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| **Bellevue Chapel**  **Exodus**  **August-Sept 2021**  **(morning series)** |  |

**Exodus**

The Book of Exodus tells how God rescues his people Israel from slavery in Egypt. At the end of the book of Genesis, Jacob’s family had come to Egypt at the invitation of Joseph, one of Jacob’s sons, who had risen to prominence in Egypt. At the beginning of Exodus, we discover that the descendants of the family of Jacob have become a nation. But having arrived in Egypt as free people, the opening chapter of Exodus describes how the Israelites are enslaved by the Egyptians.

There is much in this story that resonates with current news headlines. In Exodus we find people enslaved, we read of genocide and ethnic cleansing, and a multitude of people fleeing oppression, making a dangerous journey through the sea on their way to a new, promised land.

In Exodus we read more about the God introduced in the book of Genesis, the God who creates and sustains life, and who makes humanity in his own image. We learn how this God is concerned about the suffering of his people, and how he comes to rescue them from their oppressive circumstances. Part of this revelation is that it is God, and not Pharaoh and the false gods of Egypt, that control the world. We learn too that this God opposes the evil that denying and opposing God always results in, evil that oppresses, enslaves, and that damages God’s good gift of life.

As we read and study this incredible story may we come to know more of this amazing God and the life and salvation he offers.

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| **Sunday 15th August**  **CH** | **Abundance, Oppression and Salvation Exodus 1:1-2:10**  Jacob’s family in Egypt fulfil God’s command: they are fruitful and multiply. Yet this blessing of God is viewed as a threat, leading to Pharaoh and the Egyptians to enslave and oppress the Israelites. But the birth of Moses, and the sparing of his life, hint at the salvation God will bring about. |  |
| **Sunday 22nd August**  **Alex Warren** | **Failure, Encounter and Commission Exodus 2:11-3:22**  Moses’ first attempt at leadership leads to failure. However, encountering God at Horeb, he is commissioned to bring God’s people out of Egypt. |  |
| **Sunday 29th August**  **CH** | **Resistance, Promise, Doubt Exodus 5:1-6:12**  Moses and Aaron’s first audience with Pharaoh is marked by resistance, with Pharaoh saying he does not know the LORD so will not obey him. Instead, Pharaoh increases the oppression of God’s people. Amidst their suffering God sends Moses to repeat his promise to set them free. Yet their suffering means they do not listen to Moses. |  |
| **Sunday 5th September**  **David Knowles** | **Resistance and Destruction** **Exodus 7:14-11:10**    Through the ten plagues God reveals that he, and not Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt, is in control of all creation. The battle is over whom the people of Israel should serve, God or Pharaoh. Resisting God, Pharoah brings judgement upon himself and the nation of Egypt, as their land is destroyed through a reversal of the creation blessings. |  |
| **Sunday 12th September**  **Adrian Armstrong** | **Death and Life Exodus 12:1-30**  The Passover is God’s “judgement on all the gods of Egypt” (Ex 12:12). For Israel, it is a moment when live is preserved, while for the Egyptians it brings death. |  |
| **Sunday 19th September**  **CH** | **Freedom and Consecration Exodus 12:31-13:16**  Finally, Pharaoh yields to God and let’s Israel go. Israel’s freedom is secured by the power of God in fulfilment of his promise. The story of God’s power, of his faithfulness, exercised on Israel’s behalf is to be remembered by the nation in acts of worship and consecration. |  |
| **Sunday 26th September**  **CH** | **Salvation and Deliverance Exodus 13:17-14:31**    Pursued by Pharaoh and the Egyptian army, God simultaneously saves Israel from their hands and destroys the Egyptians. Slavery and oppression are behind them, ahead a journey to the land of Canaan, in fulfilment of God’s great promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. |  |