

EXODUS

Today's Scripture Reading

Exodus 8:20 - 9:12

EXODUS

²⁰ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Let my people go, that they may serve me. ²¹ Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. ²² But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there,

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth. ²³ Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.””” ²⁴ And the Lord did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants' houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies. ²⁵ Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God within the land.” ²⁶ But Moses said, “It would not be right to do so, for the offerings we shall sacrifice to the Lord our God are an abomination to the Egyptians.

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

If we sacrifice offerings abominable to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not stone us? ²⁷ We must go three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God as he tells us.” ²⁸ So Pharaoh said, “I will let you go to sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only you must not go very far away. Plead for me.” ²⁹ Then Moses said, “Behold, I am going out from you and I will plead with the Lord that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people, tomorrow. Only let not Pharaoh cheat again by not letting the people go to sacrifice to the Lord.”

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

³⁰ So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to the Lord. ³¹ And the Lord did as Moses asked, and removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people; not one remained. ³² But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and did not let the people go.

⁹ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, “Let my people go, that they may serve me. ² For if you refuse to let them go and still hold them,

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

³ behold, the hand of the Lord will fall with a very severe plague upon your livestock that are in the field, the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herds, and the flocks. ⁴ But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing of all that belongs to the people of Israel shall die.””” ⁵ And the Lord set a time, saying, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.” ⁶ And the next day the Lord did this thing. All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one of the livestock of the people of Israel died.

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

⁷ And Pharaoh sent, and behold, not one of the livestock of Israel was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Take handfuls of soot from the kiln, and let Moses throw them in the air in the sight of Pharaoh. ⁹ It shall become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and become boils breaking out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt.” ¹⁰ So they took soot from the kiln and stood before Pharaoh. And Moses threw it in the air, and it became boils breaking out in sores on man and beast.

