

Bible Study Handout: The Book of Exodus

"If Genesis is the book of beginnings, Exodus is the book of becoming."

Exodus records the great deliverance of God's people out of bondage in Egypt through the leadership of Moses, by the mighty hand of God. It is where the children of Israel move from being a family to becoming a nation.

Overview

Meaning of "Exodus": Departure or Going Out — It captures the central event: Israel's deliverance from Egypt.

Hebrew Title: Shemot ("Names")

Human Penman: Moses

Time Written: During Israel's wilderness period (~1446–1406 BC)

Place Written: Likely in the wilderness, following Israel's deliverance from Egypt.

Historical Notes

- Nearly 400 years have passed since Joseph.
- The Israelites, once favoured guests in Egypt, are now slaves under a Pharaoh who *"knew not Joseph."*
- Egypt forgot Joseph, but God never forgot His promises.
- The covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was still alive, proving that God always keeps His Word.

Divisions of the Book

I. Israel in Bondage — *Chapter 1*

II. Moses Is Called — *Chapters 2–4*

III. The Confrontation with Pharaoh — *Chapters 5–7*

IV. The Plagues and the Passover — *Chapters 7–12*

V. The Exodus and Song of Miriam — *Chapters 12–15*

VI. The Journey to Mount Sinai — *Chapters 15–18*

VII. The Covenant at Mount Sinai — *Chapters 19–24*

VIII. The Tabernacle Plans — *Chapters 25–31*

IX. The Golden Calf and Intercession — *Chapters 32–35*

X. The Tabernacle Completed — *Chapters 35–40*

Spiritual Parallels — The Christian Life

Bondage in Egypt = Bondage in Sin

The Passover Lamb = The Blood of Christ

The Red Sea = Salvation (*1 Corinthians 10:1–2*)

The Wilderness Journey = The Christian Walk (*Psalms 23*)

Mount Sinai = God's Desire for Holiness

The Tabernacle = God's Presence with His People

The Promised Land = Victorious Spiritual Life

Central Theme: The Presence of God

From the burning bush to the pillar of cloud and fire, to the glory filling the tabernacle, God shows that He desires to dwell among His people.

Spurgeon said, *"From the first day of creation until now, the Lord has desired to dwell with the creature He has made. The story of grace is the story of God seeking to bring man into fellowship with Himself."*

Key Themes

- a. Redemption — God redeems His people.
- b. Covenant — God enters into a binding relationship.
- c. Presence — God dwells among His people.
- d. Law and Holiness — God calls His people to be set apart.
- e. Mediation — Moses points to Christ, our greater Mediator.
- f. Worship — The goal of deliverance is adoration.

Theological Emphasis

- God's Sovereignty: He rules over kings, nations, and nature.
- God's Faithfulness: He remembers His covenant promises.
- God's Power: The plagues, Red Sea, and manna reveal His might.
- God's Grace: Despite failure, He renews His covenant.
- God's Presence: The tabernacle closes the book — God dwelling among His people.

Key Verses

Exodus 6:6–7 *"Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."*

Christ in Exodus

The Passover Lamb → Christ, the Lamb of God (1 Cor. 5:7)

The Deliverer Moses → Christ, the Greater Deliverer (Deut. 18:15; Acts 7:37)

The Manna → Christ, the Bread of Life (John 6:32–35)

The Rock → Christ, the Living Water (1 Cor. 10:4)

The Tabernacle → Christ, God Dwelling Among Us (John 1:14)

Walking Through Exodus Chapter 1

- This passage speaks of the family of Joseph in Egypt.
- Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah were the first four sons of Jacob. Their mother was Leah (Genesis 29:31–35).
- Issachar and Zebulun were also sons of Leah, born ninth and tenth in the order of Jacob's twelve sons.
- Benjamin is listed next because he was the son of Rachel, Jacob's favorite wife.
- Dan and Naphtali were the sons of Rachel's handmaid Bilhah.
- Gad and Asher were the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid.
- In verse 5, Joseph is mentioned for his prominence in Israel's history and his relationship with Pharaoh.
- Verses 7–14 teach about the growth of Joseph's family and their eventual enslavement.
- God's promises may take generations to unfold, but He never forgets His people. Even when unseen, His plan is moving forward.

Exodus 1:7

- The children of Israel were fruitful, increased abundantly, and multiplied — showing God's blessing despite hardship.
- God's blessings are not dependent on where we are but on who He is. He can prosper His people in any circumstance.

Exodus 1:8–14

- A new Pharaoh arose who did not know Joseph. Fear led Egypt to enslave Israel.
- The more Israel was afflicted, the more they multiplied. God's plan cannot be stopped by man's oppression.
- God often uses hardship to prepare His people for greater purposes. Adversity can become the soil where faith grows.

Exodus 1:15–16

- Pharaoh commanded the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, to kill all male Hebrew babies at birth.
- This was likely meant to look like natural deaths to avoid public outrage.
- Infanticide, though ancient, shares the same evil as modern abortion — both take the life of a helpless child.
- The sanctity of life is rooted in God's character.

Exodus 1:17

- The midwives feared God more than Pharaoh and saved the male babies alive.
- Their fear of God produced courage. Right behaviour flows from right belief.

- When God is big in our hearts, man becomes small in our eyes (Proverbs 29:25).
- They chose to obey God rather than Pharaoh, an example of civil disobedience when human law contradicts divine law (Acts 5:29).

Exodus 1:18–22

- Pharaoh confronted the midwives, who falsely claimed that Hebrew women gave birth too quickly. Though their deception was wrong, their choice to save life was right.
- God blessed them with households for their faithfulness. Even when human motives are imperfect, God's grace works through obedience.
- Pharaoh's cruelty escalated — commanding all male babies to be thrown into the Nile — but God's providence protected His chosen deliverer, Moses.
- God's plans prevail despite human evil. Faithfulness in small things matters to God and has lasting impact.
- Yet God's providence prevailed — one baby would be saved for His purpose: Moses.

Bible Study Questions:

1. How does the transition from Genesis to Exodus illustrate God's plan to move His people from simply existing as a family to becoming a nation?
2. What does the meaning of the word *Exodus* ("*departure*") reveal about the purpose of God's deliverance for His people?
3. Though Egypt forgot Joseph, how does Exodus remind us that God never forgets His promises?
4. How does the 400-year gap between Joseph and Moses teach us about God's timing and faithfulness?
5. In what ways is Israel's bondage in Egypt a picture of the believer's bondage in sin?
6. How do the key events in Exodus—the Passover lamb, the crossing of the Red Sea, and the wilderness journey—each point to stages in the Christian life?
7. What do the wilderness and Mount Sinai reveal about God's desire for holiness and obedience among His people?
8. How does the tabernacle demonstrate God's longing to dwell with His people, both then and now?
9. Exodus 6:6–7 teaches that freedom is more than escape *from* something—it's redemption *to* something. What does that mean for the believer's daily walk?
10. How do we see Christ foreshadowed in Exodus as our Lamb, our Deliverer, our Bread, our Living Water, and our Tabernacle?