

EXODUS

Today's Scripture Reading

Exodus 4:18 - 31

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¹⁸ Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, “Please let me go back to my brothers in Egypt to see whether they are still alive.” And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.” ¹⁹ And the Lord said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead.” ²⁰ So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand. ²¹ And the Lord said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart,

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so that he will not let the people go. ²² Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord, Israel is my firstborn son, ²³ and I say to you, “Let my son go that he may serve me.” If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.’” ²⁴ At a lodging place on the way the Lord met him and sought to put him to death. ²⁵ Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it and said, “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!” ²⁶ So he let him alone. It was then that she said, “A bridegroom of blood,” because of the circumcision. ²⁷ The Lord said to Aaron,

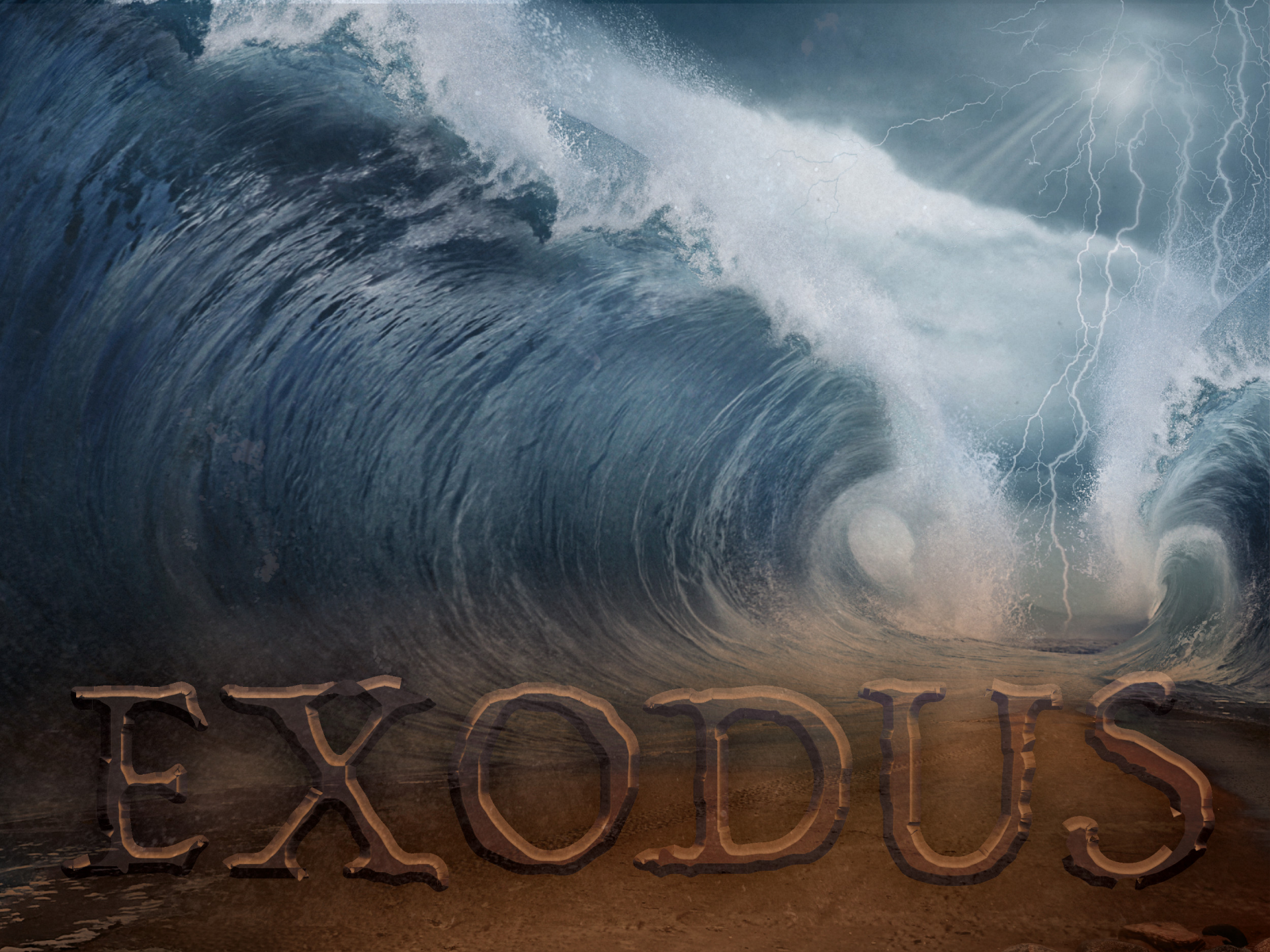
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“Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. ²⁸ And Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. ²⁹ Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. ³⁰ Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. ³¹ And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

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Is Moses lying?

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²¹ And the Lord said to Moses, “**When you go back to Egypt,** see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.
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THE STRUGGLE: GOD HARDENING A HEART

- God hardens the heart of the wicked not in violation of his free will but in conjunction.
- Nonresponse to God results in punishment = giving us what we want.
- So all men are resistant to God unless He acts

ARE WE REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT JUSTICE?

- God “softening” a heart or going against their resistance and showing mercy or grace.

