

Welcome to the Book of Exodus

Often people assume God's most profound works are His *creative works*, yet God's most spectacular accomplishments are His *redemptive works*. It takes no love to create, but it takes an intense love to redeem, or retrieve - especially, when what you're willing to retrieve what *rebelled* against you.

There are few chapters in the Bible devoted to the creation, but the whole book is about redemption. This is the Bible's primary theme. It's the story of how God "buys back" mankind from the slavery of sin. This is the theme of Exodus.

The word "Exodus" is from two Greek words "Ek" or "out of", and "Hodos" or "the road, the way". Exodus is the road out of bondage - not only Egyptian bondage, but the spiritual bondage we've all encountered. If you feel trapped. If sin has a hold on you. If you're looking for a way out... "Exodus" means "the way out". This is the book for you!

Exodus and Revelation

Egypt is a type of the world. The Pharaoh a type of the Antichrist. And the 10 plagues all have parallels to what occurs in the Great Tribulation...

The book of Revelation describes 100 pound hailstones, locust, boils, 3 frogs,

darkness, rivers turn to blood, etc.

Remember also, the two witnesses - there's a Moses and an Aaron in Revelation 11. During the Great Tribulation people harden their hearts. Satan works counterfeit miracles. The world is judged, while the Jews are protected. The parallels are numerous.

Persecution ch1-2

Exodus 1:11 tells how the Egyptians persecuted the Hebrews, "Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew."

This is what happens whenever God's people are persecuted... they multiply!

In the book of Acts when the Church is attacked it grows. Persecuting the Church is like pouring gas on a fire - the flame will burn brighter. True believers intensify their commitment, and streamline their service.

In times of ease *faith* can get *flabby*. But under mounting persecution the Church becomes *clean, lean, and serene* - a real witnessing *machine* - and as the witness is *seen* the world becomes *green* with envy.

The "birth stool" was an Egyptian innovation in childbirth. Women gave birth *standing up* rather than *lying down*. They stood over two stones or bricks, and pushed down on the stones. The push'n and the law of gravity did the job.

The Pharaoh used external hardship to try and stop the growth of the Hebrews, but to no avail. Now he tries internal sabotage. He recruits the help of midwives.

Understand this is Satan's strategy with the Church. When he discovers that his external attacks only feed into its growth, he tries a different approach. If he can't intimidate us from the outside, he will infiltrate us from the inside. He sends false teachers into the church to sabotage the growth, and abort the new births.

The Hebrew midwives refused to cooperate with Pharaoh's plot, and God blesses them for their resistance.

WORDS

"Exodus" means "the way out"

"bush" could be translated "thorny bush"

"Horeb" is the mountain range. "Sinai" is the actual peak.

"the mixed multitude" was a collection of...

Egyptians who jumped on the Moses bandwagon
slaves from other countries

Egyptians who intermarried with Hebrews

Bible Scan - Exodus 1-12

Preparation

Hebrews 11:23 tells us, “*By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command.*” Imagine, hiding a baby for three months. This took incredible faith! What if Moses wakes up hungry in the night, and decides to let everyone know it? What if he gets colic? Or lets out a loud burp? Or what if dad sticks him with a safety pin – what if dad gets stuck with a safety pin? What happens later to the Red Sea was no more a miracle than hiding this baby for three months.

Josephus tells us Moses’ parents, Amram and Jochebed were motivated by a dream. In the dream God told Amram of his child’s destiny. This is why we read in Hebrews 11:23, “*By faith Moses... was hidden.*”

Moses was providentially fished from the Nile by the Pharaoh’s daughter. This could’ve been Queen Hapshepsut, a famous personality in Egyptian history. She was politically powerful, and for a time actually ruled Egypt. We also know she was barren, and lacked an heir to the throne. It could be she looked to Moses to be that heir.

The Jewish Talmud tells an interesting story about the baby Moses. One day the child was playing on Pharaoh’s lap. He grabbed the king’s crown, pulled it off his head,

tossed it to the floor, then stomped on it with his feet. If true, it was a preview of coming attractions.

Moses’ murder of the Egyptian taskmaster is a classic example of a man who wanted to serve God, but wanted to do it in his own flesh and efforts.

Moses has a lot to learn. He’s spent 40 years in the schools of Egypt. Now God enrolls him for 40 years in the school of brokenness. Remember, Genesis 46:34 tells us Egyptians despised shepherds, and now God makes the former Prince of Egypt a shepherd in Midian.

Moses has to be broken before he can be used. He has to learn to trust God, not his own strength..

