On The *Move*

Moving **Within The** *Story*
(Conjunctions & Genealogies)

EXODUS 1:1-7 (NLT)

(And) These are the names of the sons of Israel (that is, Jacob) who moved to Egypt with their father, each with his family: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. In all, Jacob had seventy descendants in Egypt, including Joseph, who was already there.

In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation. But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land.

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“It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.”

GEORGE ORWELL

‘1984’ (1949)

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On The Move

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...”

CHARLES DICKENS

‘A Tale of Two Cities’ (1859)

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“In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit.”

J.R.R. TOLKIEN

‘The Hobbit’ (1937)

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“All children, except one, grow up.”

J.M. BARRIE

‘Peter Pan’ (1904)

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“Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much.”

J.K. ROWLING

‘Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone’ (1997)

“Hairy Maclary from Donaldson’s Dairy trotted off down the street.”

LYNLEY DODD

‘Hairy Maclary from Donaldson’s Dairy by Lynley Dodd’ (1983)

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“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

THE BIBLE

Genesis 1:1 NIV

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EXODUS 1:1a (NLT)

“(And) these were the names of the sons of Israel….”

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- Like Israel, He was called out of Egypt (Matthew 2:15)
- Herod, like Pharaoh, tried to kill the firstborn—but was thwarted (Matthew 2:16-18)
- Israel wandered 40 years; Jesus was tested 40 days (Matthew 4).
- Jesus is the true Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7), the manna from heaven (John 6), the water-giving rock (1 Corinthians 10:4), and the living Tabernacle (John 1:14)
- On the Mount of Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about "**His exodus**"—the one He would accomplish in Jerusalem (Luke 9:31)

We are constantly being shaped by stories…

“I can only answer the question, ‘who I am and what am I to do?’ If I can answer the prior question, ‘Of what story do I find myself a part?”

ALASDAIR MACINTYRE

‘Above Virtue’ (1984)

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“The Bible is universal, cosmic history. It interprets the entire story of all things from Creation to Consummation and the story of the human race within creation and within the human race the story of the people called by God to be the bearers of the meaning of the whole and at the very centre – the story of the One in whom God’s purpose was decisively revealed by being decisively effected – Jesus Christ.”

LESSLIE NEWBIGIN

‘The Gospel in a Pluralist Society’ (1989)

Who am I and where did I come from?

What's wrong with the world?

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What is the solution?

GENESIS 12:1-3 (NIV)

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

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Where are we heading?

What is my role in the story?

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“When God set about his great project of world redemption in the wake of Genesis 12, he chose to do so not by whisking individuals off up to heaven, but by calling into existence a community of blessing. Starting with one man and his barren wife, then miraculously transforming them into a large family within several generations, then into a nation called Israel, and then, through Christ, into a multinational community of believers from every nation – all through the story God has been moulding a people for himself. *But also a people for others.*”

CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT

‘The Mission of God’s People: A Biblical Theology of the Church’s Mission’ (2010)

ACTS 1:8 (NIV)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

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EXODUS 1:1-5 (NLT)

(And) These are the names of the sons of Israel (that is, Jacob) who moved to Egypt with their father, each with his family: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. In all, Jacob had seventy descendants in Egypt, including Joseph, who was already there.

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EPHESIANS 1:7-10 (MSG)

Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free! He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

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“Whoever we are, wherever we go…”

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- We're called to care and steward God's creation—that's part of what it means to be truly human.
- We've been chosen, like Abraham's family, to be a people through whom God's blessing can reach every nation.
- We're called to walk in God's ways—choosing justice and righteousness, even when the world around us is corrupt.
- We live out our redemption by showing compassion and kindness to others, just as God has shown to us.

- We represent God to the world and help draw others closer to Him through how we live and the way we love.
- Our lives should reflect God's character in a way that inspires others to explore faith for themselves.
- We're here to know the living God, to be completely devoted to Jesus—in both our worship and the way we live.

(Adapted from Christopher Wright, The Mission of God's People, 2010, p. 164)

EXODUS 1:6-7 (NLT)

In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation. But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land.

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- Is the story of God in me?
- Does it shape who I am as a person?
- When I move about my world, am I intentionally aware of the story I am living in and the story I am living out?

- What does it mean for our story to shape us as we move collectively?
- As we work this out together, as we move together, how do we give grace to each other, to those who lead us and to our new neighbours?
- What does it mean for us to be a blessing to our new neighbourhood?

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On The Move