

From Slavery to Deliverance

3 – 9 OCT 2017

EX 1 –18

Week 3 --- 47 Weeks to Go

The end of Genesis marks the move of the Israelite people from Canaan (the promised land) to Egypt (the land of slavery). During the 400 years in Egypt Jacob's family grew from 70 to 2-3 million people. The book of Exodus is the story of how God rescued these people, through his mediator Moses, from the strongest empire of the day, Egypt. God reveals his attributes of justice, truthfulness, faithfulness, mercy and holiness. God's message of salvation and redemption is clearly seen, particularly in the Passover narrative. Ultimately the story of Exodus is the story of a relationship with a God who never stops working through his people.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: EX 1:1-2:15
Day 2: EX 2:16 - 6:30
Day 3: EX 7:1-10:29
Day 4: EX 11:1-12:36
Day 5: EX 12:37- 14:31
Day 6: EX 15:1-16:36
Day 7: EX 17:1-18:27

Outline

Preparation for Israel's deliverance from bondage
The Israelites as slaves (Day 1)
Moses' birth and call to leadership (Days 1-2)
God saves his people from Egypt (Days 2-7)
Pharaoh's resistance/the Lord's reassurance (Day 2)
Plagues on Egypt (Days 3-4)
Exodus from Egypt Begins (Days 5-7)

Key Characters

Moses
Pharaoh
Zipporah
Aaron
Jethro
Joshua

Key Locations

Egypt
Goshen
Beersheba
Midian
Horeb
Red Sea
Mt. Sinai
The desert

Key Terms

Deliverance
Hardening
Passover (Pesach)
Redemption
Exodus
Complaining
Manna
Yahweh

Key Verses

But God has sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance [GE 45:7]

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM" and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you." (EX 3:14)

I am the Lord and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgement [EX 6:6]

In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling (EX 15:13)

EPOCH 3
(1500 – 1200 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ex1: The Israelites prospered in Egypt, but a new king arose and forced them into hard labour. He commanded that their baby boys be killed.

Ex2: Pharaoh's daughter found a Hebrew baby by the river. She named him Moses. When he grew up, Moses killed an Egyptian and fled to Midian.

Ex3: Moses saw a burning bush. God told him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses asked God his name and God said, "I am who I am."

Ex4: The LORD gave Moses signs so that the people would listen. Moses was afraid, so the LORD sent his brother Aaron to speak for him.

Ex5: Moses and Aaron told Pharaoh to let the Israelites go into the desert to worship. Pharaoh refused and increased their workload instead.

Ex6: The LORD told Moses that he would lead the Israelites out of Egypt to the promised land. Aaron and Moses were from the tribe of Levi.

Ex7: Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh. Aaron's staff became a snake, then the LORD turned the Nile to blood, but Pharaoh wouldn't listen.

Ex8: The LORD sent a plague of frogs on Egypt. Pharaoh begged for relief but then hardened his heart. The LORD sent gnats and then flies.

Ex9: The LORD sent a plague on the livestock of Egypt, then boils and then hail. Pharaoh begged for relief but then his heart was hardened.

Ex10: The LORD sent a plague of locusts. Pharaoh begged for relief but then his heart was hardened. The LORD sent darkness for three days.

Ex11: The LORD said that he would send one more plague, and then Pharaoh would let the Israelites go: all the firstborn Egyptians would die.

Ex12: The LORD told the Israelites to take Passover. That night all the firstborn Egyptians were killed. Pharaoh told the Israelites to go.

Ex13: The LORD told the Israelites to consecrate their firstborns to him. He guided them as a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ex14: Pharaoh's army caught the Israelites by the sea. The LORD parted the waters and the Israelites crossed. The Egyptian army was drowned.

Ex15: The Israelites sang: "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea." They camped at Elim.

Ex16: The Israelites grumbled to Moses that they had no food, so each day the LORD provided quails and manna. They rested on the Sabbath.

Ex17: The LORD told Moses to strike a rock to provide water. Amalek attacked Israel, but as Moses held up his arms Joshua's army prevailed.

Ex18: Moses' father-in-law Jethro came and offered sacrifices to God. He suggested that Moses appoint leaders to help him judge the people.

