



04. Digging Deeper: Exodus, the Gospel of the Old Testament

Jeff Norris | Bob Cargo | Caleb Click

In this episode of *Digging Deeper*, Jeff Norris, Caleb Click, and Bob Cargo sit down together and give a preview of the new sermon series on *Exodus* starting, Sunday, September 13. Listen as the teaching team discusses where do we find the Israelites at the opening of *Exodus*, what must the Israelites be experiencing and feeling and does this show us about the character of God.

Noteworthy Quotes

I think what we're going to see in the book of Exodus is there is a significant amount of what God is laying as a foundation here for how even we read the rest of the Bible, which is a really, really important. -Jeff Norris

In the book of Exodus though, I think you have God revealing Himself in a way that undermines all of our false perceptions of Him. In the book of Exodus, you have this moment where God, for the first time is revealing Himself to His people, not just as one who makes promises, but as one who keeps them, and not only keeps them, but shows Himself to be a Redeemer. -Caleb Click

When I think about the book of Exodus, it's pretty much the gospel of the Old Testament. This is the gospel engine that drives everything that Israel is called to do. And we have this idea sometimes that the Old Testament is irrelevant to us and it's something that's part of the past. And even that God seems to act differently in it. But if you read the book of Exodus, you see the paradigm for the redemptive work of God that finds us fulfillment in Jesus Christ. It is a gospel book, for gospel people, and it has a direct implication for the life of the people of God here and now. -Caleb Click

There are probably too many of us that know the stories, especially of the Old Testament and it's just a story. We don't know the meaning of it. We don't know the relevance of it. And I'm excited to look at Exodus, just as Caleb said, that we would see the deep significance of this book for us and how it really is relevant to what we face today and what we're going to face tomorrow. -Bob Cargo

And it ([Exodus 1:1-5](#)) lists the 12 sons of Jacob. What it doesn't tell you is there's been a 400-year gap between the end of Genesis and the beginning of Exodus. And as you begin to read a little bit more in the first chapter, you realize Joseph has been forgotten. There's a new King, obviously over the course of those hundreds of years. And the people now who are descendants of Joseph, the Israelites, are massive in number, and they're enslaved. They're enslaved by the Egyptians and their lives are horrible. And they're asking the question, where's God? There's this God that we know that our ancestors followed, but we haven't heard or seen of Him in forever. Do they even know His name? -Jeff Norris

He's at work in their midst. You actually see it in the text ([Exodus 1:7](#)) The Bible tells you, He's made them a great people, but the reason the Pharaohs are afraid of them is because of how many of them there are. But that's paired with this incredible experience of oppression and pain and sorrow. Pharaoh is not only enslaving them. He's not only putting them to work, but he's having all of their boys, all the male children, as soon as they're born, the order of Pharaoh is that they're taken to the Nile and they're drowned. You think about it. If you're a people for 400 years, you've been living in this land. You're not in the land yet that God promised to give you one day to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. Joseph's been forgotten. You haven't seen or heard from God outside of the oral tradition that's been passed down. You don't recognize His hand at work and the way you've multiplied, but you just watched your children die. You know, I couldn't imagine the trauma and the questions that would raise about God and the doubts that are probably plaguing them. And that's what makes Exodus such an incredibly helpful book, in my mind, is God, in the midst of this, that kind of pain and despair reveals Himself to a people who are, it says in the text, they're groaning, but it doesn't even say who they're groaning to. -Caleb Click

Most of us, day after day, night after night, wrestle with things. And often it is the thing of Lord, how long, how long am I going to suffer? What I'm suffering? Yeah. You know, You don't seem to be answering or how long will I be oppressed by this addiction in my life, this habit I'd like to get rid of, that's oppressing me and holding me in bondage or Lord, how long will I every day get up and try to do the best I can do what's right and do what's good, and I still feel like there's not a real purpose or meaning what is this all about of what I'm living? And, you know, Exodus, I think speaks to all these things.
-Bob Cargo

And I think my hope is people hear Exodus and they're gonna be like, oh, now I'm starting to get it. God has not forsaken me. And He's up to something, but it's bigger than what I thought. -Bob Cargo

The hard reality sometimes as followers of this great promise keeping God is that He is a promise keeper. He is faithful, but sometimes in our lives, we don't get to see the fruit of that promise the way that we would have hoped. But it doesn't mean that the character of God has changed at all. -Jeff Norris

You may believe in God. You may not. It doesn't matter what your faith tradition might be. All of us are looking for something to give us refuge and security and peace and some form of salvation, even if it's temporal. It may be, 'I'm trying to make as much money as I can just so I can have the comfort that I desire.' It could be that if 'I can just get a relationship, I'll feel loved, like whatever it might.' In the book of Exodus though, God is not only reminding His people and revealing to them the full extent of who He is, but He is declaring to the watching world that there is only one place where there is true refuge that can be found. There's only one Redeemer. -Caleb Click

I think that is the takeaway here is that we have a God wants to be known as the one who cares for the broken and those in bondage and those in need and who actually has not just the power, but the desire to save. Like I love that they don't call for him and yet he comes. -Caleb Click

([Exodus 2:24](#)) It was God moving in action towards them because of who He is because of His character, because He's a promise keeping God and His faithfulness, right. And, and how that even begins to be teased out throughout the book of Exodus. But then throughout the rest of scripture is really, really significant. -Jeff Norris

God is with us in our suffering and that brokenness and suffering becomes our platform to serve other people. -Bob Cargo

Everything that God calls them (Israelites) to is about making Him known to the nations so that all would know Him as the sovereign Redeemer. And that's what He's redeemed the church to as well. -Caleb Click

Scripture References:

[Exodus 2:24](#)

[Genesis 12](#)

[Genesis 15](#)

[Genesis 17](#)

[Book of Hebrews](#)

[Book of 2 Corinthians](#)

Additional Resources:

W. Ross Blackburn, [*The God Who Makes Himself Known: The Missionary Heart of the Book of Exodus*](#), Loc. 360

This title and other resources mentioned in the Digging Deeper Podcast can be found in [Perimeter's online bookstore](#).

Big Takeaway:

God's desire to make Himself known, not only to Israel, but to the nations that He is faithful to His promises but that He's also the sovereign Redeemer of all things.

Application:

Imagine the Israelites' experience as an enslaved people with no hope and their cries or groans out not to a God they knew, but to a God who knew them.

If you'd like to submit comments or questions to the teaching team to discuss the Digging Deeper podcast, you can send here: podcast@perimeter.org.

