



Exodus

Introduction

Importance of the Exodus in OT History:

"The exodus is the most significant historical and theological event of the Old Testament because it marks God's mightiest act on behalf of his people, To it the Book of Genesis provides an introduction and justification, and from it flows all subsequent Old Testament revelation, a record which serves it as inspired commentary and detailed exposition. In the final analysis, the exodus served to typify that exodus achieved by Jesus Christ for people of faith so that it is a meaningful event for the church as well as for Israel."

--Eugene H. Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008), 73-74.

Key Idea: What the Cross is to the New Testament, the Exodus is to the Old Testament.

I. The Main Idea of Exodus

To keep his promises to Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob, God rescues the nation of Israel from their bondage in Egypt, enters into a covenant relationship with them, and has them construct a Tabernacle so He may dwell among them.

Note: What we see happening in the life of Israel in this book is parallel to what happens in the life of anyone who comes to faith in Christ:

Slavery God's Rescue Covenant Relationship God's Indwelling

II. Outline of Exodus

Exodus 1-18	God's Salvation of Israel (The Exodus Event)
Exodus 19-24	God's Covenant with Israel (The 10 Commandments & the Law)
Exodus 25-40	God's Presence in Israel (The Tabernacle)

III. Interpretive Keys to Exodus

Genre: Historical Narrative

The author of Exodus intends to communicate historical events. It doesn't tell us everything we may want to know about history, but what it does tell us is a truthful account of the past.

IV. Key Passages of Exodus

Exodus 1-18 - The Purpose of the Exodus Event

- Exodus 1-18 are some of the most dramatic chapters in the Bible. What started as a place of refuge for Jacob and his descendants eventually became a place of oppression & slavery. God was setting the stage for his character to be displayed clearly.
- Throughout these chapters, one key word is repeated over and over: "Know."
 - For example, Exodus 1:8 "Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not **know** Joseph."
- With this keyword, emphasis is placed on whether or not Pharaoh, the Egyptians, and the nations knew Yahweh, the God of Israel.
 - Exod. 5:2 "But Pharaoh said, 'Who is Yahweh, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not **know** Yahweh, and moreover, I will not let Israel go.'"
 - Exod. 7:5 "The Egyptians shall **know** that I am Yahweh, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them."
 - Exodus 7:17 [The Lord speaking to Pharaoh:] "By this you shall **know** that I am Yahweh: behold, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood."
 - Exodus 8:10 "And [Pharaoh] said, 'Tomorrow.' Moses said, 'Be it as you say, so that you may **know** that there is no one like the Yahweh our God.'"
 - Exodus 8:22 "But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may **know** that I am Yahweh in the midst of the earth."
 - Exodus 9:14 "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."
 - Exodus 9:29-30 "Moses said to him, 'As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will stretch out my hands to Yahweh. The thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, so that you may **know** that the earth is Yahweh's. But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear Yahweh God.'"



- Exodus 11:7 "But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may **know** that Yahweh makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel."
- Exodus 14:4 "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall **know** that I am Yahweh."
- Exodus 14:18 "And the Egyptians shall **know** that I am Yahweh, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."
- Exod. 18:11 Jephthah the Midianite: "Now I **know** that Yahweh is greater than all gods."
- With this keyword, emphasis is also placed on whether or not God knew the Israelites and whether or not the Israelites knew Him.
 - Exod. 2:25 "God saw the people of Israel—and God **knew**."
 - Exod. 6:2-3 "God spoke to Moses and said to him, 'I am Yahweh. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name Yahweh I did not make myself **known** to them.'
 - Explanation: The Patriarchs never experienced God as a great Savior. The Israelites would experience an aspect of God's character that the Patriarchs never did.
 - Exod. 6:7 "I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall **know** that I am Yahweh your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."
 - Note: this is the first occurrence in the Bible of the second phrase related to God's Ultimate Goal: "I will be your God."
 - Exodus 10:2 "and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may **know** that I am Yahweh."
 - Exodus 16:6 "So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, 'At evening you shall **know** that it was Yahweh who brought you out of the land of Egypt.'"
 - Exodus 16:12 "I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall **know** that I am Yahweh your God.'"
- God did what He did so that Israelites & Gentiles would know Him better. Sure enough, even today (almost 3,500 years later) this story is told and retold from one generation to the next.

