways can we see something of the Genesis story in this passage? See Exodus 1 v 2 and Genesis 1 v 4, 10, 12, 18; Exodus 1 v 7 and Genesis 1 v 28; Genesis 11 v 3-4 and Exodus 1 v 9-10.
2. In what ways do we see God keep His covenant promises in v 1-7?
3. How have you seen God being faithful to you personally in this last year? In what area of your life, does it feel like there are some unkept promises of God?
4. What is the significance of Moses being from the tribe of Levi?
5. V 8-19 Compare and contrast the power of Pharaoh and the power of God in these verses.
6. When do we find it is hardest to believe in the power of God? Why?
7. Compare the blessing of v7 with the bitterness of the Israelites circumstances in v 13-14 – how are we faithful in what we can do?
8. V20-21 How do you distinguish between what happens in these verses from obeying God to get what you want
9. Can you give examples of where you (or someone else) have been faithful in times of difficulty and knew the blessing of God?

Quoteable Quotes

- God is still looking for the man or woman who will believe Him despite weaknesses and doubts and become a mighty tool in His hand ... an instrument of His purpose'.
Chuck Swindoll.
- 'It doesn't matter how great the pressure is: What really matters is where the pressure lies. Whether it comes between you and God or presses you nearer His heart'.
Hudson Taylor.
- 'Trust that the hardest part of your story is not the end of God's story for you'.
Kevin DeYoung.

Points to ponder...

- 'So many times, when you read about brutality in Scripture you find strong emotion behind it ... roll back the rock of brutality and fear crawls out from underneath.
- The Egyptians insecurity and abhorrence for their Jewish neighbours eventually led to savagery'. Chuck Swindoll.
- When you read something like that it doesn't feel as if the world has changed much, does it?
- What still drives man's brutality and inhumanity towards its fellow man?



Week 2

'Relationship and Rule'

Exodus 1 v 21 - 2 v 10

God's rule triumphs in the face of evil.

1. Just as with Jesus, the deliverer comes in the form of a baby – God has a long term plan! Just as with Mary, the faith and obedience of Jochebed shines through. She planned and trusted God for the safety and future of her child. What are you currently trusting God for?
2. In contrast to Jochebed's faithfulness and obedience we see evil intensify throughout Exodus. How and why did this happen then? How have we witnessed this in our generation?
3. Where do we see fear and faith in these verses?
4. The Hebrew word for basket in v 3 can also mean ark, as in Genesis 6:14. What are the similarities between these two passages?
5. This is Moses first personal Exodus – have you ever had an exodus type experience?
6. V9-10 Moses suddenly had a new home; everything changed for him almost overnight from the shelter of his family to the strangers in the palace. Even his name was different. Can you think of a time when you have experienced total change – where was God?
7. Where in your life have you seen a parade of providence different than the one you would have imagined?
8. Give thanks for the times when you have known Gods rescue in your life.

Quoteable Quotes

- 'God loves and honours the Jochebed's of this world; the risk takers and overcomers if it's done in line with his will and purpose'. Roger Whipp.

Points to ponder...

- Moses mother was Jochebed and his father Amran; Moses was the youngest of three children – Miriam the eldest, the gifted poetess and musician, Aaron who became Israel's' first high priest and Moses a great leader and legislator. Moses parents are mentioned in the Hebrews hall of fame. How will you and I be remembered?
- How might we spend the time that we have on earth, and make our days count? Linda Ellis wrote a poem called 'The Dash' that helps us reflect over a life lived <https://thedashpoem.com/>
- 'Forty is a go to number symbolizing a complete or 'right period of time'. Moses was forty when he fled Midian, spent 40 years in the wilderness and died aged 120. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness'. P Enns.



