

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Bible Study Notes

5-13-20

Book of Exodus Overview

VITAL STATISTICS

PURPOSE: To record the events of Israel's deliverance from Egypt and development as a nation

AUTHOR: Moses

ORIGINAL AUDIENCE: The people of Israel

DATE WRITTEN: 1450-1410 B.C., approximately the same as Genesis

WHERE WRITTEN: In the wilderness during Israel's wanderings, somewhere in the Sinai peninsula

SETTING: **Egypt.** God's people, once highly favored in the land, are now slaves. God is about to set them free.

KEY VERSES: "The LORD said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt'" (3:7, 10).

KEY PEOPLE: Moses, Miriam, Pharaoh, Pharaoh's daughter, Jethro, Aaron, Joshua, Bezalel

KEY PLACES: Egypt, Goshen, Nile River, Midian, Red Sea, Sinai peninsula, Mount Sinai

SPECIAL FEATURES: Exodus relates more miracles than any other Old Testament book and is noted for containing the Ten Commandments.

TIMELINE

1800 BC	Jacob's Family Stays in Egypt	<u>Exodus 1</u>
1700 BC	Israelites Multiply in Egypt	<u>Exodus 1:6</u>
1600 BC	Israelites Oppressed by New King	<u>Exodus 1:8</u>
1539 BC	Pharaoh's Order to Kill Firstborn	<u>Exodus 1:22</u>
1525 BC	The Birth and Adoption of Moses	<u>Exodus 2</u>
1486 BC	Moses Flees into Midian	<u>Exodus 2:11</u>
1446 BC	Israelites Groan in Slavery	<u>Exodus 2:23</u>
1446 BC	Moses Sent to Deliver Israel	<u>Exodus 3 - 6</u>
1446 BC	The Ten Plagues on Egypt	<u>Exodus 7 - 12</u>
1446 BC	The Exodus Begins	<u>Exodus 13 - 18</u>

1446 BC	The Israelites At Mount Sinai	<u>Exodus 19</u>
1446 BC	Moses Receives the Commandments	<u>Exodus 20</u>
1446 BC	Moses Receives the Law	<u>Exodus 21 - 24</u>
1446 BC	Preparations for the Tabernacle	<u>Exodus 25 - 31</u>
1446 BC	The Golden Calf and Moses' Anger	<u>Exodus 32</u>
1446 BC	The Journey Resumes	<u>Exodus 33 - 39</u>
1445 BC	The Tabernacle is Erected and Filled	<u>Exodus 40</u>

THE BLUEPRINT

A. ISRAEL IN EGYPT (1:1-12:30)

1. Slavery in Egypt
2. God chooses Moses
3. God sends Moses to Pharaoh
4. Plagues strike Egypt
5. The Passover

When the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt, God heard their cries and rescued them. We can be confident that God still hears the cries of his people. Just as he delivered the Israelites from their captors, he delivers us from sin, death, and evil.

B. ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS (12:31-18:27)

1. The Exodus
2. Crossing the sea
3. Complaining in the wilderness

After crossing the Red Sea, the Israelites became quarrelsome and discontent. Like the Israelites, we find it easy to complain and be dissatisfied. Christians still have struggles, but we should never allow difficulties and unpleasant circumstances to turn us away from trusting God.

C. ISRAEL AT SINAI (19:1-40:38)

1. Giving the law
2. Tabernacle instructions
3. Breaking the law
4. Tabernacle construction

God revealed his law to the Israelites at Sinai. Through the law, they learned more about what God is like and how he expected his people to live. The law is still instructional for us, for it exposes our sin and shows us God's standard for living.

MEGATHEMES

Slavery

EXPLANATION: During the Israelites' 400-year stay in the land of Egypt, they became enslaved to the Egyptians. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, oppressed them cruelly. They prayed to God for deliverance from this situation.

IMPORTANCE: Like the Israelites, we need both human and divine leadership to escape from the slavery of sin. After their escape, the memory of slavery helped the Israelites learn to treat others generously. We need to stand against those who oppress others.

Rescue/Redemption

EXPLANATION: God rescued Israel through the leader Moses and through mighty miracles. The Passover celebration was an annual reminder of their escape from slavery.

IMPORTANCE: God delivers us from the slavery of sin. Jesus Christ celebrated the Passover with his disciples at the Last Supper and then went on to rescue us from sin by dying in our place.

Guidance

EXPLANATION: God guided Israel out of Egypt by using the plagues, Moses' heroic courage, the miracle of the Red Sea, and the Ten Commandments. God is a trustworthy guide.

IMPORTANCE: Although God is all-powerful and can do miracles, he normally leads us by wise leadership and team effort. His Word gives us the wisdom to make daily decisions and govern our lives.

Ten Commandments

EXPLANATION: God's law system had three parts. The Ten Commandments were the first part, containing the absolutes of spiritual and moral life. The civil law was the second part, giving the people rules to manage their lives. The ceremonial law was the third part, showing them patterns for building the tabernacle and for regular worship.

IMPORTANCE: God was teaching Israel the importance of choice and responsibility. When they obeyed the conditions of the law, he blessed them; if they forgot or disobeyed, he punished them or allowed calamities to come. Many great countries of the world base their laws on the moral system set up in the book of Exodus. God's moral law is valid today.

The Nation

EXPLANATION: God founded the nation of Israel to be the source of truth and salvation to all the world. His relationship to his people was loving yet firm. The Israelites had no army, schools, governors, mayors, or police when they left Egypt. God had to instruct them in their constitutional laws and daily practices. He showed them how to worship and how to have national holidays.

IMPORTANCE: Israel's newly formed nation had all the behavioral characteristics of Christians today. We are often disorganized, sometimes rebellious, and sometimes victorious. God's Person and Word are still our only guides. If our churches reflect his leadership, they will be effective in serving him.