Exodus 7-11 - The Ten Plagues

- Referred to as "plagues" (Exod. 8:2; 9:3, 14; 11:1), "miracles" (Exod. 4:21), and "signs and wonders" (7:3; 8:23; 10:1, 2; 11:9, 10).
- God chose to deliver Israel with the 10 Plagues so that the world would know His great power.
 - Exodus 7:3-5 "But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. **The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them.**"

- Exodus 9:14-16 "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.** 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. 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 10 Plagues were a demonstration of God's power over the gods of Egypt
 - 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.**"
 - Numbers 33:3-4 "They set out from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month. On the day after the Passover, the people of Israel went out triumphantly in the sight of all the Egyptians, while the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn, whom the Lord had struck down among them. **On their gods also the Lord executed judgments."**

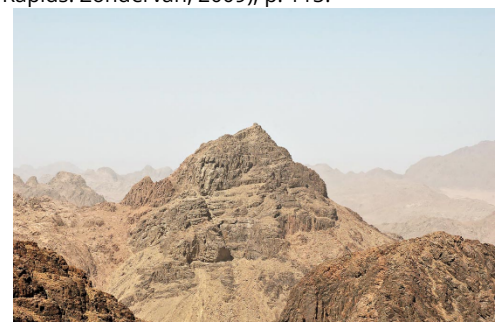


Plague	Reference	Possible Egyptian Deity Directed Against
Nile Turned to Blood	Exod. 7:14-25	Khnum: guardian of the Nile Hapi: spirit of the Nile Osiris: Nile was bloodstream
Frogs	Exod. 8:1-15	Heqt: form of frog; god of resurrection
Gnats or Mosquitoes	Exod. 8:16-19	
Flies	Exod. 8:20-32	
Plague on Cattle	Exod. 9:1-7	Hathor: mother-goddess; form of cow Apis: bull of god Ptah; symbol of fertility Mnevis: sacred bull of Heliopolis
Boils	Exod. 9:8-12	Imhotep: god of medicine
Hail	Exod. 9:13-35	Isis: goddess of life Seth: protector of crops
Locusts	Exod. 10:1-20	Isis: goddess of life Seth: protector of crops
Darkness	Exod. 10:21-29	Re, Aten, Atum, Horus: all sun gods of sorts
Death of Firstborn	Exod. 11:1-12:36	The deity of Pharaoh: Osiris, the giver of life

Andrew E. Hill & John H. Walton, *A Survey of the Old Testament*, 3rd ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009), p. 115.

Exodus 20 - The Ten Commandments

- Significant because they were spoken by God Himself from Mount Sinai and all Israel heard these words.



- Context: God and Israel were entering into a covenant (which is similar to a treaty or contract: an official agreement between two parties).
 - In chapter 19, God offered to make the covenant and Israel accepted the offer.
 - Chapters 20-23 include several lists of laws which build on the first 10 commandments, as well as some promises by God to give them the land of Canaan. Together the words of God in these chapters made up “the Book of the Covenant” (Exod. 24:3-7.)
 - In chapter 24, the covenant is ratified when the elders ate food on Mt. Sinai and saw God.
- The 10 Commandments set the trajectory for all the rest of the laws. They were the basic covenant requirements that God demanded the people to follow to remain in relationship with Him.
- Unlike the U.S. Bill of Rights, the 10 Commandments aren’t concerned with your rights as much as it is with the rights of others.
- The 10 Commandments can be divided into two groups (following Jesus’ teaching that “love God” and “love neighbor” sum up the Law):

	Commandment	Interpretation as a “Bill of Rights”
LOVE FOR GOD (Vertical Dimensions)		
1	Have no other gods (v. 3)	Yahweh’s Right to Exclusive Allegiance
2	Never make a carved image (vv. 4-6)	Yahweh’s Right to the Definition of His Image
3	Never take Yahweh’s name in vain (v. 7)	Yahweh’s Right to Proper Representation
4	Remember the Sabbath day (vv. 8-11)	Yahweh’s Right to the Israelite’s Time and Life
LOVE FOR NEIGHBOR (Horizontal Dimensions)		
5	Honor your father and mother (v. 12)	Your Parent’s Right to Respect
6	Never murder (v. 13)	Your Neighbor’s Right to Life
7	Never commit adultery (v. 14)	Your Neighbor’s Right to Sexual Purity
8	Never steal (v. 15)	Your Neighbor’s Right to Personal Property
9	Never witness falsely against your neighbor (v. 16)	Your Neighbor’s Right to Honest Testimony
10	Never covet your neighbor’s house (v. 17a) Never covet your neighbor’s household (v. 17b)	Your Neighbor’s Right to Home Security Your Neighbor’s Right to Household Security

Jason S. DeRouchie, ed., *What the Old Testament Authors Really Cared About: A Survey of Jesus’ Bible* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2013), p. 93.