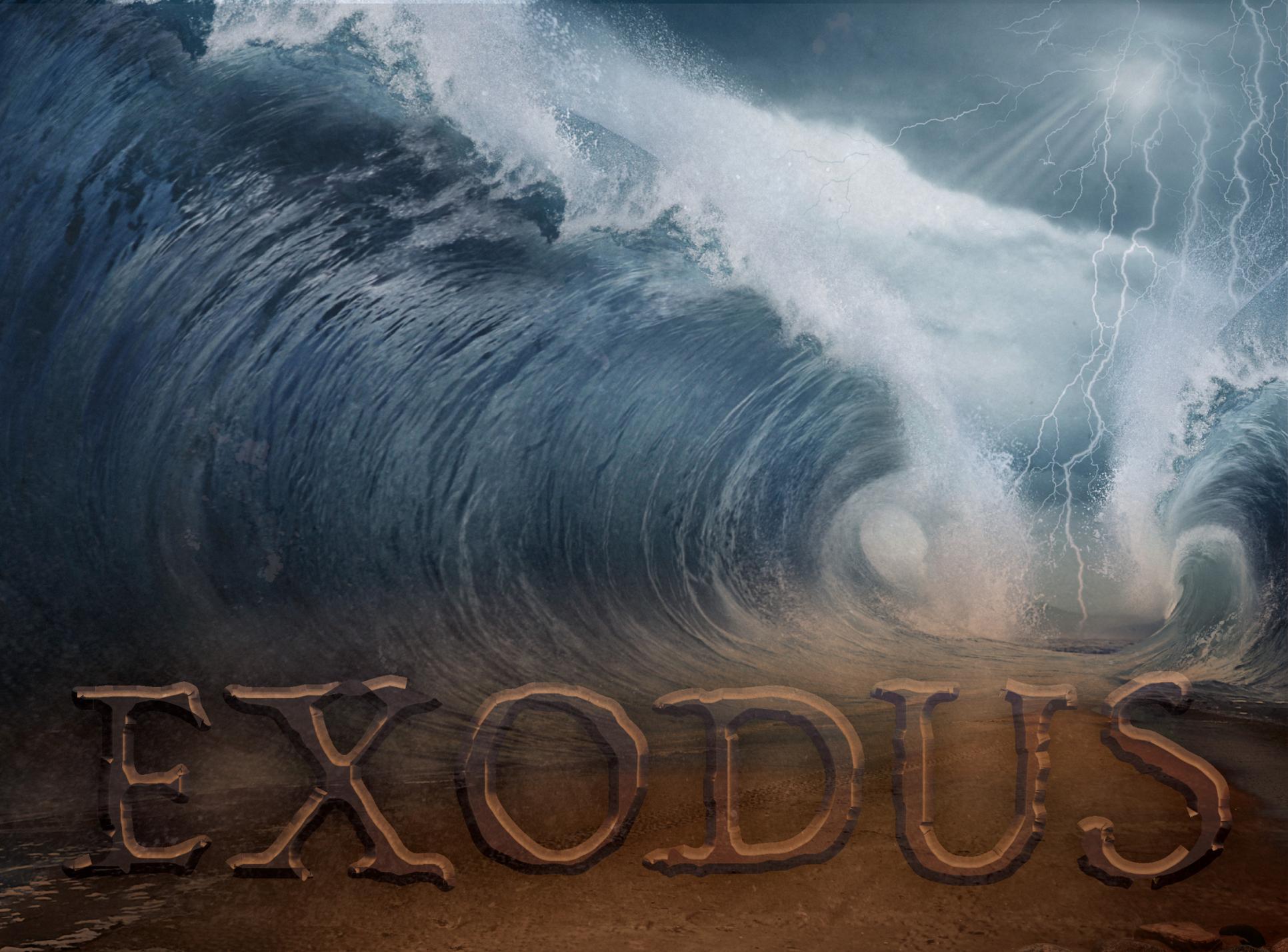
8:20-9:12

EXODUS

¹¹ And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils came upon the magicians and upon all the Egyptians. ¹² But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had spoken to Moses.

8:20-9:12

EXODUS



EXODUS

Overall narrative of:
**GOD'S DELIVERANCE
OF HIS PEOPLE**

*He shows himself to both people groups, one in judgment,
one in redemption*

Focused perspective:
**GOD'S MERCY AND
PHARAOH'S HARD HEART**

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

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8:20-9:12

EXODUS

²² But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth. ²³ Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.”””

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

- Many of the plagues, if not all were in direct confrontation to an Egyptian god.
- God for the first time, declares a distinction, naming the Israelites as His people.
- “That you may know”: There is a difference between knowing and knowing.

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

- There are degrees of knowing. The kind that is observation alone, being a casual awareness that has virtually no lifestyle impact. And knowing in a communion sense, that of intimacy, of affectedness.

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

JAMES 1:22-25: But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, **deceiving yourselves.** ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who **acts,** he will be blessed in his doing.

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

- The importance that we place on the information received oftentimes determines the amount that the information will affect our actions.

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

MARK 8:17-19: And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸ Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? ¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand?”

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

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8:20-9:12

EXODUS

²⁶ But Moses said, “It would not be right to do so, for the offerings we shall sacrifice to the Lord our God are an abomination to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice offerings abominable to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not stone us?”

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

²⁷ We must go three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God as **he tells us.**" ²⁸ So Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only you must not go very far away. **Plead for me.**"

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

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8:20-9:12

EXODUS

⁹ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, “Let my people go, that they may serve me. ² For if you refuse to let them go and still hold them, ³ behold, the hand of the Lord will fall with a very severe plague upon your livestock that are in the field, the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herds, and the flocks. ⁴ But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing of all that belongs to the people of Israel shall die.’””

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

⁵ And the Lord set a time, saying, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.” ⁶ And the next day the Lord did this thing. All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one of the livestock of the people of Israel died. ⁷ And Pharaoh sent, and behold, not one of the livestock of Israel was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

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8:20-9:12

EXODUS

- Man is responsible even in the midst of God's power and sovereignty.
- We create habits both good and bad. The bad, unless interrupted by the Holy Spirit and us renewing our minds with God's Word, will continue to translate into poor and wrong choices making it that much more difficult to turn from.
- The cynic chooses the poison of bitterness, the proud chooses selfishly and the one whom God redeems must purposely, continually, intentionally choose obedience, especially in the midst of painful pressures that would direct us to a non-narrow path.

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

EXODUS 7:22-23: But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. ²³ **Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not take even this to heart.**

What does “he did not take even this to heart” mean?

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

HEBREWS 3:12-15, 18: Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ **But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.** ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵ As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, **do not harden your hearts** as in the rebellion.”

¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, **but to those who were disobedient?**

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

- Sin deceives, sin hardens, and the more we choose it, the more it affects our actions and potentially, our future actions (habits formed)

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

DEUTERONOMY 30:11-17: “For this commandment that I command you today **is not too hard for you**, neither is it far off...¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ **If** you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, **by** loving the Lord your God, **by** walking in his ways, and **by** keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, **then** you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ **But** if your heart turns away, **and you will not hear, but are drawn away** to worship other gods and serve them,

8:20-9:12

EXODUS

"The drunkard, the murderer himself, is a man who at first did evil as far as he dared, and afterwards dared to do evil which he would once have shuddered at."

