

EXODUS

Today's Scripture Reading

Exodus 4:1-17

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Then Moses answered, “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you.’” ² The Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.” ³ And he said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. ⁴ But the Lord said to Moses, “Put out your hand and catch it by the tail”—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand— ⁵ “that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”

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⁶ Again, the Lord said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. ⁷ Then God said, “Put your hand back inside your cloak.” So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. ⁸ “If they will not believe you,” God said, “or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. ⁹ If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground,

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and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.” ¹⁰ But Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” ¹¹ Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? ¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.” ¹³ But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.” ¹⁴ Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said,

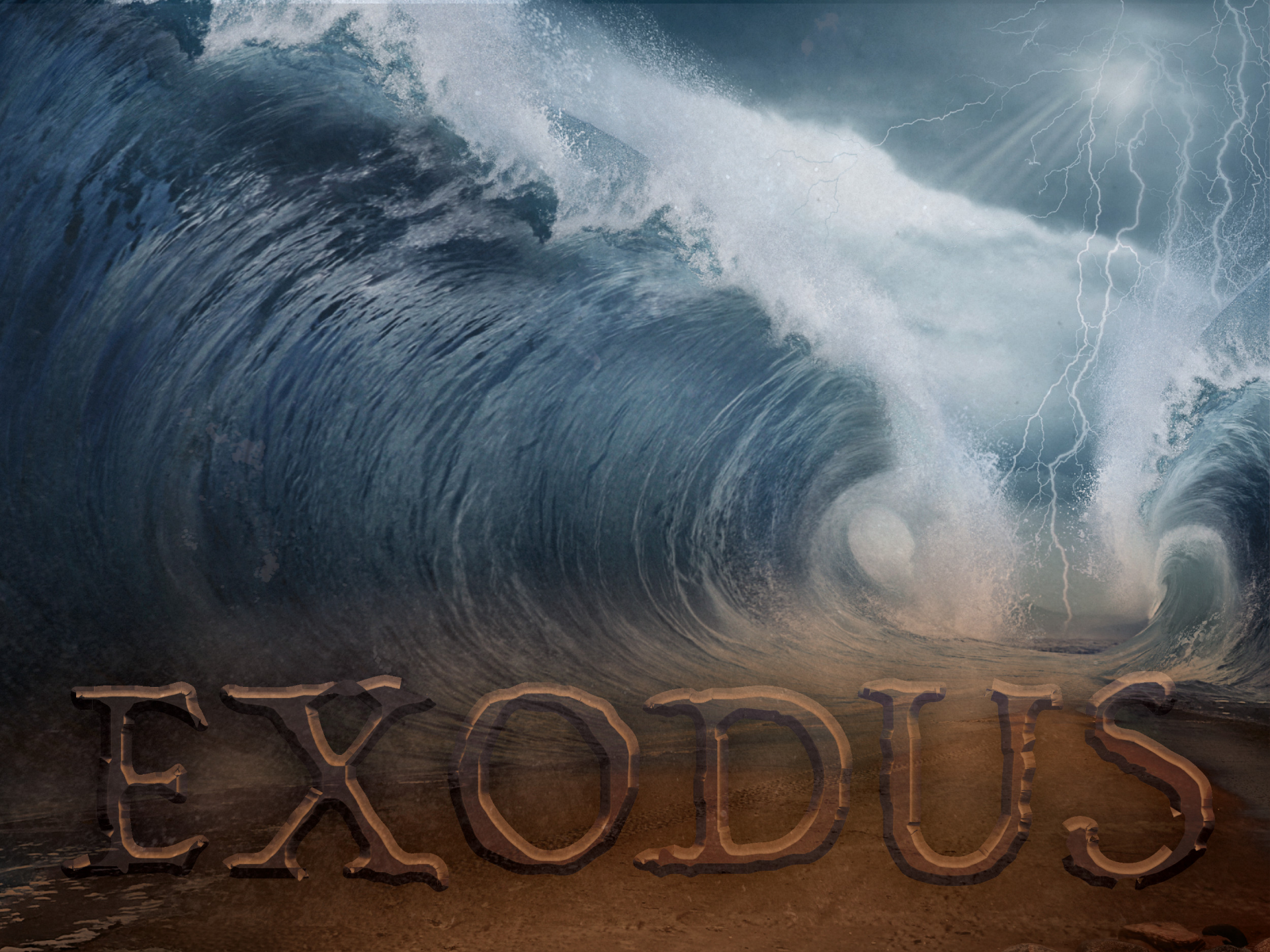
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“Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. ¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. ¹⁶ He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. ¹⁷ And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs.”

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Always 2 narratives, the overall and the immediate

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TODAY'S OVERALL:

God's deliverance of His people

- Not only repeated throughout scripture, but its own book, Exodus.
- 2 Tim 2:13: if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

Immediate Picture

- God's request/declaration to Moses to be His spokesperson

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QUICK SUMMARY

CHAPTER 3: I am that I am

CHAPTER 3: I saw that and I will act

CHAPTER 4: God lays out His plan with Moses as a point of intervention and irritation

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Then Moses answered, “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you.’”

Moses assumes and contradicts God with his response

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² The Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.” ³ And he said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. ⁴ But the Lord said to Moses, “Put out your hand and catch it by the tail”—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand—⁵ “that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.” ⁶ Again, the Lord said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold,

his hand was leprous like snow. ⁷Then God said, “Put your hand back inside your cloak.” So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. ⁸ “If they will not believe you,” God said, “or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. ⁹ If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

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- *Why isn't there a 7b where Moses responds to what just happened...?*
- *Remember chapter 3, its declaration and implications....why is Moses silent?*
- *We have the advantage of history.*

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¹⁰ But Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” ¹¹ Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? ¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.”

