

S E R I E S G U I D E

E C H O E S O F *E X O D U S*

OUT OF EGYPT INTO IDENTITY



Seventh-day
Adventist Church™

Castle Hill

INTRODUCTION

The Exodus story is *the* defining story for the Jewish people. During Jesus' time, the Jews believed that their God had created the world and was in control of it. Yet, like us today, they struggled to understand how a world made by a good God could go so wrong.

But things had gone completely wrong. Everywhere they looked, they saw:

- Broken bodies
- Broken lives
- Broken systems
- Broken nations

Everything needed to be fixed. The world had to be set right.

The Jewish people believed that they—the family of Abraham—were part of the solution. Given this belief, it must have been deeply frustrating and challenging to witness their own national life unravel. By the time Jesus traveled through Galilee proclaiming that God was still in charge, nearly 600 years had passed since Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Babylonians. Though the temple had been rebuilt, the people knew that something was missing.

They believed that the temple in Jerusalem was the place where God dwelled—the meeting point of heaven and earth. Yet, it seemed empty, as if God had never truly returned. So where did their hope come from? How did a people sustain hope for over 600 years while watching one pagan empire after another rise and fall? How did they continue believing that God would one day come and take charge?

Their answer was simple:

- They told the story.
- They sang the songs.
- They kept celebrating God's victory.

Even though the final redemption had not yet come, they held onto hope that God would act. The story they told, sang about, and celebrated was the Exodus story. It was the story—the defining moment when God heard the cries of His people and came to rescue them.

The significance of the Passover was one of **hope**—a hope so profound that Jesus chose to build His earthly ministry around it.

Yet, the journey of Exodus was far from simple.

- The people were afraid.
- Moses tried to escape his calling.
- The Israelites grumbled and even longed to return to Egypt.
- When the holy law was given at Sinai, its first task was to expose their failure—Aaron and the people had already built an idol.
- Before the covenant had even taken root, it was broken.

Whatever the ancient promises meant, and whatever this new fulfilment would bring, it did not instantly transform the people into a pure, holy, or faithful nation. And yet, this story sustained Israel for the next thousand years—through exile, struggle, and longing—until the time of Jesus.

It remains a cornerstone of Jewish faith today.

This is the story Jesus grew up with.

- A story of oppression and deliverance.
- A tyrant and a chosen leader.
- Victory and sacrifice.
- Vocation and divine presence.
- A promised inheritance.

Ultimately, it is the story of **God becoming King**.

When Jesus spoke of God taking charge, His hearers would have immediately recognised this narrative. It wasn't just a historical account—it was their story.

And it is **our** story too.

Pastor Marcus Pereira
Senior Pastor
Castle Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church

WEEK 1: OPPRESSED BUT NOT OVERCOME

Whose voice are you listening to—the voice of fear or the voice of faith?

Pharaoh feared the Israelites and the threat they 'posed' to the Egyptian way of life. Spiritual deception often begins with subtle suspicion about God's goodness—and spreads through fear-based control.

How are you being shaped by the system you live in—are you resisting it or conforming to it?

In what ways is the culture around you pressuring you to adapt to its values? We live in contested spiritual territory. Faithfulness means refusing to play by Pharaoh's rules, even when they feel normal.

Who are the people you've dehumanised in your mind—and what effect is that having on your soul?

Pharaoh turned fear into oppression. He saw the Israelites not as neighbours but as threats. Dehumanising others always damages our own hearts first. Grace is the remedy to the poison of prejudice.

What kind of fear shapes your decisions—the fear of losing comfort, or the fear of the Lord?

Pharaoh feared losing power. The midwives feared God and acted with courageous integrity. The fear of the Lord births faithfulness, even in obscurity. It gives courage where comfort cannot.

What is God inviting you to let go of so that you can more fully walk in reverence, trust, and freedom?

What are you holding onto that is subtly shaping your loyalties and limiting your freedom in Christ? Spiritual freedom begins with surrender. God can't fill what we won't first empty.

WORDS TO CARRY YOU FOR THE WEEK:

“The prophetic task is to expose the false claims of the empire and to energise people with an alternative vision rooted in God's freedom.”

WALTER BRUEGGEMANN, THE PROPHETIC IMAGINATION

“The prophetic task is to expose the false claims of the empire and to energise people with an alternative vision rooted in God's freedom.”