Week 3

'Preparation and Deliverer'

Exodus 2 v 11-25

1. What does v11-12 tell us about Moses?
2. V12 Moses looked at the horizontal and not the vertical – he didn't look up to consult God. Where might we need to ask God's forgiveness for acting on our own wisdom this past week?
3. v14 – The first time the Israelites have a problem with Moses leadership. How do we serve God faithfully in the face of wrongdoing?
4. What are the characteristics of a good leader? Moses was surprised by the Israelites response, confused and then afraid – fear made him run. How do we respond when challenged about our behaviour?
5. Moses 'dedicated himself to the will of God but not the God whose will it was ... you and I can be so dedicated to the will of God, we can be so driven by a false sense of purpose that we might inadvertently take matters into our own hands and leave God completely out of the loop'¹. Discuss.
6. V15 As a result of rash behaviour Moses went from the safety and protection of the palace to Midian, a desert. 'When the self-life runs its course, we settle in the desert'. Discuss
7. What does the desert represent for you and I? What might we be running from at this time? What is God inviting us to do?
8. V16-21 What do we learn about Moses in these verses and how has he come to this place? What have you and I learnt as a result of 'failure'?
9. V23-25: The people 'cried for help'. Reflect on the past year ... where have you seen God hear your groaning, remember His covenant and take notice of you?

Quoteable Quotes

- Moses 'knew Gods will. But the problem was he did not bother to seek God's way and God's timing. Instead, Moses began to carry out that plan according to Moses way and Moses schedule'. Chuck Swindoll
- Cease striving and know that I am God. Psalm 46 v 10.
- 'This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning'. Winston Churchill
- 'A true and safe leader is likely one who has no desire to lead but is forced into a position of leadership by the inward pressure of the Holy Spirit and the press of the external situation'. AW Tozer.
- 'He found him in a desert land and in the howling waste of the wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye. Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that hovers over its young, He spread His wings and caught them, He carried them on His pinions. The Lord alone guided him ...' Deuteronomy 32 v. 10 - 12

Points to ponder...

- 'Experiencing failure promotes an obedient life. Experiencing failure prompts a teachable spirit!' Chuck Swindoll.
 - 'Hiding wrong doesn't erase wrong; it only postpones it's discovery'. Chuck Swindoll.
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Week 4
'Ordinary and Extraordinary'
Exodus 3

It was an ordinary day for an extraordinary meeting...

The plans of God are never thwarted by the fears and weaknesses of His servants.

1. V 1 Think about Moses for a moment – previously heir to the throne of Egypt now husband, father and shepherd in the desert. Through 4 decades of Moses being in Midian there is no record of God speaking to him – have we experienced periods like this? What helped?
2. V1-6 What particularly strikes you from these verses?
3. V4 What is the significance of God calling Moses by name? What other examples can you give of this in scripture?
4. What is the meaning of 'holy ground'? How specifically are we to understand the impact of God's holiness?
5. In this passage, what is so encouraging about what God sees? How does that apply to you right this moment?
6. V 11, 13 - What do we think of Moses first and second excuses? Are we familiar with that for ourselves? What is the danger when we focus on our own inadequacies rather than the power and provision of God? Have you ever tried to talk God out of something that He has asked you to do?
7. What is the significance of v14 and Gods self-description?
8. What does this mean for you and I – do we really trust 'I am' to provide for us?
9. Read and reflect on 2 Cor 12 v 8-10; listen to 'Your grace is enough'.

Quoteable Quotes

- 'Time is no object with God, who demands quality at all costs. There is, therefore, no point in chafing under the discipline of the training years or in endeavouring to take a short cut. It will inevitably prove to be a cul-de-sac'. J Oswald Sanders.
- 'Jesus walked through the desert first. He felt its heat. He tasted its loneliness. He accepted its obscurity. He faced down Satan while the desert winds howled round Him. And He will never, ever forget or forsake the one who follows Him across the sand'. Chuck Swindoll.
- 'God does not choose names for Himself at random... He chooses names for the sake of revealing things about Himself that will deepen our love for Him and enlarge our admiration and strengthen our faith'. John Piper
- 'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I will be with you always, even to the end of the age' Matthew 28 v19-20.

Points to ponder...

- Gods messenger in doubt (3-4). The account of God's call to Moses demonstrates God's sovereign choice and man's frightened response (3:10-11). Moses feels unequal to the task and gives a series of excuses (3:11,13)



Week 5

'Grace and Resistance'

Exodus 4:1-20

1. V2 What is Moses third excuse? Is He even listening to what God said? (Ex 3 v 18)
2. What is God's response to Moses worry 'What if'? What is Gods response to us when we worry?
3. At this point how many signs have been given to Moses to help him believe? What should this teach us about the limits of signs?
4. Can you think of a time when God met you in your unbelief?
5. V10-12 is Moses fourth excuse and Gods response. What aspect of your inadequacy do you appeal to in order to exempt you from service? In what aspect of your life do you currently feel like saying, "Please send someone else
6. V14-17. What do we learn about God and His people from Moses' use of Aaron?
7. How can we be 'certain of Gods voice, confident in His power and comfortable with His plan'?
8. There are other examples in Scripture of man doubting his ability when God calls him to act – see Judges 6, I Sam 10, I Kings 3, Isaiah 6 and Jeremiah 1. What do we learn about God as a result?
9. What did Moses take with him?
10. What is your takeaway from this passage? What question might God be asking you? What do you have in your hand that He wants to use?