- *Wasn't before, STILL not*
- *Who made man's mouth?*

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JOB 38

Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? “Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band,

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JOB 38

and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors,
and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stayed’? ‘Have
you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might
take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be
shaken out of it?

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- “Really, didn't you see the bush, or remember the I am talk, or that I said I saw and will deliver”
- God is looking for believers, risk takers, obedient stepper outers.
- Will you be like Moses or Mary, Jesus mother who said “I am the servant of the Lord, let it be be to me according to your word”

Renew mind to a base line of thought. God is love.

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¹³ But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.” ¹⁴ Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, “Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. ¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. ¹⁶ He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. ¹⁷ And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs.”

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- *Relief deliverer brought in*
- *Moses lost opportunity*
- *But God didn't balk, as He remains faithful regardless of our response*
- *God walked through this Crisis of Faith with Moses*

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2 APPLICATIONS

1 Corinthians 1:26-31: For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

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2 APPLICATIONS

1 Corinthians 1:26-31: ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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2 APPLICATIONS

- Weak people are constantly used by God
 - *David, Peter, Blind Bartimaeus*
- Crisis of Faith
 - *circumstances that based on our reaction to them will, in some measure, tell what we actually believe about God.*

James 1:2-3: Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the *testing of your faith* produces steadfastness.

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CRISIS OF FAITH SETS THE STAGE

- *We question God.*
 - He answers strongly = testimony
 - No answer = spiritual muscle building
- *We act maturely believing God.*
 - He answers strongly = testimony
 - No answer = spiritual muscle building

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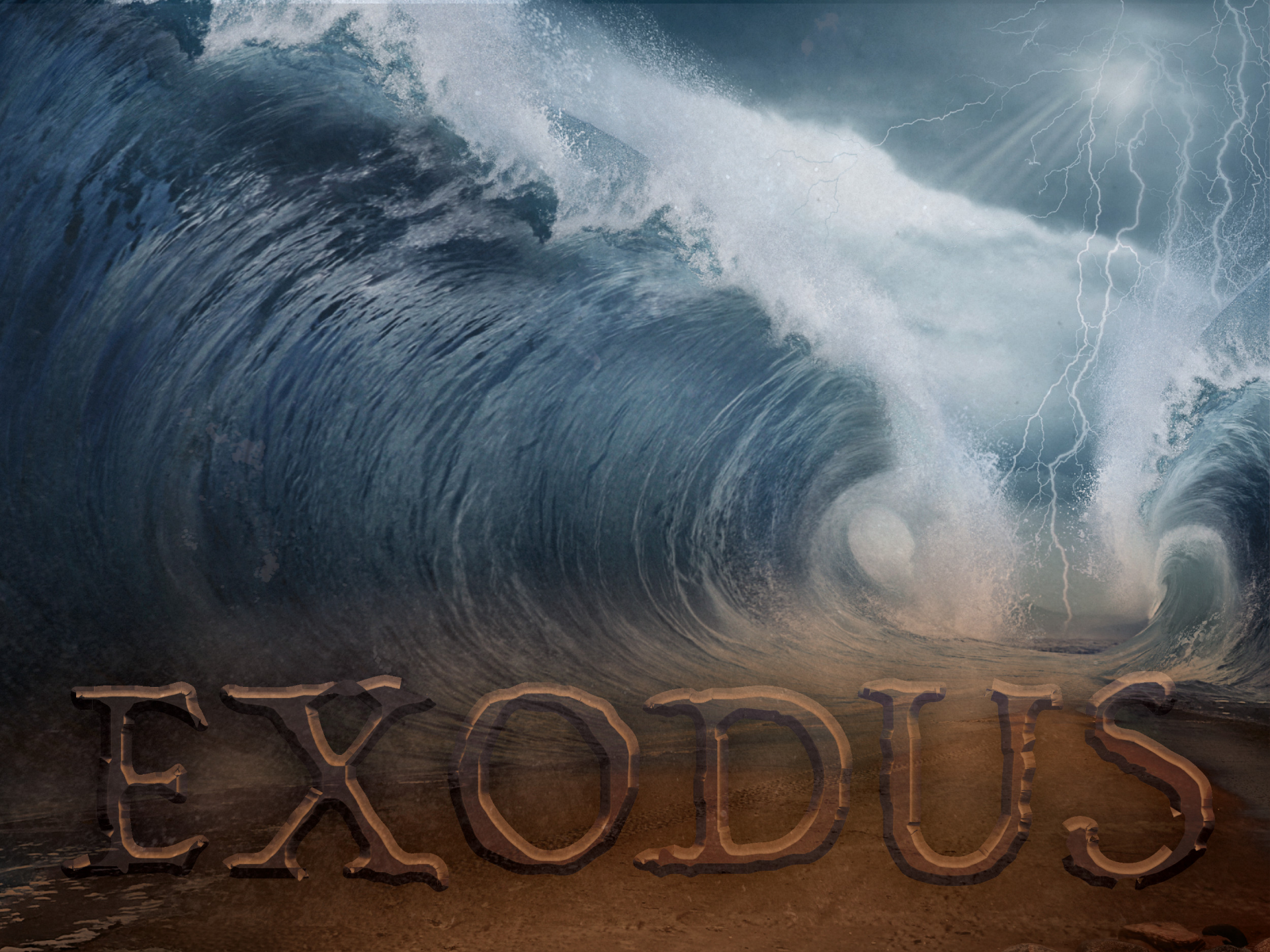
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TAKING INVENTORY

- When challenges come what is our response to God?
- Let us be as Mary, saying yes we trust you. I am your servant.
- Let us glory in our weaknesses, knowing that then God will get ALL the glory.
- Let's try to see it as an opportunity to become more like Christ.

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