

## **#2. THE BOOK OF EXODUS**

1. Exodus comes from a word meaning exit or going out, and is the magnificent story of Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt. It is the second part of a five-book collection known as The Torah, or The Law of Moses.
  
2. As with Genesis, the author is Moses, and the date of writing is shortly after the exodus of Israel from Egypt (1445BC). So we have a solid date of composition as between 1445-1405BC. Moses is confirmed as the author by internal evidences in both Old and New Testaments (see Exodus 17:14; Numbers 33:2; Joshua 8:31; 1 Kings 2:3; 2 Kings 14:6; Ezra 6:18; Nehemiah 13:1; Daniel 9:11-13; Malachi 4:4; Matthew 8:4; Mark 12:26; Luke 16:29; 24:27, 44; John 5:46; 7:22; Acts 15:1; Romans 10:19; 1 Corinthians 9:9; 2 Corinthians 3:15).
  
3. Key Chapters
  - The setting and nature of their bondage explained: chapter 1
  - The call of Moses: chapters 2 and 3
  - The plagues upon Egypt: chapters 7-11
  - The Passover is instituted: chapter 12
  
4. Key Verses
  - "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead My people Israel out of Egypt." (3:7, 10)
  
5. Key people in the story of Exodus
  - Moses – the great prophet and lawgiver for Israel.
  - Pharaoh – the ruler of Egypt, the powerful, oppressive nation that held Israel in slavery.
  - Aaron – the brother of Moses who served as Moses' priestly assistant.
  - Miriam – the sister of Moses who was also a great influencer in Israel's earliest days.
  - Joshua – the faithful, Godly man who led Israel's armies. He would eventually lead Israel after the

death of Moses.

- Bezalel – the anointed artisan appointed by Moses to oversee the construction of The Tabernacle.

## 6. Key places in Exodus:

- Egypt – a national super-power in northeast Africa that had enslaved Israel some generations after the death of Joseph. Israel, as a shepherding class, had been assigned to the Land of Goshen. Approximately 75 souls had grown into a subculture of over three million!
- The Nile River – viewed as the source of life for Egypt, the river would itself come under the judgment of Jehovah as God went to war for the liberation of the Israelites.
- The Red Sea – the great natural barrier between Egypt and Canaan. It was the site of Israel's greatest deliverance.
- Midian – basically the Arabian Peninsula located on the way to the Promised Land.
- The Wilderness of Sin – The area of land referred to simply as The Wilderness. It was the place of Israel's testing.
- Mount Sinai – also known as Jubal Musa (Mountain of Moses), the place where Moses met God and received the Ten Commandments.

## 7. Key themes in Exodus

- **REDEMPTION:** Just as Genesis foreshadowed Christ through animal sacrifices, the book of Exodus further portrays Israel's redemption from Egyptian bondage as a foreshadowing of our redemption from sin's bondage. As the blood of the sacrificial lamb protected Israel from the death angel (causing him to pass over), the Blood of Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for all who receive Him.
- **THE LAW:** Israel began receiving the Law of Moses, which was really the Law of God given through Moses, in the book of Exodus. The Law had three components: laws that were civil, laws that were ceremonial, and laws that were moral. These codes would govern Israel's civic and spiritual life in the Old Testament.
- **ISRAEL AS A NATION:** In the Book of Genesis, the focus was on the Patriarchs and the 12 sons of Jacob. Although there were less than a hundred as Genesis closes, the descendants of Abraham have grown into a great number in Egypt. This was the realization of God's promise that Abraham's family would become a great nation that would bless the entire world!

## 8. The Contents of Exodus

- Exodus is divided into three parts:

- (1) 1:1 through 12:30 is about Israel in Egypt.
- (2) 12:31 through 18:27 is about Israel in the Wilderness of Sin.
- (3) 19:1 through 40:38 is about Israel in the Presence of God at Mount Sinai (dealing with The Law in chapters 19-24 and The Tabernacle in chapters 25-40).

- Outline:

- The story of bondage and despair – chapter 1
- The deliver named Moses – chapters 2-4
- Pharaoh is confronted; deliverance is announced – chapter 5
- The Plagues (1-9) commence – chapters 5-11
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Plague and the institution of Passover – chapters 11, 12
- Crossing at the Red Sea – chapters 13, 14
- Marching to meet God at Mount Sinai – chapters 15-17
  - The Song of the Redeemed – chapter 15
  - Testimony of God's provision – chapter 16
  - Water from the Rock – chapter 17
- Receiving The Law – chapters 19-24
  - The Moral Commandments – chapters 19, 20
  - The Civic Commandments – chapters 21-23
  - The Ceremonial Commandments – chapter 24
- The Tabernacle – chapters 25-40
  - The design was given to Moses – chapters 25-31
  - Construction of the Tabernacle is delayed as the people lapse into idolatry (the Golden Calf) – chapters 32-34
  - The Tabernacle is completed (one year after the exodus from Egypt) – chapters 35-40

## 9. Key Concepts in Exodus

- The people of God must be prepared to live a counter-cultural lifestyle.

- The day is coming when all the nations of the earth will serve Christ. Until that time, the people of God do two things: (1) we are to live in a way that influences present culture for Godliness. (2) If the present culture doesn't change, we prepare to be "in the world, but not of it."
- It was this counter-cultural existence that would bear witness to Jehovah for all the surrounding nations.
- Our deliverance is not accomplished by the strength of our own hands, but by the mighty delivering power of our Lord.
  - God went to war with the most powerful nation on earth and secured deliverance for His people. He won not only against the natural armies of Egypt, but also delivered Israel from principalities and powers—a pantheon of gods that were proven to be false. There is no god like Jehovah—the one true and living God!