Quoteable Quotes

- 'I am an old man and have known a great many troubles but most of them have never happened'. Mark Twain.
- 'The law works fear and wrath; grace works hope and mercy'. Martin Luther
- 'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast'. Ephesians 2:8-9

Points to ponder...

- 'God accommodated. Moses desired. But the compromiser was less than the best; brother Aaron proved to be an albatross around his neck. It was Aaron who got impatient while Moses was on the mountain and created a golden calf for people to worship ... our tendency is to take someone with us. Somehow that keeps us from having to put our full trust in the Lord's plan; we can lean on that gifted friend or companion we've bought along with us ... whilst I believe with all my heart in accountability, God's call does not lend itself to the buddy system or to group excursions.... God was finally willing to say to Moses 'all right, all right have it your way. I'll send Aaron too but it isn't my best Moses. The day will come when you will wish you'd followed My all on your own. You don't need Aaron'. Chuck Swindoll



Week 6
'Suffering and Obedience'
Exodus 4 v 27 – 5 v 22

1. V27-30 What is special about the relationship between Moses and Aaron? Do we have an Aaron in our lives?
2. What is the Israelites response to signs and wonders? When did we last 'bow low and worship'?
3. 5 v 1-4 Moses and Aaron go from worshipping God, the I AM to meeting with a self-appointed god in his day. How do we transition back into our everyday situations when we have had mountain top experiences of meeting with God in a powerful way?
4. Pharaoh didn't have the right heart attitude but he did ask the right question – how do we respond when people ask us 'Who is the Lord'?
5. V 6-14 Obedience to God often meets resistance in the world – what examples can you give of this happening in your own life? Have you ever felt exploited because of your faith?
6. V15 In their trouble the Israelites cry out to Pharaoh and not God; why do we do the same?
7. V 19-21 Moses is disappointed and disillusioned; he had done what God had asked and, for the second time the Israelites turned against him. How do we manage being misunderstood?
8. When the Israelites got no response from Pharaoh they railed against Moses – what is our equivalent?
9. V22 What does Moses do? What are the questions he asks?
10. What strikes us from these verses?

Quoteable Quotes

- 'The leader must be one who, while welcoming the friendship and support of all who can offer it, has sufficient resources to stand alone, even in the face of fierce opposition, in the discharge of his responsibilities. He or she must be prepared to have 'no-one but God'. J Oswald Sanders
- 'Suffering can refine us rather than destroy us because God himself walks with us in the fire'. Tim Keller
- 'When pain and suffering come upon us, we finally see not only that we are not in control of our lives but that we never were'. Tim Keller
- 'I am certain that I never did grow in grace one-half so much anywhere as I have upon the bed of pain'. Charles Spurgeon



Week 7

'Fighting and Persevering'

Exodus 5 v 22-6 v 13

1. As ever read the passage in two different versions – what is God saying to you?
2. 5 v 22 – 6 v 1 Moses has nowhere else to go but to God; He had told God before that he wasn't the right man for the job. Like us maybe, he asks why and how? In what areas of your life do you tend to question the sovereignty of God the most?
3. 6 v 1 – 5 To what does God point in order to encourage Moses?
4. V2, v 6, v7 & v8. What do we learn and what do we need to remember?
5. What are the scriptures that help us to 'look up' see Hebrews 3 v 1 and 12 v 2. John 6 v68
6. What truths about God are most dear to you right now? Why?
7. After God says 'I AM', He says 'I will' v 1, 6, 7, 8. What is He saying to you and I?
8. 'So often the arrow that penetrates the believer at the weakest point is our unbelief'
Discuss.
9. V10 How does God respond to our unbelief?
10. V12 Moses focusses on his own lack rather than God's provision and promise – what has God reminded us of that has been an encouragement this week?