DL Moody summarizes Moses’ life, “*Moses spent 40 years in Pharaoh’s court thinking he was a somebody; 40 years in the desert learning he was a nobody; and 40 years showing what God can do with a somebody who discovers he is a nobody.*” God always uses what’s broken – what’s little – what’s defeated. And Moses was all the above.

In Egypt Moses was *full of himself*. In Midian he came to the *end of himself*. Now on the mountain he meets God, and leaves filled with the glory of God. But notice you don’t become *full of God* while you’re *full of yourself*. Moses is filled with the glory of God only after he comes to the end of himself.

Pharaoh

This pharaoh was probably Amenhotep II who reigned in Egypt for 26 years. He was a warrior and sportsman. His mummy was found in 1898 in the Valley of the kings, in Thebes. You can go to Egypt today, and check out what he looked like, but for me he’ll always look like Yul Bryner... He was the perfect pharaoh.

Until the sixth plague, Exodus 9:12, the Pharaoh has hardened his heart himself, but now God hardens it. If He hadn’t, the Pharaoh would’ve let the Hebrews go just to escape the plagues. He would’ve gotten off the hook, without learning the lesson. God is going to keep the pressure on the Pharaoh until he admits that the God of the He-

brews is the one, true God. God has a point to make to this proud Pharaoh. We’re starting to get the impression that it’s no longer Pharaoh holding the Hebrews in bondage, but it’s God holding the Pharaoh in bondage.

God will keep the pressure on us until we surrender our will. He’ll *harden a heart* in order to *break a back*. He doesn’t settle for half-hearted confessions. Too many people are like the Pharaoh – they’ll do just enough to get rid of the consequences of their sin, but they stop short of bowing their knee to God.

Historical evidence exists for the judgment of the firstborn. Amenhotep II was succeeded by Thutmose IV – who apparently was not his father’s firstborn son. What happened to Amenhotep’s firstborn and original heir? He died in the plague.

Pharaoh’s stubbornness cost him his kingdom. The first 9 plagues God brought on the land devastated the economy. But the 10th plague costs him his son. Guys, what’s your stubbornness costing you? It’s already hurt you personally, but who else is it going to hurt? Eventually it’s going to hurt someone you love.

Devotion Box - Stubbornness

Plagues

God's purpose in Egypt was not just to deliver the Israelites. He had some points he wanted to make in the process.

God wants to prove to Egypt and its surrounding nations - that He is the one, true God. In fact, the 10 plagues weren't chosen at random. They target Egyptian deities. They were strategic assaults on the idols of Egypt. In Exodus 12:12 God expresses His motive behind the 10 plagues, "*against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments.*"

In fact, what goes on in Egypt is a microcosm of the spiritual battle that has raged since creation. God versus Satan. This is a main event in the struggle between the power of God and the occult practitioners of Egypt.

Understand, the Nile was sacred to the Egyptians. It was the country's agricultural lifeline. Each year its banks flooded irrigating the land, and supplying the silt that made the soil rich and fertile. The Egyptians believed the Nile was the bloodstream for Osiris, their god of the underworld.

That's why God struck the waters of the Nile and turned it to blood. God was mocking their false gods and pagan beliefs. If the Egyptians wanted to believe these fantasies about Osiris, then God would really bloody up the Nile.

The Egyptians also worshipped the crocodile, so this was an assault on their sacred habitat. When neither Osiris, or the crocs, were able to protect their environment it demonstrated what a *croc* their beliefs really were.

In 7:13 we're told Pharaoh's response to the first plague on Egypt - it's his response to the first six plagues - "*Pharaoh's heart grew hard...*" With each plague evidence mounts that God is superior to the gods of Egypt. Pharaoh sees the truth, but is in *de-nile*.

The priests of Egypt were particularly concerned with lice. To them this was the ultimate uncleanness and would disqualified them from their religious rites and rituals. Thus, the plague of lice made it impossible for them to worship their gods, or cry out to them for help.

God has such a sense of humor.

The ninth plague was an assault on one of Egypt's most revered deities, "*Ra*", or "*Ramases*", the sun god.

The final plague was against the Pharaoh himself. The Egyptians considered the Pharaoh, and his firstborn to be deities. The death of Pharaoh's firstborn exposed the lie, and the Pharaoh's mortality.

Passover

Death was determined on all firstborn *in Egypt* - not *of Egypt*. The Hebrews were as guilty of sin, even idolatry, as the Egyptians. They too were under a death penalty. In fact, all people are sentenced to death. The wages of sin is death!

But God is merciful, and that night in Egypt He made a way of forgiveness. Each Hebrew family sacrificed a lamb and spread its blood on the doorposts and thresholds. In Exodus 12:12 God warns He will "*pass through*" Egypt to execute judgment, but in verse 13 He says He will "*pass over*" where the blood is applied.