**Big Ideas in
EXODUS**

God has a high standard of righteousness, which he demands of his people

God blesses those who keep his commandments

God reveals his desire to live with his people

God demonstrates his power to the Israelites when he releases them from slavery in Egypt

Moses acts as a mediator between God and the Israelites; he foreshadows Christ as the mediator between God and all people

God provides a means for forgiveness when the people fall short of his standards

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

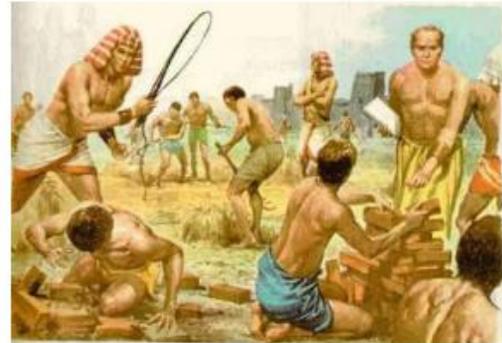
The Israelites become slaves in Egypt

[Exodus 1:1-22]

After 100 years “there arose a Pharaoh who knew not Joseph.” This pharaoh resented and feared the numerous Israelites (also called the Hebrews) and forced them all into slavery. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for 300 years.

During that time they were forced to build the storage cities called Rameses and Pithom.

Despite the horrible conditions of slavery the Israelites experienced a population explosion during their stay in Egypt.



Moses is called by God

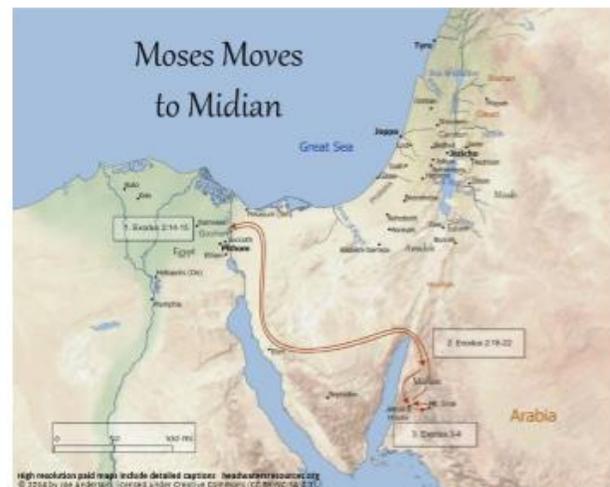
[Exodus 2:1-4:31]

Out of fear of the expanding Israelite population, the Pharaoh of Egypt gave an order that all male babies born to Israelites were to be killed at birth.

One mother put her infant son in a basket and floated him on the Nile River toward Pharaoh's palace. The Pharaoh's daughter rescued the infant from the river, named him Moses, and raised him as her son (even though she knew that he was an Israelite baby).

When Moses was 40 years old, he killed an Egyptian who was being cruel to an Israelite slave. Moses immediately fled to Midian where he married a Midianite woman named Zipporah and stayed there working as a shepherd for 40 years.

One day when Moses was 80 years old and shepherding his sheep near Mt. Sinai, he saw a bush that burned without being consumed. When he got closer to the bush God spoke to Moses and called him to return to Egypt and to lead the Israelites out of slavery. Moses tried to talk God out of choosing him but it didn't work.



Lieber, D. (1994). *Bible 101 getting the big picture*. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

The 10 Plagues and the Passover

[Exodus 7:10—13:22]

Moses and his brother Aaron traveled to the palace of the Pharaoh of Egypt and asked him to let the Israelites go free. Each time that the Pharaoh refused to grant freedom to the Israelites, God sent a plague on the Egyptians. Each of the 10 plagues was designed to mock one of the false gods of the Egyptians.

The 10 plagues:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Nile turned to blood | 6. Boils |
| 2. Frogs | 7. Hail |
| 3. Lice | 8. Locusts |
| 4. Flies | 9. 3 days of darkness |
| 5. Livestock sickness | 10. Death to 1st born Egyptian sons |

The 10th plague was the angel of death passing through Egypt to kill all firstborn sons. The Israelites were told to kill a lamb and paint lamb's blood on the sides and tops of their doorways. When the angel of death saw the blood of the lamb it passed over the painted houses and the Israelites in those houses were left unharmed. This miracle is called The Passover. People of the Jewish faith (and many Christians as well) still commemorate these events every Spring with a ceremonial dinner called a Passover seder.



