

1. The Exodus Story (It is not only one of the most famous biblical stories, but one of the most famous stories in general—popularized by movies, *The Ten Commandments* & *The Prince of Egypt*. It certainly heavily influences many biblical narratives as it is interwoven all throughout both the OT & NT (just think about the significance of the **Passover** in biblical history)—giving a dynamic synergy to this epic of failure and faith; of vice and victory. Here are just some examples)
 - a. Christ's escape to Egypt—Matthew 2:13-15; Hosea 11:1 (fleeing oppression to find life)
 - b. Paul's warning from the Exodus—1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 - c. Avoid hard hearts—Hebrews 3:7-19 (lots of ways to use the Exodus to teach—maybe the best way is to understand)
2. The Exodus is My Story (It is not that difficult to read ourselves into it—being in bondage to sin, only to be rescued by the grace of God. The Exodus story connects. Think about how the pilgrims saw the Exodus story as their own; or American slaves; or addicts overcoming their addiction; or anyone looking to escape a place of oppression, sorrow, grief, and pain to find hope, freedom and a fresh start. As someone noted: ***We may experience it differently—as pilgrims escaping religious intolerance; as slaves escaping bondage; the oppressed escaping poverty; victims escaping persecution; refugees escaping the ravages of war; We all have in our past a version of the same story. If it is not our personal story, it is our ancestor's story.***)
3. (Think again about these incredible words spoken by Moses) “Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today.” –Exodus 14:13 (who has not needed to hear these words? They are just as read today within our context as they were in theirs generations ago. It is the Lord's desire for us to be delivered from whatever oppresses us—sin, addiction, depression, failure, poverty, hopelessness—to find rescue in him.)
4. It is About the Promised Rest—Hebrews 4:1-11 (Just as Israel eventually found the promised land—we have a promised rest ahead of us—a Sabbath day rest or our own at the end of our Exodus. This is just another reason why the story still connects. But we must be careful—remember what happened to that unbelieving generation? It could happen to us. We must)
 - a. Be careful lest we fall short
 - b. Combine the message with faith
5. “Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.”—Hebrews 4:11