

The Exodus Series - The Story of the Bible

The Reason for the Exodus

Exodus 1:1 - 14

1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household:

2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah,

3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin,

4 Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher.

5 All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt.

6 Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation.

7 But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

8 Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

9 And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us.

10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."

11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses.

12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel.

13 So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves

14 and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

Exodus 2:23b - 25

23b the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God.

24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

25 God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

How did we get to the Exodus?

The Promise of Fruitfulness - Exodus 1:12

Genesis 15:4 - 6

4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."

5 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

The Promise of Servitude - Exodus 1:13 - 14

Genesis 15:13

13 Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.

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The Promise of Deliverance - Exodus 2:24 - 25

Genesis 15:14 - 16a

14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.

16a And they shall come back here in the fourth generation

Genesis 50:20 - 21

20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Theme and Narrative

Exodus is the story (the true account) of God's works in Egypt with his special people Israel.

- **Exodus** is a story about God, who he is, and what he does for his people and against the evil which opposes His character.
- In the ancient mind and world, hearing these true accounts and narratives about what God had done would *shape* your understanding of *who God is*.
- In **Exodus**, God's special name is revealed for the first time.
 - Showing Who our God is, represented by His newly revealed name (Yahweh).
- This story is indelible to Israel as a people.
 - They walked in as a family and walked out as a nation.

Exodus is the model of the whole "Bible Story" itself.

- We see God overcoming evil with good, delivering his people from bondage, and bringing them into his presence.
- This is the same pattern of the "old, old story" of the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - God has overcome the evil of the world and sin.
 - delivering his people from the bondage of sin and death
 - bringing them into his presence as their God
- What is God doing in response to evil and human wickedness?
- God is working, even when it seems like he's not.

Exodus shows us the "Character of God."

- It shows what God does in the face of abject evil, like Pharaoh and Egypt.
- It shows what God does in order to deliver his people from slavery, bondage, and tyranny.
- It shows how God gives justice and judgment to those who are against His good purposes.
- It shows how God draws glory to Himself alone as the only true God.
 - It is in the narrative of Exodus that God's special name is revealed: Yahweh.
- **Exodus** shows both God's "GOD-ness" and "GOOD-ness" magnificently.

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Exodus 34:6 - 7

6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Exodus shows human and spiritual interaction with God.

- Moses
- Aaron
- Children of Israel
- Pharaoh and Egypt

Exodus 9:13 - 16

13 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, "Let my people go, that they may serve me.

14 For this time I will send all my plagues on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth.

15 For by now I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth.

16 But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.

- The "gods" of Egypt vs. Yahweh, true God.

Exodus 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.

- "Humans not knowing or seeing" what God does, but God "knows and sees" all.

Exodus shows and unfolds the Holiness of God, seen in "Sacred Spaces."

- God is establishing his unique holiness.
 - His transcendence is shown in "sacred spaces" of *approach*.
 - These are places of God's "manifest" presence.
- Examples:
 - Burning bush, Holy ground with Moses
 - Angel of the LORD
 - Mt. Sinai
 - God's hinder parts
 - The throne of God
 - God dwells in the land
 - The Tabernacle

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Exodus shows the Redemptive arc of Christ.

- Moses typology
- Aaron typology
- Passover typology
- Exodus typology
- Israel typology
- Tabernacle typology
- Humanity's need for redemption

What is the Structure of the Book?

- Exodus breaks into two primary parts:
 - Chapters 1 - 18 before Mt. Sinai
 - Chapters 19 - 40 after Mt. Sinai
- We see after Sinai, is the second liberation from tyranny.
 - Pharaoh was the *external* tyranny.
 - The decalogue (10 commandments) frees you from *internal* tyranny.
- The "Exodus" part is actually the just first part of the book.
 - We get the title from the Greek Septuagint
 - The word means "exit," or "departure" (**Luke 9:31, Hebrews 11:22**).
 - But in the Torah (the Hebrew Bible) it is named after its first two words: *we'elleh shemoth* ("These are the names of").
 - The same phrase occurs in **Genesis 46:8**, where it likewise introduces a list of the names of those Israelites "who went to Egypt with Jacob" (**Exodus 1:1**).
- Important to remember: **Exodus** was not intended to exist separately but was thought of as a continuation of the Pentateuch (the first 5 books of Moses) begins with **Genesis** and continues into **Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy**.
 - **Exodus 3** and onward is the *first year*.
 - **Numbers** is the next *39 years*.
 - **Deuteronomy** is the *last year* and a recap of **Exodus** and **Numbers**.

So, Why Learn and Care About Exodus?

#1 Because the **Exodus** story is the story of the Bible.

#2 Because we learn of God's character and interest to save (the story of redemption)

#3 Because we learn how good triumphs over evil - this informs us of God's worldview.

#4 Because we learn important practical lessons for living out our faith daily.

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#5 Because we meet the living God in **Exodus**.

Psalm 66:5 - 7

5 Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

6 He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him,

7 who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations— let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah

Hebrews 12:18 - 29

18 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest

19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.

20 For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned."

21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,

23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.

26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

27 This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken--that is, things that have been made--in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,

29 for our God is a consuming fire.