Quoteable Quotes

- 'Circumstances that turn against us force dependence; circumstances that force dependence teach us patience; circumstances that teach us patience make us wise'
Chuck Swindoll
- 'When all kinds of trials come into your lives, my brothers don't resist them as intruders but welcome them as friends. Realise they come to test your faith and produce in you the quality of endurance. But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed and you will find you have become men and women of mature character with the right sort of dependence. And, if in the process, any of you does not know how to meet any particular problem, he has only to ask God – who gives generously to all men without making them feel foolish or guilty – and he may be quite sure that the necessary wisdom will be given him'. James 1 v 2-5 Phillips.

Points to ponder...

- 'The best framework for the Lord God to do His most ideal work is when things are absolutely impossible and we feel totally unqualified to handle it. Those are His ideal working conditions' Chuck Swindoll.
- When we 'look up' our faith gets stronger – Hebrews 12:2 says, 'We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honour beside God's throne'.



Week 8
'Character and Power'
Exodus 6 v 28-7 v 13

Big Idea: When we grasp God's character and how He works in this world, we can follow His leading with complete confidence in His perfect plan and promises.

1. Read this scripture in two different versions of the Bible. What immediately strikes you?
2. V28-30 We've heard this before from Moses! What does Moses not understand about himself? About Pharaoh? About God?
3. Moses questions his actions based upon a wrong view of what will happen. Where do you see this in your life?
4. 7 v 1-5 How does God handle Moses doubts?
5. How are Moses and Pharaoh similar? Whom do you tend to be more like? Why?
6. Exodus talks often about God hardening Pharaoh's heart and Pharaoh hardening his own heart. How are we to hold these things together?
7. V6-7 What changes in v6? How does that affect our understanding of trust and obedience?
8. Are Moses and Aaron's ages relevant? V7
9. In what ways have you seen God keep His promises this last year in your life? What caused you to doubt them?
10. What is your takeaway from this passage?

Quoteable Quotes

- 'The ultimate measure of man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy'. Martin Luther King
- 'A solid trust is based on a consistent character'. John Maxwell
- 'This God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him'. Psalm 18:30

Points to ponder...

- But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong'. 2 Corinthians 12:9-11



Week 9
'Sharing and Sacrifice'
Exodus 12 v 21-28

1. The Egyptians had experienced nine plagues that attacked every area of life and Pharaoh's stubborn heart would not yield. Read the passage in two different versions – what strikes you afresh.
2. What do these verses teach us about God? What do we learn about ourselves?
3. What is the significance of the Passover then and now?
4. In what ways are the Passover and the Lord's supper the same? Different?
5. V26-27 what are the stories of the goodness and salvation of God that we tell others?
6. One of the main themes throughout Exodus is obedience – will we, won't we? What gets in the way of our obedience?
7. V27-28 What causes us to worship God? What do we choose to remember when life is hard?
8. In what areas of your life and mine is there a hardness towards God? A lack of obedience?
9. What is our response to God in the light of this?

Quoteable Quotes

- 'My personal conviction is that our greatest struggle is not in the realm of understanding the will of God; it's in the realm of obeying the God whose will it is'. Chuck Swindoll
- 'Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the one who is leading'. Oswald Chambers
- 'When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die'. Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- 'And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross' Philippians 2v8
- 'But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves' James 1 v 22

Points to ponder...

- Why is obedience so important to God? One answer is that God is calling us to obedience and relationship with Him through obedience. By obeying His call to take care of this earth we learn more about Him, and can grow in understanding of His heart and desires for our lives. Obedience leads to personal growth.



Week 10.

'Freedom and Feasting'

Exodus 12 v 31-51

1. v31-2 The longed-for words from Pharaoh. What is significant about who summons whom?
2. How does God turn His raging rival into His delivering instrument?
3. V 33-36 sees the place of pain being turned onto the place of provision – where have you seen this in your life?
4. Why did God make Israel wait 430 years, and what does that mean for you? V 37-41
5. v43-51 why was the Passover important? Why are some excluded?
6. In what aspects of life and you and I most prone to forget the provision of God?
7. In what way is obedience in your life and mine connected to the rescue of God?
8. What are you and I being asked to be obedient about at this time?



Week 11

'Delivered and Defended'

Exodus 13 v 17-14 v 31

Waiting, walking, watching looks like what do you?