DALLAS WILLARD

WEEK 2: PREPARED IN THE DESERT

Where do you see evidence of God working in your life even when you don't feel His presence?

Consider times when you, like the Israelites, may have cried out in suffering without specifically addressing God, yet experienced His intervention.

What situations in your life right now require you to take a "third-way" approach like Jesus would, rather than following conventional worldly responses?

Think about conflicts, decisions, or challenges where neither of the obvious options align with kingdom values.

How willing are you to surrender control to God, particularly in areas where you feel vulnerable or afraid?

What would it look like to demonstrate the same kind of faith Moses' parents showed when they placed him in the basket?

Can you identify unexpected or unlikely sources through which God has worked in your life?

How might this change the way you view people who seem different from you or even opposed to your values?

In what ways have you limited God's plans for your life by settling for what you think is possible rather than trusting in what He can do?

Like Moses' family receiving more than mere survival, where might God be preparing blessings beyond your expectations?

WORDS TO CARRY YOU FOR THE WEEK:

"Don't let this rattle you. You trust God, don't you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father's home. If that weren't so, would I have told you that I'm on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I'm on my way to get your room ready, I'll come back and get you so you can live where I live. And you already know the road I'm taking."

JOHN 14: 1-4 (THE MSG)

WEEK 3: THE GOD WHO SEES & SENDS

In what areas of your life have you accepted a role of obscurity or humility, and how might God be using that hidden season to prepare you for something greater?

Like Moses tending sheep in the wilderness, our "wilderness seasons" are not wasted—they are often God's training ground for future leadership and spiritual authority. Obscurity is not abandonment, but formation.

When God's presence comes in unexpected or uncomfortable forms, like a burning bush, are you willing to turn aside and investigate—or do you stay in your lane? Moses turned aside to look—and that moment changed everything. God often disrupts us with something strange or small to see if we're spiritually attentive. Divine encounters start with holy curiosity.

What sandals—symbols of pride, self-sufficiency, or worldliness—might you need to remove to fully stand on the holy ground of God's presence in your life today?

Removing sandals is about reverence and readiness. To meet God deeply, we must be willing to shed the layers that insulate us from His holiness. Worship without surrender is just noise.

When God calls you to something beyond your ability, do you anchor your confidence in His presence (“I will be with you”) or in your own qualifications?

God doesn’t comfort Moses by affirming his skills—but by promising His presence. True calling depends not on self-confidence but on God-confidence. The assurance of “I AM” is enough.

Are you living as though your current story is part of a bigger fulfilment promise from God, or are you expecting immediate proof before obedience?

God gave Moses a fulfilment sign, not immediate evidence. Faith often means walking toward a promise we can’t yet see. Spiritual maturity is marked by trust in God’s timeline, not demand for instant validation.

WORDS TO CARRY YOU FOR THE WEEK:

"The greatest thing you can do for God is to be who He made you to be—and the preparation for that is often found in the wilderness."

OSWALD CHAMBERS

WEEK 4: ECHOES OF EXODUS I

How does the Exodus story of liberation mirror your own journey from bondage to freedom in Christ?

Consider Paul's words in Romans 6:17-18 about being "set free from sin" to become "slaves of righteousness."

In what areas of your life are you, like the Israelites, grumbling and wanting to return to your personal "Egypt" rather than trusting God through the wilderness?

Read Numbers 14:1-4

How are you actively participating in God's redemptive story by "telling the story, singing the songs, and celebrating God's victory" even when circumstances seem bleak?

Read Psalm 105:1-2

In what ways might God be partnering with you, as He did with Moses, not just to set you free from something, but to set you free for a higher purpose?

Read Ephesians 2:10

How does Christ's promise in Matthew 28:20 that He is "with you always, to the end of the age" transform your understanding of God's presence in your daily life?

The temple seemed empty to the Jewish people during the time of Jesus—"as though God hadn't actually come back."

WORDS TO CARRY YOU FOR THE WEEK:

"Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time."

OSWALD CHAMBERS

**“YOU TELL THE STORY. YOU
SING THE SONGS. YOU KEEP
CELEBRATING GOD'S VICTORY.
EVEN THOUGH IT HADN'T
HAPPENED. THE PEOPLE STILL
HAD HOPE THAT GOD WOULD
DO SOMETHING.”**

- PR MARCUS PEREIRA

