



Go Deeper, 24th September 2023: Exodus part 1, Moses' birth and Freedom.

Dear Miners,

Welcome to our series on Exodus! Let's look at three challenges from the sermon.

- It's taken me a while to not worry about the historical accuracy of the Bible. To accept that it wasn't written or read like that. For ages I thought that if it wasn't true it couldn't be relevant and couldn't be trusted. Now I look at the genre and ask what it IS trying to say. The original writers and editors of Exodus seemed quite happy to leave in contradictions right there in the book, they weren't trying to hide anything, and that hasn't stopped it being helpful and inspirational to the Jewish people for 2 and a half millennia. It's well put by John Crossan: *"My point, once again, is not that those ancient people told literal stories and we are now smart enough to take them symbolically, but that they told them symbolically and we are now dumb enough to take them literally."* How do you feel about that? Have you read the whole of Exodus, and allowed it to speak to you as story? What do you notice? What points does it feel like the authors are trying to make?
- We call it Exodus, but the Jewish name is "the book of 'and these are the names,'" which is the opening line. Names matter here, Puah and Shiprah, Jochebed and Miriam are named. Pharaoh is not. Those special and beloved to God those on HIS side are named. Jesus expanded that to all of us – YOU are named, and known by God. God is on YOUR side. As Marcus told us last week, there are no 2nd class people, no 2nd class Christians: all are counted as worthy and valuable as a baby. Do you believe that? Do you feel loved? Does it make a difference?
- All are valuable to God, but not all are treated with equal worth. What oppression or inequality intentional or not, do you see in our country or church, or in your own life? What fights are we called to as a church? Can the church help you in any way?

I hope this series brings up LOTS of questions, about the Bible and how we read it, and about what we are called to next as a Church. As ever, if you'd like to talk, grab me or drop me a line (0113 226 8596, rob@calverleyparish.church), or pop a question in our refreshed Ask Me Anything box.

Every Blessing

Rob

Deeper Stuff

Sue's sermon on Moses from last advent is [here](#), with accompanying Go Deeper notes.

Exodus for Normal People, by Pete Enns. The book is available [here](#), and the podcast episodes [are here](#).

I find my Jewish Study Bible always gives helpful overviews. See [here](#).