1. Read this passage in two different versions of scripture – what immediately strikes you?
2. V17-18 how do you make sense of God's leading in these verses?
3. V21-22 God led the people of Israel clearly. In the absence of a pillar of cloud and pillar of fire how do you discern Gods leading in your life?
4. 14 v 1-4. God seems to be leading the Israelites back into a situation of no escape when He tells them to 'Go into Baal-zephon' and yet Moses is obedient. Why?
5. V6-10 What is Israel's response to their situation and what did they do? Are we like the Israelites?
6. V11-12 The Israelites reverted to a former pattern of behaviour – they blamed Moses. How often do we grumble and complain about our leaders?
7. V13-14 What is Moses response? How have you experienced God fight for you? Where are you being told to 'standby and see the salvation of the Lord at this time?'
8. Moses gives four instructions: Don't be afraid. Stand still. Watch. Be silent. What is the significance of this? What do we need to heed for ourselves?
9. V 15-19 What is the significance of the Israelites are told to go forward and the pillar of cloud goes behind the Israelites?
10. V21-31 What do we learn about Gods plans and purposes in these verses?
11. 'Coming to the Red Sea is just as much a part of His plan as crossing it'. Discuss!

Quoteable Quotes

- 'For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance & the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.' Romans 15 v 4
- 'Red Seas open and close at God's command, and not until'. Chuck Swindoll
- 'We live in a restless, impatient day. We have little time for preparation and less for meditation or worship. We feel we must be active and energetic, humanly effective; we cannot understand why inactivity, weakness, weariness and seemingly uselessness should be our lot. It all appears so foolish and futile, without plan or purpose. The delay that instructs and prepares us saves time, never loses it'. R Edma
- 'Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress'. Psalm 107:6

Points to ponder...

- 'The crossing of the Red Sea is to the Old Testament what the Resurrection is to the new ... both were astonishing miracles of redemption from the hand of God'. Chuck Swindoll
- God delivers His people from all that would enslave them and defends them from all that would destroy them.



Week 12

'Salvation and Singing'

Exodus 15:1-21

1. Read the passage in different versions of the Bible – what immediately strikes you?
2. What motivates our worship of God? What prevents our worship?
3. What drives the Israelites singing (v1-3, 11-12, 18)?
4. What aspects of Gods character do we see in this passage?
5. What comes to mind when the Lord is described as a warrior? (v3)
6. How do we see Gods power displayed throughout this passage (v4-10)
7. What song do you sing when you reflect on all that God has done for you and I?
8. What aspects of Gods character are particularly important to you right now?
9. Think about Miriam for a moment, the sister who watched what would happen to Moses (2 v 1-4) and spoke to the Pharaoh's daughter about finding a nurse for the baby, was one of the Israelites who left Egypt and is described as a prophetess leading the women in worship that is filled with specific reasons for thanksgiving and praise. What lessons are there for us from Miriam's life?
10. How do we keep a true 'song of salvation' in our hearts and on our lips without it becoming routine?

Quoteable Quotes

- 'The exodus is a very old tale – one might say one of Israel's oldest memories' Pete Enns
- "The Scotch catechism says that man's chief end is 'to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.' ... we shall then know that these are the same thing. Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him." CS Lewis
- 'The Lord is my strength and my song and he has become my salvation: this is my God, and I will praise him, my Father's God, and I will exalt him'. Exodus 15:2
- 'Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is He the best of several ways; He is the only way'. AW Tozer

Points to ponder...

- The song is a magnificent hymn of thanksgiving to the Lord who saves (15:2), guides (15:13), owns (15:16) and rules (15:18) His people.



Week 13

'Deserts and Design'

Exodus 15 v 22-16 v 36

1. Read this familiar scripture in two different versions of the Bible – what strikes you afresh as you hear these words?
2. V1 starts with 'Then ...' The Israelites go from the mountain top experience of praise and worship into the wilderness. Why did this need to happen?
3. The Israelites had experienced the abundance of Gods provision in the parting of the Red Sea; they move into the wilderness continuing to expect abundant provision and, when it is not immediately there, they are disappointed and complain. Do you and I recognise this in ourselves?
4. What is God's response v25 – 27? What is our response to Gods gracious provision?
5. 16 v 1 – 3 How easily we forget! The Israelites had been in the wilderness for over forty days and they look back to a previous era. When is it right to look back and remember and when is it not helpful to do so?
6. V4-21 What is the connection between Israel's welfare and her obedience?
7. Lack of water is followed by lack of food; God's response and Israel's are the same – what do we learn about God in this?
8. V22-30 reminds us of the creation story – why is 'sabbath' important?
9. How do you and I sabbath?
10. Reflect on the faithful provision of God seen in this passage; His faithfulness despite their faithlessness. In what way have you experienced the faithfulness of God today?

