



06. Digging Deeper: The Character of God in Exodus

Jeff Norris | Bob Cargo | Caleb Click

In this latest episode of the *Digging Deeper* podcast, Jeff, Bob, and Caleb discuss the last sermon in the Exodus series and share what the Lord has stirred in their hearts throughout the series. They also give guidance on how to approach studying the Old Testament on your own.

Noteworthy Quotes:

You see painted all over the book of Exodus is that misery is a magnet for God's mercy. That God's heart is drawn to those who were in need. It's not repelled by it. It's not disgusted by it, but rather God cares deeply for those who are broken, who are hurting, who are enslaved. And he moves, his mercy moves him to action. -Caleb Click

(Exodus 13) And, in some ways He takes them there to prepare them so that they're not just equipped for battle, but actually ready for it. And, and I wonder, how often is this in on our lives are we like that? Like we're equipped, but we're not ready. And, God knows that. And He's working through our circumstances to prepare us and shape us and mold us into what he desires us to be. And you're seeing that play out right here in the life of the people of Israel. -Caleb Click

Oftentimes sometimes He'll move them(mountains) out of our way, but more often than not, God's more interested in moving mountains in front of us to take us out of the easy path, to take us out of the comfortable path, to put us in a position where we have to say, God, you got to move here. You got to do something.

Not, not so much you gotta move them out and all of that would be great, but I can't do anything here. It's puts us in this place of radical dependence upon Him, as we often say here. -Jeff Norris

You know, I really think the main thing I get out of Exodus, and you guys have both brought these things out, just tremendously in your sermons, is that what I want God to do is deliver me out of my hardships and out of my suffering. And it's easy to look at the book of Exodus that way. And it's been preached that way by a lot of people, you know, God wants to take you away from the things that you're suffering. And this is a deliverance unto salvation in the oppression of sin. And always we interpret the Old Testament by the New Testament. And to me, what is said in Hebrews 3 and 4, about Jesus being the greater Moses and what he's leading us to is the New Testament way of telling us what the Old Testament is about here and what Exodus is about. -Bob Cargo

(Hebrews 3) Be diligent to enter into God's rest. And we're tempted to say, well, this rest is heaven and to some degree that's true. The rest of glorification at a time, Jesus comes back new heavens new earth. It has God's rest, but really the picture is just entering salvation. And when you say, well, wait a minute. If God doesn't take away my hardship, but He's promised me rest, how do you put those two things together? And the answer is we find our rest in Jesus. It's not in our circumstances. He brings a peace to our hearts, you know, come to me all the weary and heavy Laden, I'll give you rest. -Bob Cargo

(Psalm 63) But oftentimes spiritually, that's where God takes us to where we realize, man, He's the one, He's the one in whom my soul, most longs and needs. And you even see that same type movement, right. Of what God's doing with the Israelites in the book of Exodus, why is he drawing them out? Why is he bringing them through the Red Sea and into the wilderness so that he can be their God and they can be his people, right? - Jeff Norris

Part of that rhythm that we see throughout the Old Testament with Israel, and then of course, we get the new Testament. We see that the Church has a new Israel. We see ourselves in Israel. One of the things that you see over and over again with Israel as you get into chapter 15, you see the beginning of a rhythm for Israel, which is that of grumbling. -Jeff Norris

You get the unimaginable deliverance through the red sea. And three days later, you know, we're not saying three months, we're not talking half a year, a year, three days later, they're grumbling. And they're saying to Moses, why did you bring us out here to kill us in the, in the wilderness? We would have been better off in Egypt. And they've so quickly forgotten who their God is and what he's capable of. -Jeff Norris

I think that's why this book is so practical. You know, somebody says, oh, gee, Exodus the story from long ago, how's it relevant? It's just as relevant as I hate my hardships. And I could be tempted to grumble. I start grumbling against God and grumbling against other people that cause me hardship. And before long I'm leading myself and other people into more and more unbelief by my grumbling and my unbelief that God is in charge of this. And he knows what he's doing. And I don't know about you, but that's what I live every day of my life. You know, as much as I know this in my head, when I experience the hardships, I'm still tempted to not believe that God's in control, that He loves me. And I'm still tempted to gripe and grumble. -Bob Cargo

Israel makes it very clear that this is going to be a long and painful trip. Like very quickly it's grumble, grumble, grumble, grumble, grumble. And yet God's faithfulness. He's not like me in a car trip where I just start losing my mind. God is faithfully and graciously pursuing them throughout. -Caleb Click

The nature of God, even right there in, Exodus 15, they're grumbling so quickly. And, God doesn't really rebuke them. He tells Moses, 'Hey, see that log over there, throw it in the water. It'll make the water turn sweet water turned sweet.' He provides for them. They grumble again in chapter 16, God provides, and they grumble again. And chapter 17, God provides again. And so, you already see, so clearly that God is a God slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love and patience. You see the character of God in a unique way in the midst of the grumbling. -Jeff Norris

And my encouragement is, because you're trying to learn how to read the Bible holistically one, don't just read it at random, read it in chunks. Think about it like reading through the historical books, the Bible, the Psalms, the prophets, and make sure you're paying attention to the context. Get a good study Bible that'll help orient you as to what's happening in the book. -Caleb Click

If I was talking to my little girls about Exodus, I think I would just, you know, bring up something that they understand, and they can relate with. They were born into this world into the care of a mommy and daddy that they trust that fed them, that cared for them, but they didn't really know us. It only took time where they saw and related with us in action over years, that they began to really know who we were. And, and if you have good parents that deepens trust it, it deepens, intimacy, deepens, love. And in some ways, Exodus, this is the deepening of, Israel's knowledge of Him. This has been their God from the beginning, but in this moment, they're coming to know Him as He is, as a God who saves and who can save them from even the strongest of seeming enemies and a God who's compassionate. -Caleb Click

You look at Israel and that's what you see, obeying is hard, and trusting is hard. We want to go our own way, but we have a God who is gracious and who pursues strange sheep. And that's what you see in the book of Exodus. -Caleb Click

The book of Exodus, like all of the scriptures keep pointing us to the one. They keep pointing us to Jesus to keep pointing us to him as the rescuer or the one who obeys for us, the one who stands in our place and receives the wrath of the waters of judgment upon himself. So that not only do we, uh, get forgiveness of sin, which is amazing, but we get brought in, we get brought into the family of God, not just for now, but for all of eternity. What good news, what good news. -Jeff Norris

Scripture Reference:

[Exodus 13](#)

[Hebrews 3 & 4](#)

[Psalms 63](#)

[Jeremiah 31](#)

Additional Resources:

[ESV Study Bible](#)