

Men's Sunday Night
A Study in the Book of Exodus
Journey to Freedom
Introduction

Setting the Stage

In the Greek language, *exodus* means “the way out.” This book begins by looking back some 400 years to Genesis, to the time when Jacob relocated his family to Egypt when his son Joseph ruled as second in command. This relocation was part of a master plan that God had revealed to Abraham in Genesis 15:12-21.

During the centuries that Israel was growing from a family into a nation, Egypt was in transition from the Middle Kingdom into a New Kingdom. A group of foreigners called the Hyksos were ruling, and helped unite the country. At this time, Egypt would attain a high-mark of its ancient history. The nation's new Pharaohs embarked on ambitious building programs and they recruited the minority Israelites as workers. Before long, the Hebrews had become slaves of the Egyptian taskmasters, and they cried out to God for deliverance. Exodus tells us that God responded to their pleas. First, he raised up a leader, Moses, to whom He revealed Himself by His name, I AM WHO I AM. Then He showed His power to the Egyptians through a series of ten plagues which must have devastated the economy of Egypt.

Finally, Pharaoh gave permission for the Israelites to leave, but then changed his mind and pursued them as far as the Red Sea. In a miraculous display of power, God parted the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross, but released the waters to drown the Egyptian charioteers and secure His peoples freedom.

Now God was ready to implement a new covenant, an agreement that would define Israel as a nation and set in place the expectations that would govern their life as God's people descending upon Mount Sinai. The Lord would now give Moses the Ten Commandments and the rest of the Law, as well as instructions for a form and place of worship.

In all these situations, God was demonstrating His right to make the claim on which the first commandment is based: “*I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other God's before Me.*” (Exodus 20:2-3)

Author

There is no reason to doubt that Moses wrote this book. The unity of the book suggests that there was one author, and the eyewitness accounts indicate that the author was present at those events. Exodus covers a time span of a little more than 80 years, beginning with the birth of Moses and ending with the early portion of the Israelites journey to the Promise Land, sometime around 1400 B.C. Christ affirmed the Mosaic authorship of the book in John 5:46–47; 7:19.

Purpose

What Genesis is as the book of beginnings; Exodus is as the book of redemption. It records the deliverance of Israel from Egypt and presents the basic historical facts about the origins of the Hebrew nation and its religious ceremonies. These accounts are also picturing of Christ and the redemption He purchased at the cross. There are many types and symbols of Christ and the believer in Exodus, especially in the tabernacle furnishings and ceremonies. Exodus also records the giving of the Law. It would be impossible to understand much New Testament doctrine apart from an understanding of the events and symbols in Exodus.

Why Study This Book

- To understand where we came from as the people of God. Especially the background surrounding our redemption and freedom from the bondage of sin. Exodus means “the way out” and tells the story of redemption by blood and by power.
- To learn to trust God in difficult times since He acts in response to our prayers and out of His compassion and love. He works according to His timing, in His own way, and for His glory.
- To show the essential connection between deliverance and worship. We have been called and saved with a purpose.

- To see the importance of God's name and reputation. He wants Pharaoh and the surrounding nations to know that He is the sovereign Lord.
- To learn lessons about Christ from the many Messianic types and symbols in this book.

What You Will Find In Exodus

<u>Event</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
The Egyptians oppress the Israelites as slaves	Exodus 1
Moses mother hides him in the bushes	Exodus 2:1-10
Moses encounters the burning bush	Exodus 3:1-6
Moses and Aaron call down ten plagues on Egypt	Exodus 7-12
The first Passover is observed	Exodus 12
God enables Moses to part the Red Sea	Exodus 14-15
God sends manna from heaven	Exodus 16
God gives the Ten Commandments	Exodus 19-20
Aaron and the people make and worship a golden calf	Exodus 32
Israel builds the Tabernacle	Exodus 35-40