Quoteable Quotes

- 'When we accept the fact that sometimes seasons are dry, and times are hard, and that God is in control of both, we will discover a sense of divine refuge, because the hope then is in God and not in ourselves'. Charles Swindoll
- 'Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert'. Isaiah 43:19



Week 14
'Grumbling and Grace'
Exodus 17 v 1-7

This passage sees the Israelite's grumbling again and God's graciousness, again.

1. When you read this familiar passage what strikes you most?
2. V1-3,7 What is shocking about the words of the Israelites?
3. What is the difference between grumbling and quarrelling?
4. Where do you and I see the same tendency in our lives?
5. What aspects of Moses leadership do you see in v 1-3?
6. The Israelites were afraid they wouldn't get water – what do you and I fear or fret about not getting?
7. The 'past' continues to have a hold on the Israelites – how easily we revert to the 'good old days'? In what ways do we recognise ourselves in this?
8. V4-6 What is startling about God's provision and presence?
9. What is the significance of Moses' staff? (4 v17, 7 v 9-12, 8 v 16-17, 9 v 23, 10 v 13, 14 v 16)? Think back to week 5 – what is in your hand?
10. Psalm 95 v 7-11 refers to this incident – where are our hearts hard?
11. Where do we see hints of Jesus in this passage?
12. What are we thankful for as a result of studying this passage?

Quoteable Quotes

- 'Obedience in the midst of wilderness brings order into chaos' T Fretheim.
- 'When you boil grumbling down to its basic common denominator, you realize it is actually asking the Lord, 'are You here or not? It's a case of open, unrestrained, verbal doubt'. Chuck Swindoll
- 'God is in the business of not only putting you through the Red Sea at salvation but in getting you to Canaan by way of the wilderness' Chuck Swindoll
- 'Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door'. James 5:9
- 'Grace is the free, undeserved goodness and favour of God to mankind'. Matthew Henry



Week 15
'Overwhelmed and Overcoming'
Exodus 17:8-16

1. As you read this scripture what comes to mind?
2. V8-9 what is the significance of 'God's staff'?
3. Considering the events after the crossing of the Red Sea, what is God trying to teach the Israelites? What particular aspect of your life is filled with struggle that causes you to doubt God?
4. How does God provide in vs 10-13?
5. Whereas Israel was passive, a bystander in the defeat of the Egyptian army, Israel is required to fight the Amalekites – why is this do you think?
6. Why are Joshua, Aaron and Hur important in this account? What truth is God seeking to remind us of?
7. Who are the Aaron's and Hur's in your life and mine?
8. What does this passage reveal to us about Moses as a leader? How can we support our leaders whether church, employer, local council or national?
9. Throughout Exodus the Israelites need to remember what God has done. Vs 14-16 see Moses build an altar for the first time. Why are altars helpful?
10. How can worship help us remember specific instances of God's provision?
11. What does 'Jehovah Nissi - God is my banner' mean in 2021? See Psalm 60 v 4, Song of Solomon 2 v 4, Psalm 20 v 5

Quoteable Quotes

- "The Red Sea was the place of salvation. Marah was the place of testing and bitterness. Elim was the place of rest. The Wilderness of Sin, with the manna and quail, was a place of provision. Massah and Meribah was a place of warning. And now Rephidim is going to be a place of battle." Kevin de Young
- "You and I are going to have more battles, more enemies, and hard days. Hopefully, you'll have some days at Elim with the palm trees and springs, and God will give you some manna from heaven when you need it. But you are going to have Rephidim and Marah. Every one of these wildernesses stops in some sense, is the same lesson: "You can trust me. You don't know where you are going to eat? You can trust me. You're thirsty? You can trust me. You have enemies? You can trust me." Martin Luther
- "The Christian is known by two great marks: his inner warfare and his inner peace." JC Ryle