-Chadwick

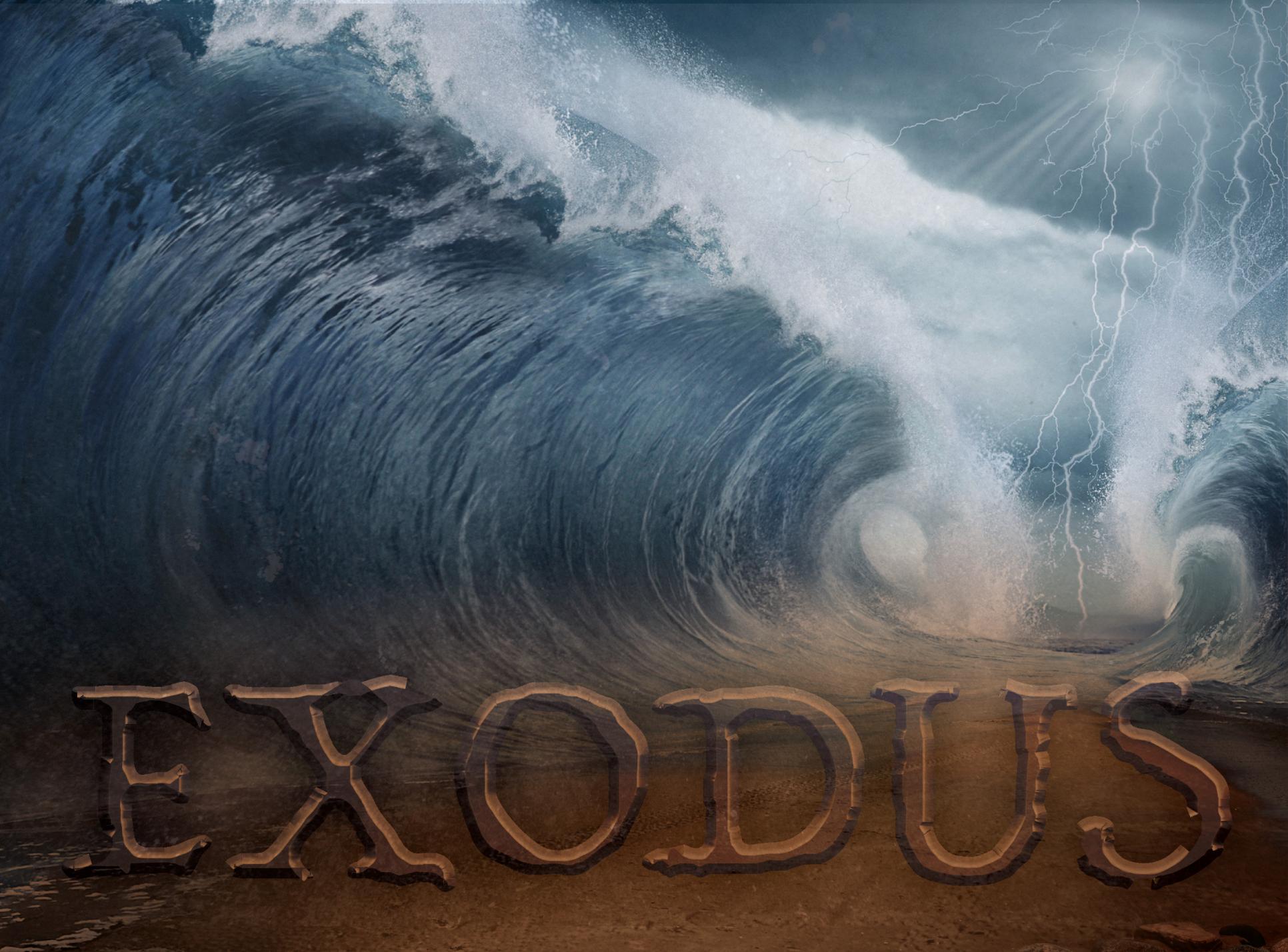
8:20-9:12

EXODUS

- Do you know of a hardness of heart or sin that you harbor to keep alive by choosing it over Jesus's will? If so will you labor to divorce yourself from it?
- Do you seek the counsel of truth talkers who will help you to address sin in your life? If not, why not?
- Do you renew your mind daily with Gods word and endeavor to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ? Rom 12-2 , 2 Cor 10-5. If not, may I exhort you to consider how to?

8:20-9:12

EXODUS



EXODUS