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WHY DOES GOD CAUSE PHAROAH TO BE MORE STUBBORN?

- **HE** wants the Egyptians to know the **LORD** is truly God (Exodus 7:3-5)
- **HE** wants the Israelites to know the **LORD** is truly God (Exodus 10:1-2)
- **HE** want the world to know the **LORD** is truly God (Exodus 9.13-17)

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Disobedience/Ignorance?

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Genesis 17: ⁹ And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰ This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring,

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Genesis 17: ¹³ both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

Conclusion: circumcision is important to establishing the covenant people

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- *Why does God want to kill Moses right after commissioning him?*
 - It seems more likely that God is going to kill Moses' firstborn Gershom
- *Why does Zipporah circumcise her son?*
 - Because Moses didn't lead well
- *Why hasn't Moses already circumcised his son?*
 - Reveals where Moses' was in relation with God
- *What is a bridegroom of blood?*
 - Means a relative of blood or blood relative

Who is the hero?

GOD

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APPLICATION

MOSES, EGYPT AND THE GOSPEL

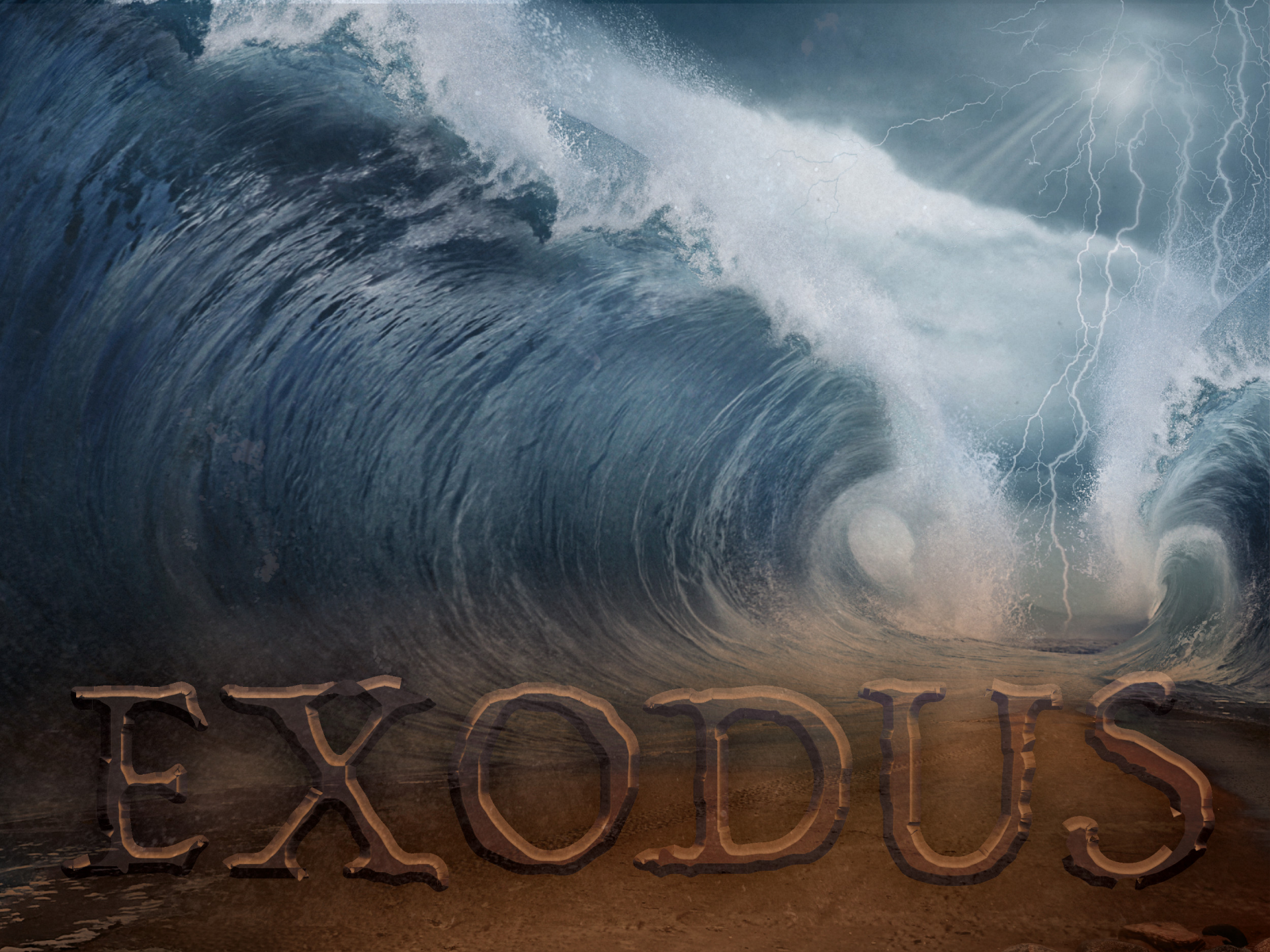
- A heart of stone broken on the alter of mercy
- A broken savior vs. a complete Savior broken for us
- Covenant family and the shedding of blood

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

- Like Moses
- Like Aaron
- Like Pharaoh
- Like the elders and people

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