

From the Garden to Glory

Exodus

Author: Moses (commonly accepted)

Timeline: c. 1662 - 1447 B.C.

Location: Egypt
Wilderness
Mount Sinai

Category: Historical
Pentateuch

Theme: Redemption, Deliverance

Overview:

Chapters fifteen through forty cover a one year period in the book of Exodus.

The book of Exodus begins in darkness and gloom as it picks up the narrative of the Israelites after the death of Joseph. The Israelites have multiplied under adverse conditions to a multitude of over two million people. When they finally turn to God for deliverance from their bondage, God quickly responds by redeeming them "with an outstretched arm and with great judgments" (Exodus 6:6).

Exodus gives the account of Moses' call, the plagues, the Passover, the crossing of the Red Sea, the Law, and worship.

Exodus, which in Greek means "way out", is the account of God's redemption and deliverance of His people. Though the book begins in pain and sorrow, it ends with liberation and glory!

Introduction:

Egypt is often used as a picture of the world. Before you begin your study of the book of Exodus, consider the following questions and write your responses:

- 1.** List at least three positive and three negative aspects of leaving one place and going to another.
- 2.** In leaving the bondage of Egypt, the nation of Israel also had to leave behind some security and comforts. What security and comforts have you had to leave behind to follow the Lord's plan for your life?
- 3.** Look up the word *redeem* in a dictionary and write the definition. How is God your Redeemer? From what has He redeemed you?
- 4.** Exodus records Israel's birth as a nation. Jacob's family of seventy rapidly grew to two or three million amidst the bondage in Egypt. What growth have you seen in your own life during times of trial?
- 5.** How does knowing God as your Redeemer and Deliverer cause you to worship and praise Him?

Bondage

Read Exodus 1

- 1.** Compare verses 5 and 7. How many Israelites came to Egypt? How many were there as the book of Exodus begins?
- 2.** Look at verses 8-11. What was the Egyptians' fear? What did they do in an attempt to "protect" themselves?

3. Read verse 14. Look up the word *bondage* in a dictionary and write the definition. How does bondage cause bitterness in a life?
4. Describe in your own words what happened in verses 15-17. Was there a time when you "feared God" and refused to obey an authority in your life? What were the consequences?

The Call of Moses

Read Exodus 3-4

1. Look at 3:1-2. Where was Moses when the Angel of the Lord appeared to him? When has the Lord spoken to you in the "midst of the ordinary"?
2. What did the Lord reveal to Moses in 3:7-8? How is God's divine concern and intervention an encouragement to you?
3. Read 3:13-14. What was Moses to tell the children of Israel? *A. W. Pink says, "I AM is the greatest Jehovestic name of God; it contains each tense of the verb **to be**: I was, I am, and I shall always continue to be."* What does this name indicate about God? What does it mean to you that your God is the great "I AM"?
4. Look at the following verses and list Moses' objections (excuses) and the motivation you believe is behind each objection (for example fear, pride, etc.).

3:11

3:13

4:1

4:10

Have you used any of these excuses when the Lord has called you to do something which you considered difficult?

The Plagues

Read Exodus 7:20-11:10

1. Look at 7:4-5, 9:16, 10:1-2. What was the purpose of the plagues?
2. List the ten plagues.
3. Look at the following verses: 7:13, 7:23, 8:15, 8:19, 8:32, 9:7, 9:12, 9:35, 10:20, and 10:27. What do you learn about the condition of Pharaoh's heart? What does this mean? How do you keep your heart soft toward the Lord and His instruction in your life?
4. Moses and Aaron obeyed the Lord's instructions immediately, completely and without complaining. What motivates you to obedience when the Lord or those in authority over you ask you to do things which may not make sense?

The Passover

Read Exodus 12

1. Study verses 3-10 and list specific instructions concerning the sacrificial lamb. Put an asterisk beside any of these that apply to Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for us.
2. Look at verse 12. What would the Lord do in the final plague?

3. What was necessary to escape the judgment (v. 13)? Look at the following verses and note what you learn about the blood of Christ: Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 9:22, 1 Peter 1:18-19
4. Look at verses 15, 19 and 20 and note the instructions concerning leaven. Leaven is often seen in Scripture as a symbol of impurity, evil, false teaching or sin. How do you remove the "leaven" from your home and life? Be specific.

The Law

Read Exodus 20

1. List the first four commandments. These concern our relationship with God.
2. Look at verses 4-5. Although we do not have many "carved images" in our society, what "idols" are worshipped in our world today? What does it mean that God is a jealous God?
3. List the last six commandments. These commandments concern our relationships with people.
4. Read verse 17. This commandment refers to an attitude rather than an action. How does the sin of covetousness show a lack of trust in God?

The Worship

Read Exodus 25:1-9; 28:1-14, 28:31-43

1. Read 25:1-2. What was to be the condition of the hearts of those who brought an offering to the Lord? How do you make this your motive for giving? Be specific.
2. Look at 25:8. What was the purpose of the tabernacle?
3. Describe the purpose of the holy garments as explained in 28:2. Why do you think "glory and beauty" are important to the Lord?
4. The word "holiness" in 28:36 is often translated "set apart". In what ways are you "set apart" to the Lord?

Moses' Commission Renewed

Read Exodus 33:12-34:17

1. Look at 33:13-16. What does God's presence mean in your life? What would you be willing to sacrifice in order to have His presence?
2. Pray 33:18 to the Lord, asking Him to show *you* His glory, and make a note of everything He shows you.
3. Read God's description of Himself in 34:6-7a. Which of these attributes of God is the most important to you? Why?
4. Consider 34:12-16. How could involvement with unbelievers be a snare in your own life?

Summary

As you conclude your study of the book of Exodus consider the following questions and write your answers:

- 1.** What is the most important lesson you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?
- 2.** What "new insights" did you learn about the Lord and yourself from your study?
- 3.** List one way in which your study caused you to do each of the following:

Praise and worship the Lord:

Confess an area of sin to the Lord:

Thank the Lord:

Ask for something from the Lord: