Over the next 4 weeks we are going to be working our way through the book of Exodus.

Now depending on how familiar you are with the Old Testament, you may or may not remember that the book of Exodus is the story of how God rescued his people from the slavery that they faced when they lived in Egypt.

The title of the book Exodus means ‘way out’. And is an important book for Gods people to read because in the book we get to see how God kept a very important promise that he had made to Abraham 400 years before the Israelites would finally leave their slave masters in Egypt.

The promise that God made to Abraham was that one day, he would make Abrahams family into a great nation, give them lots of land and that all the nations on earth would be blessed through Abrahams family.

To kick the series off, I thought it might be helpful to remind us all of the basic storyline of the first half of the book, so that we get a good idea of where we are in Israel’s history and also to help us know where today’s passage fits.

Today we will be looking at a big problem that the nation of Israel had, my special interactive sort of low tech thingamajig will hopefully help us keep track of where we are going throughout the sermon.

As I have already mentioned, our passage this morning from the very start of the book of Exodus that we will be looking at over the next four weeks, is a story about a problem that Israel eventually finds themselves faced with.

The very start of the passage though, doesn’t start with a problem, instead we get a short list of names of people who followed Joseph into Egypt to escape what we know was a great famine in their home land. The total number of all of these people that arrived in Egypt we are told is 70 people.

Now 70 people doesn’t quite suggest a great nation of people, which was what God had promised to make the Israelite people into, but as we move forward a few more verses in the passage we see that through Gods help and through the favour that we know that Joseph received from the Pharaoh that he served under, that eventually the people of Israel prospered greatly and increased in size.

So much so that in verse 8 they are described as being such a significant number of people that the land was filled with them.

Which was a problem for the new King, because as we can read, he neither knew of, or remembered Joseph.

All he could see was a foreign people who lived in his land, a people that had become so numerous and prosperous that they were now a threat to his people’s national security.

And so this new King, we read in verse 9, takes action.

Action that we would call, ethnic cleansing or genocide, Pharaohs plan was to do his best to wipe the Israelites off the face of the earth.

We don’t have to look too hard in our own history to find similar situations to what the Israelites are faced with do we?

Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, Ethnic Weighers’ in China, Kurds on the boarder of Turkey, Yazidis and Christians in Iraq and Syria, Cambodia, Rwanda, Jews in Germany the list goes on and on.

The tiny snapshot from Israel’s history that we read in Exodus this morning, really doesn’t do justice to how bad things must have been for the Israelite people facing persecution by the Egyptian people.

I wonder though, as we have been looking through our Exodus passage this morning if you have noticed that something apart from the persecution is happening.

Did you notice that even though Gods people seem to be in an impossible position and are facing the problem of complete annihilation as a race of people, God continues to bless and protect them.

***Verse 12 says, ‘But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread.’***

And so, frustrated by their growth, Pharaoh tightens the screws, he goes to immoral lengths to stop the growth of the Israelites, telling the midwives to kill all the Israelite newborn boys as they deliver them.

And once again the passage tells us in verse 20

***‘So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous.’***

Well there were two things that stood out to me as I was reading through these passages, Firstly it seems like God just keeps on winning and no murderous or immoral plan by Pharaoh and the Egyptian people will overcome Israel.

At the end of the day, God wins, he overcomes seriously huge problems that would have seemed impossible to overcome by the people of Israel.

The second thing that stood out as I was reading through this passage is that, this story of God overcoming and winning even when things look really bad, even impossible, isn’t the only story I had read in the bible that had a similar kind of outcome, where God wins, where his plan prevails.

Just over a week ago we celebrated the birth of Jesus, The bible says that Jesus is the son of God who was sent into the world, that he came as the promised Messiah or the great King who saves his people

We know by reading the bible that Jesus was sent by his Father to live with and then die for people just like you and me.

God had a plan for his son, a plan that meant that we would benefit by being able to have a relationship with God.

Now when you think about it, Gods plan seems to be a good one, especially for us, because God knows that we can’t possibly save ourselves from the judgement that we all deserve for rejecting him as the King of our lives.

And because God loves us so much he devised a plan that made his own son the human sacrifice that was needed for us to once again be able to be saved and have a relationship with the living God.

A plan that finally meant that Jesus could be the perfect and ultimate fulfilment of that promise that had been made to Abraham all those years ago.

A good plan maybe, but to all who saw Jesus suffer through Gods plan it looked like a very poorly executed one at best.

You see, for those who witnessed Jesus betrayal into the hands of his enemies by one of his own disciples, this plan of God’s looked awful.

To the disciples and followers, who witnessed Jesus trial and then his unfair hearing before Pilate, his beatings, the mocking, the verbal and physical persecution he faced, the crown of thorns that was forced deep into his skull and finally his crucifixion, all thought that this was an impossible plan.

To them, seeing their King, their Hope nailed to a cross, killed and then wrapped in burial clothes to be placed in a tomb, dead as dead could be, was simply too much of a problem for them to overcome, and so they fled in fear that they might suffer the same fate.

But as we have already seen with Israel and how God rescued his people from their big, impossible problem. We also see that God is not finished with Jesus and the seemingly impossible problem of death that hds taken hold of his body.

What God did next was perfectly in-line with his plan and the theme we see over and over again in the bible, the theme that God rescues and is victorious.

He rescued his son by raising him from the dead 3 days after his crucifixion.

And Jesus, who had been dead for 3 days presents himself not only to his disciples but to many hundreds of other witnesses who were there.

And so once again we see that at the end of the day, God wins, his plan is fulfilled, even physical death could not stop him.

Now I asked at the start of today’s sermon, if you had a problem that you thought was impossible to fix. We all have problems, health, relationships, finances, mental health. All of us have some kind of problem that affects our daily lives, problems that sometimes seem impossible to fix.

But the bible tells us that there is another big problem that we have.

A problem that really is impossible for us to fix on our own.

It’s the problem we all have with the God. A problem that means we can’t enter his presence or have a relationship with him because ultimately we are stained with sin.

Sin is what keeps us from having a relationship with him because God is Holy, perfect, righteous and he can’t have anything in his presence that is not Holy.

We sometimes think that maybe, we can fix the problem with God, that if we are good enough or do good things then maybe God will accept us into Heaven, but that’s not what Jesus says.

Jesus says that there is no possible way that we can make ourselves right before God. He says that on our own we are destined to die and afterwards face judgement.

But as we have seen this morning, God has a plan to solve even this, most impossible of problems.

Through trusting in his son we have been promised by God that we are able to have new life with him.

And all we have to do is come to God, asking him to forgive us for the way we have rejected him and then just ask him for his help to rule your lives daily.

Nothing else, just that.

You see, At the end of the day, God will be the winner, he will be the righteous judge that punish those who reject him and saves those who believe and trust in him.