

The Way x03. Sunday 20 January_2019.

READ: Show YouTube clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uf-PgW7rqE> The Book of Exodus Overview of the first 18 chapters. 5.44 minutes. (Advert 5.09)

And read later in talk various passages. E.g. Ex 13: 17 – 22.

The EXODUS WAY

We aim to see through our study and reflection on Scripture this year a clear thread of teaching and revelation about God showing a way forward and a way through that we can follow.

There are prophecies in the **OT** about this and we heard a little of this in our Watch Night gathering from *Isaiah 43: 19 – 21* on *I'm making a way through the desert.*

In the **NT** we read of John the Baptist calling out to people to *prepare a way for the Messiah to enter in* and Jesus' own claim in response to questions that he is the Way to the Father God. (This verse from **John 14: 6** we featured in the Week of Prayer).

In the early Church "*the Way*" became a title describing followers of Jesus - before the term Christian was used. So we read of men and women who "*belonged to the Way*" (*Acts 9:2; 22:4*)

In Scripture, there is abundant advice for the path in life which will provide the most meaning and fulfillment. Our path refers to *the way* we live and what we decide to do with our limited time on earth.

We enter 2019 with the knowledge that even though we step into a season of transition and change we have the Light of God with us to guide us in the way that we should go: *Psalms 119: 105 Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light to my path.*

Today: the EXODUS Way. In the GREEK this means "WAY OUT" or departure. (Originally in Ancient Greek it was a stage direction, like the Latin – EXIT).

So, with others (*) I argue that the **theme of exodus – the way out** - is developed throughout both the Old and New Testaments? And the message of **redemption** or releasing slaves from our human slavery to sin seen in a unified manner in Scripture? The **liberator or Saviour from danger** is progressively revealed as Jesus Christ.

(*) **Alastair J. Roberts:** *The story of the exodus, found in the second book of the Bible, is the account of God's deliverance of the children of Israel from the land of Egypt, where they were oppressed by Pharaoh. Through the work of his servant Moses, God brought plagues upon Egypt and delivered Israel through the parted Red Sea, while drowning their pursuers. God brought Israel to Mount Sinai, where he formed a marriage-like bond with them with the giving of the Law and the establishment of his dwelling in their midst in the tabernacle. Due to Israel's rebellion and unbelief, they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, before they were led into the Promised Land of Canaan by Joshua, where they gained possession of the land through divinely*

empowered military conquest over the inhabitants of the land, who had been set apart for judgment for their wickedness.

Bible Gateway interviewed [Alastair J. Roberts \(@zugzwanged\)](#), who, along with [Andrew Wilson \(@AJWTheology\)](#), authored the book, [Echoes of Exodus: Tracing Themes of Redemption through Scripture](#) (Crossway, 2018).

So, to reiterate we see both in the Book of Exodus and developed through history and recorded in the Bible an understanding of **EXODUS, of REDEMPTION and SALVATION.**

PPx1 Slide (Ask JSt to put up on screen)

EXODUS – the understanding of God making a WAY OUT into something new

REDEMPTION – the understanding of God releasing people from slavery into freedom

SALVATION – the understanding of God rescuing people from danger into safety

The common factors in all 3 are that they involve God working on people's behalf.

At the end of the Exodus is the Promised Land – it was not a short journey or a straightforward way. God promised that he would make a great – a numerous people that would have its place in the nations and history – and that has been so, BUT for 40 years the people “wandered in the wilderness” – they were a nomadic people, a tabernacle or tent people. All because of their doubt and disobedience – so that they and others might learn the way of faith and following rather than complaining and doubting God. Most of them never entered the Promised Land in their earthly lives.

Read chapter 13: 17 – 22. God did not take them by the **shortest way**. Even at the beginning of their Exodus God knew that they may be daunted by the journey and change their minds about following. They might be tempted to go back to the slavery and oppression of Egypt.

God (at the hand of Moses which held up a rod/ staff) delivered the Israelites through the Red Sea and onto dry land. God made a way.

Songs were written about this and both Moses and Miriam sang and wrote songs recorded in chapter 15. **The Psalmist** records this and sings about it in **78: 52 and 53. (God) led his people out like a shepherd and guided them through the desert. He led them safely, and they were not afraid, but the sea came rolling over their enemies...**

The Scripture in Exodus 14 says that God did not do this just to free the Israelites but also as a witness to the Egyptians – so that they might know him as the LORD – YAHWEH. The Egyptians saw the sea parted and God making a way for the Israelites but with stubbornness and hard hearts they would not let the Israelites go (even though they had said they would) and they pursued them. No doubt “under orders” but these were the people who had oppressed the Israelites in slavery and thrown their children into the water to drown. God intervened and we read **14: 19, 20 The angel of God who had been at the front of the army of Israel, moved and went to the rear. The pillar of cloud also moved until it was between the Egyptians and the Israelites. The cloud made it dark for the Egyptians but gave light to the people of Israel,**

(Hebrew unclear in text) and so the armies could not come near each other all night.

It was NOT the Israelites who defeated the Egyptians! It was God who intervened – v21 it was the LORD who drove the sea back with a strong east wind. V26 the sea came back over the Egyptian chariots and their drivers – of those who had followed the Israelites into the sea – not one of them survived.

V29 fol But the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on both sides.

On that day the LORD saved the people of Israel from the Egyptians, and the Israelites saw them lying dead on the sea shore. When the Israelites saw the great power with which the LORD had defeated the Egyptians, they stood in awe of the LORD; they had faith in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

This account, this recorded story of God's intervention speaks of:

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The NT develops this theme with one greater than Moses as the One who becomes the WAY of God – the One to follow, the only Way to the Father:

Those who think they are standing firm had better be careful they do not fall. Every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out. (1 Corinthians 10: 12, 13)

(A warning and a promise – rather than a threat. ^{v14} *Keep away from the worship of idols*).