

## EXODUS

Author: Moses

Date: 1450-1400 B.C.

Exodus means “the way out” or “exit”. The book of Exodus is one of the most fascinating and important books of the Old Testament. It is a dramatic account of Israel’s exodus from Egypt under the human leadership of Moses and the divine leadership of God. In this exodus, Israel made a geographical pilgrimage from Egypt to Sinai, a social pilgrimage from slavery to freedom, and a spiritual pilgrimage from being the sons of Israel (Jacob) to the covenant people of God.

There are two basic themes of Exodus and both tie together. The first theme is redemption, portrayed by the Passover, and the second theme is deliverance portrayed by the exodus from Egypt. This redemption and deliverance was accomplished through the shedding of blood and the power of God. Exodus also teaches that obedience to God is essential for a redeemed and set apart people.

The miraculous story told in Exodus is the historical record of God’s redemptive activity for the Israelites. It is here God is first described as One who redeems His people (Ex. 6:6; 15:13) and as the One who saves His people (Ex. 14:30). The concept of holiness is first introduced in the book of Exodus and is mentioned almost 50 times. The Old Testament poets and songwriters made this book a major part of their worship remembrances. The Old Testament prophets continually recalled God’s deliverance and made it the basis of much of their preaching.

In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and many other places, Jesus shows His awareness and endorsement of the book of Exodus. His last act of worship before His crucifixion was observing the Passover meal with His disciples. Through this study of Exodus we will see Jesus foreshadowed as our Passover Lamb, Redeemer, Deliverer and Tabernacle.

We will learn much about Moses as he is the central human figure of this book. He was born a slave and reared as a favored son in one of the most luxurious households of the ancient world. Given the opportunity to take his place of authority within the government, he chose to cast his lot with the slaves. Although trained in a pagan environment, he propagated a faith that changed the world. A murderer in his early manhood, he later set forth the most life respecting law codes the world has ever known, The Ten Commandments.

This book tells us the early history of Israel, a family that became a nation. Their drift into slavery and their deliverance from it have been preserved in detail. Both their faithful obedience and their rebellion are recorded with care. We will follow their pilgrimage from being a loosely connected group of slaves to becoming the nation of God at Mount Sinai. Exodus reveals the height of their submission to the covenant and the depth of their rebellion with the golden calf.

Not only will we learn much about Moses, the Israelites, the Ten Commandments, the tabernacle, priesthood, and worship, but we will learn more about God Himself. First and foremost, Exodus is about God. The LORD is a God who hears, a God who remembers and a God who takes action. We will see that God is involved in history, controls nature, and uses both to accomplish His purposes. He is a God who agonizes with His people and acts to deliver them. He is a God of grace and mercy, but also a God of righteous demand. He expects an obedient response from His people. And finally, we see a God who loves and saves.

## Exodus Outline

- I. The Need for Redemption from Egypt (Ch.1)
- II. The Birth, Rescue, and Training of the Deliverer, Moses (Ch.2)
- III. The Burning Bush and the Call of Moses (Chs. 3, 4)
- IV. Moses' Confrontations with Pharaoh (Chs. 5:1 – 7:13)
- V. The Ten Plagues (Chs. 7:14 – 12:30)
  - A. First Plague—The Nile Turned to Blood (Chs. 7:14-25)
  - B. Second Plague—Frogs (Chs. 8:1-15)
  - C. Third Plague—Lice (Chs. 8:16-19)
  - D. Fourth Plague—Flies (Chs. 8:20-32)
  - E. Fifth Plague—Pestilence on Livestock (Ch. 9:1-7)
  - F. Sixth Plague—Boils (Chs. 9:8-12)
  - G. Seventh Plague—Hail and Fire (Chs. 9:13-35)
  - H. Eighth Plague—Locusts (Chs. 10:1-20)
  - I. Ninth Plague—Three Days of Darkness (Chs. 10:21-29)
  - J. Tenth Plague—The Death of the Firstborn; Passover (Chs. 11:1—12:30)
- VI. The Exodus from Egypt (Chs. 12:31—15:21)
  - A. Flight toward the Sea (Chs. 12:31—13:22)
  - B. Crossing the Red Sea (Ch. 14)
  - C. The Song of Moses (Chs. 15:1-21)
- VII. The Journey to Sinai (Chs. 15:22 —18:27)
  - A. Dissatisfaction by the People (Chs. 15:22-17:7)
  - B. Defeat at Amalek (Ch. 17:8-16)
  - C. Division of Responsibility (Chs. 18:1-27)
- VIII. The Giving of the Law (Chs. 19—24)
  - A. Preparation for Revelation (Ch. 19)
  - B. The Ten Commandments (Ch. 20)
  - C. Miscellaneous Laws (Chs. 21-2)
- IX. The Tabernacle and the Priesthood (Chs. 25-40)
  - A. Instructions for Building the Tabernacle (Chs. 25-27)
  - B. The Priesthood (Chs. 28-29)
  - C. Further Instructions Concerning the Tabernacle (Chs. 30-31)
  - D. Outbreak of Idolatry—The Golden Calf (Chs.32-33)
  - E. The Covenant Renewed (Chs. 34:1—35:3)
  - F. Preparation of the Tabernacle Furnishings (Chs. 35:4—38:31)
  - G. Preparation of the Priests' Garments (Ch. 39)
  - H. Tabernacle Erected and Indwelt by the LORD (Ch. 40)

**Application:** The Israelites were once Egyptian slaves making bricks without straw. At the conclusion of this book, they are following the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire, carrying the tabernacle they had built for God. Exodus begins in gloom and ends in glory. This parallels our progress through the Christian life. We begin as slaves to sin, are redeemed by God, and end our pilgrimage living with God forever. Lessons the Israelites learned along the way are lessons we also need to learn.

