

The Book of Exodus

Author:	Moses
Date/Location:	1450-1410 B.C. – Sinai Wilderness
Genre:	Historical Narrative
Length:	40 chapters
Key Passages:	3:14, 6:6, 19:5-6

Contents:

The life of Moses who was raised up to deliver Israel out of slavery in Egypt, departing through the Red Sea, to receive the covenant from God at Mt. Sinai.

Theme and Purpose:

As the second book of five books known as the Law of Moses, the purpose of Exodus is to give the historical account of God's chief redemptive act for Israel (deliverance from Egyptian slavery), and to document God's establishment of a covenant with the nation of Israel.

Outline:

Exodus easily divides into two sections: Redemption and Covenant

I. Redemption From Egypt (1-18)

- A. In Bondage (Subjection) (1-12)
- B. Out of Bondage (Redemption by blood and power) (12-14)
- C. Journeying to Sinai (Education) (15-18)

II. Covenant From God (19-40)

- A. The Giving of the Law (19-24)
- B. The Institution of the Tabernacle (25-31)
- C. The Breaking of the Law (32-34)
- D. The Construction of the Tabernacle (35-40)

Help in Reading:

As you read, watch especially for the three most defining elements in Israel's history: (1) God's miraculous deliverance of his people from slavery, (2) the return of the presence of God as distinguishing his people from all of nations, and (3) the giving of the covenant to them.

Key Concept:

Redeem is used nine times (6:6; 13:13; 15:13; 21:8; 34:20). After nearly four hundreds years of growth in Egypt, Exodus continues the history of God's chosen people, the nation of Israel, and describes their deliverance out of Egypt and their development as a nation, actually, a theocracy under God. It describes the birth, history, and call of Moses

by God to lead the people out of their Egyptian bondage and into the Promised Land, the land of Canaan. Through the Passover lamb, the sparing of the firstborn, along with the miracles of the ten plagues, and the crossing of the Red Sea, God showed His people that He was not only more powerful than any Egyptian Pharaoh, but was the sovereign LORD, Yahweh, the God of redemption and revelation.

Once the people had crossed the Red Sea and arrived in the wilderness or desert, God gave them His righteous law and declared that they were a treasured possession to Him and were to be a kingdom of priests, a holy nation as a testimony to the nations (Ex. 19:4-7). This holy law, including the Ten Commandments, demonstrated God's holiness, taught them how to love God and one another, but in the process, it also demonstrated how all fall short of the holiness of God and need a way of access to God that provides forgiveness. This was provided for in the tabernacle, the sacrifices, and the levitical priesthood.

Key Chapters:

Chapters 12-14 record the redemption of Israel from slavery in fulfillment of God's promises; delivered from slavery by blood (the Passover lamb) and by power (the parting of the Red Sea).

Key People:

Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Pharaoh.

Christ as Seen in Exodus:

While Exodus contains no direct prophecy of Christ, there are a number of beautiful types of the Savior.

- (1) In many ways, **Moses** is a type of Christ. Deuteronomy 18:15 shows that Moses, as a prophet, anticipates Christ. Both were endangered in infancy, renounced their power to serve others, and functioned as mediators, lawgivers, and deliverers.
- (2) The **Passover** is a very specific type of Christ as the sinless Lamb of God (John 1:29, 36; 1 Cor. 5:7).
- (3) The **Seven Feasts**, each of which portray some aspect of the Savior.
- (4) The **Exodus**, which Paul connects with baptism, pictures our identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (1 Cor. 10:1-2; Rom. 6:2-3).
- (5) The **Manna and Water** are both portrayed as pictures of Christ (John 6:31-35, 48-63; 1 Cor. 10:3-4).
- (6) The **Tabernacle** portrays the Savior in its material, colors, furniture, arrangement, and the offerings sacrificed there (Heb. 9:1-10:18).
- (7) The **High Priest** quite clearly foreshadows the person and ministry of Christ (Heb. 4:14-16; 9:11-12, 24-28).