In 1 Corinthians 5:7 this is why Jesus is called "*our Passover*". When you trust in His sacrifice on the cross His blood is applied to the doorpost and thresholds of our heart. And because of the blood God's judgment passes over us.

Remember, salvation that night had nothing to do with the purity of the people in the house. In fact, if you were a moral person, and you assumed the judgment would pass over because of your goodness - sorry, say good-bye to big brother.

Salvation came to people who knew they needed the blood, and applied it to their house. They trusted in God's promise to accept the blood as payment for their sin. This is how eternal destinies are decided today. Trust in your own merit and you're a goner. But trust in the blood of Jesus and judgment will pass over.

Exodus 2:23-24, "*the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God... So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob...*"

God feels compassion whenever He sees suffering, but what moves Him to action is a covenant. God loves everyone, but not everyone has a covenant with God. Have you come to God on His terms - committed yourself to His will - are you in a covenant relationship with God?

Devotion Box - Do you have a Covenant with God?

Devotion Box The Burning Bush

Exodus 3:2 tells us, "*the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush.*" The voice identifies Himself as God - but He is the Angel or Messenger of the Lord. Often in the Old Testament the Angel of the Lord is a preincarnate appearance of Jesus. It may've been Jesus that spoke to Moses from the burning bush.

How fitting! In the Bible, fire is symbolic of God's judgment. The bush - which in the Hebrew is "*thorny bush*", represents the curse, man's sin. A burning bush that doesn't burn - speaks of God's grace - sin is judged, but the sinner is not consumed.

Jesus is our burning bush. It's in Christ that sin is judged, and the sinner saved. Take off your shoes - humble yourself - when you are with Jesus you are on holy ground.

Bible Scan - Exodus 1-12

Calvary Chapel

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy - sandyadams@calvarychapel.org

Calvary Chapel Announcements - September 26, 1999

Women's Prayer and Praise - Tuesday, October 5, 10:00 - brunch, fellowship, prayer and praise
Cafe Calvary - every Wednesday @ 7:30 pm - this week: Pastor James & Three Last Words
Don't forget to sign-up for Feasts and Fellowships - groups will beginning forming this week
Softball is back - join the Fall League - pick up games on select Saturday afternoons at 2:00
A Christmas musical production for kids, grades 1st - 8th, entitled "*Mission Incredible*" is in the works. An information meeting for interested parents and kids is scheduled for September 30 at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Hope to see you there. If you need more info call Pastor Kevin.

Next Bible Scan - October 3 - Exodus 13-24

"And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you." - Exodus 3:14

Bible Scan Memory Verse

Devotion Box - When God Makes a Man

In verse 13 Moses asks God for His name. He wants to be able to tell the Hebrews who has sent him. In verse 14 God reveals His forever name, "*I AM WHO I AM*". God tells Moses to say to the Hebrews, "I AM has sent you."

"*I am*" is the present tense of the verb "*to be*". It speaks of God's autonomy. He needs nada. He depends on no one. He is totally self-sufficient. Of course, this is true of no one else. Every "*self-made man*" I've ever heard of, needs God for his very next breath.

Moses feels inadequate, "*who am I, that I should go?*" In essence, God answers, "*It doesn't matter. I will be with you. I AM has sent you.*" Moses will accomplish God's call only when he forgets about *who he is*, and focuses on *who God is*. Moses needs to lose his inadequacies in God's sufficiency. He is no longer a *self-made man*, he is now a *God-made man*.

And remember, it took God 40 years to make a Moses. He spent 40 years on the backside of the desert in God's school of preparation. When an artist paints a masterpiece he can't be rushed. When Michaelangelo painted the Sistine Chapel it took him 4 years. Likewise, when God makes a man, He can't be rushed. Guys, don't get impatient. Let God continue to make you into the person He desires you to be.

Family Focus

Moses and his family stop on the road to Egypt for a little emergency surgery. We're told the Lord sought to kill Moses, until his wife, Zipporah, circumcised their son. Notice, Moses is going to fulfill the covenant God made with Israel when he'd never instituted the covenant in his own family. When it comes to spiritual truth, before we preach it to the world, let's practice it at home.

Apparently, Zipporah the Midianite had been resistant to the Hebrew custom and procedure of circumcision. It was not until her husband was near death that she gave in.

Men, let this be a lesson. God holds you responsible for the spiritual direction of your family. It seems Zipporah was in rebellion, but God sought Moses. He was the head of the family, and carried the responsibility. "*When it comes to spiritual authority in the home, and in the church - the buck stops with the buck.*"