The Israelites leave Egypt

[Exodus 14:1—40:38]

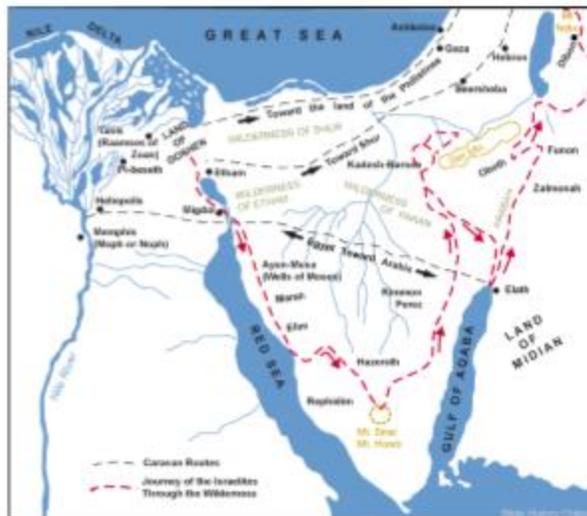
The 10th plague was the plague that convinced the Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free. Moses led all 2 million of the Israelites out of Egypt and toward the Sinai Peninsula.

God parted the Red Sea for the Israelites and provided food and water for them as they traveled in the dry and barren desert toward Mt. Sinai.

At Mt. Sinai God formally established the Israelites as His own distinct nation of people complete with a set of moral and legal laws and a portable temple (The Tabernacle).

Covenant #3: The Old Covenant

God established the Israelites as His own people for the purpose of blessing the whole world through Him. He promised them that if they obeyed His commandments (and laws) that they would have right-standing before God and that He would be their God and that they would be His people. The obedience of the Israelites was extremely important to God.



Lieber, D. (1994). *Bible 101 getting the big picture*. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

WEEK 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- God rescues Moses from death as an infant and rescues the Hebrews from Egypt. For what purpose does God rescue His people?
- In the Ancient Near East, redemption meant that the redeemed was indebted to the redeemer. What does it mean to be redeemed by God [EX 6:6]? What does redemption mean to us today?
- Why did God initiate the plagues? Do we see God's mercy in the plagues? How can the story of the plagues help us understand where God is when natural disasters or war occur?
- In EX 17:6, rock and water is used as a metaphor for God. What images from today's world might mean as much to us as water and rock meant to those who lived in the desert?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Have you ever experienced a "hardened heart"? Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart? What causes stubbornness?
- In EX 14:13-14 Moses tells the Israelites to "stand firm" and "be still". The Israelites were even ready to return to slavery rather than face uncertainty. How can we overcome fear through faith in God's mighty powers during difficult periods in life?
- In what ways are we like the Israelites who complained even though God provided them with all they needed? What lesson was God teaching Israel through the manna?
- Think about the most efficient and effective organization you have worked for? What type of leadership and management philosophy was used? Was it similar to the structure Moses put in place in EX 18:22-23?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- The Egyptian midwives took a risk by defying the direct order of Pharaoh to kill all the male Hebrew babies. Would you have taken a risk to disobey an order that you knew to be immoral? Have you taken a stand in the past based on your values or faith?
- In rescuing Moses and the Hebrews, God uses other people to complete his mission. How are people used? How can we overcome our inadequacies to be used by God?
- Think about a time when you felt God answered your prayer. What did it feel like to know that the God of the universe cared about you? What does it mean to belong to God?
- Think of a time when you left the familiar for the unfamiliar. How did you feel during the time after you left what you knew but before you settled into your new situation? How does this memory help you empathize with the Israelites as they leave Egypt?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- The Egyptian magicians competed with God in overcoming many of the plagues (commentary pg. 81). Some scholars believe the plagues represented various Egyptian gods, holding special significance to the Pharaoh and the Egyptians. How does God use miraculous signs? Are there still miracles today?
- Discuss the importance of the Passover Meal (commentary pg. 86) in terms of its symbolism and its tradition. How do rituals help you remember what God has done for you?