Excursus: Are the 10 Commandments binding on Christians today?

- Although many people assume that the 10 Commandments should be followed today, this is not entirely accurate.
- First it should be noted that the 10 Commandments were part of the Old/Mosaic Covenant. Jesus initiated the New Covenant so we are no longer under the Old Covenant (see Hebrews 8-9).



- Thus, many of the laws given through Moses no longer apply to believers today (for example, see Mark 7:18-19; Acts 10:9-16; and Acts 15). Therefore, we should not automatically assume that the 10 Commandments still apply.
- However, most of the 10 Commandments are repeated in the New Testament and applied to followers of Christ.
 - Commandment #1: Matthew 4:10
 - Commandment #2: 1 John 5:21
 - Commandment #3: Matthew 5:34-35; James 5:12
 - Commandment #5: Matthew 15:4-6
 - Commandment #6: 1 John 3:12-15
 - Commandment #7: Hebrews 13:14
 - Commandment #8: Ephesians 4:28
 - Commandment #9: Ephesians 4:31; 1 Tim 1:10
 - Commandment #10: Colossians 3:5
- The only commandment *not* repeated in the New Testament is the command regarding the Sabbath.
 - In Acts 15:28-29, observing the Sabbath was *not* one of the Old Testament requirements the apostles laid on the Gentile believers.
 - In Colossians 2:16-17, Paul explicitly lists the Sabbath as an area where Christians have freedom in Christ. We are free to observe it, and free to not:
 - o “Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.”

Exodus 34:4-7 - God's Description of Himself

How would you describe God in the Old Testament?

How did God describe himself in the Old Testament?

The Context: Moses asked to see God's glory . (Exodus 33:18-23)

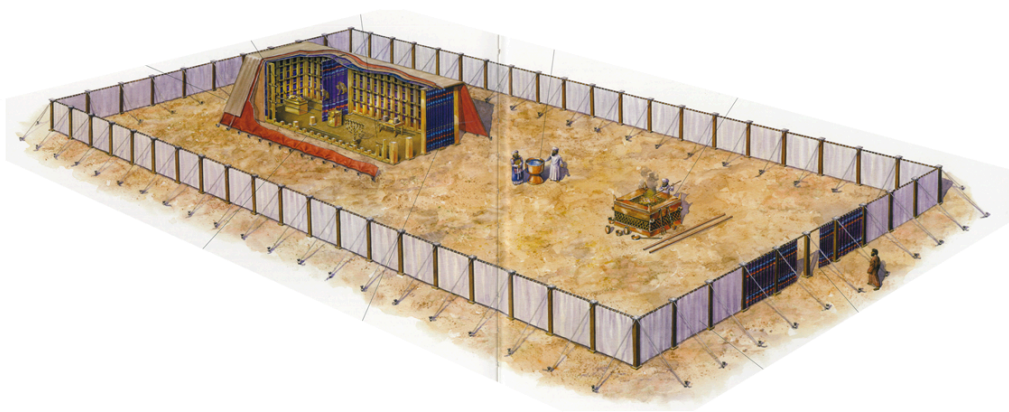
The Content: A Merciful God

Exodus 34:4-7 “So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. 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, 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 25-31 & 35-40 - The Tabernacle

- Reveals God's Heart: God wants to be with His people.
 - Exodus 29:45-46 "I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God."
- Comprised of a curtained courtyard which contained an altar, a basin, and a long tent.
- The long tent had a front room (The Holy Place) and a back room (The Most Holy Place, or Holy of Holies).
 - Items in The Holy Place: Table for Bread, Lampstand (Menorah), and a small Altar of Incense.
 - Item in The Most Holy Place: The Ark of the Covenant



- Contained various levels of sacred space.
 - All Israelites were allowed in the courtyard.
 - Only the Priests were allowed in the Holy Place.
 - Only the High Priest was allowed in the Most Holy Place once a year.

IV. Messianic Elements within Exodus

- Direct Prophecies: none.
- Foreshadowing Events:
 - The Exodus (see discussion above): The Exodus is to the Old Testament what the Cross is to the New Testament.
- Types of Christ:
 - The Passover Lamb



- John 1:29 "The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold, **the Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world!'"
- John 19:33, 36 "But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ... For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: '**Not one of his bones will be broken.**'" (John is quoting from Exodus 12:46, part of the instructions Moses gave the Israelites about the Passover lamb.)
- 1 Corinthians 5:7 "Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For **Christ, our Passover lamb**, has been sacrificed."
- The Tabernacle
 - Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel [God with Us]."
 - John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt [tabernacled] among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."