

LESSON 4: EXODUS

GROW University - Old Testament 101

Context

Historical: ~300 years after the end of Genesis.

Birth of Moses: Sometime before 1500 BC.

Rest of the book: ~1445 BC¹

Redemptive Historical:²

The Abrahamic Covenant³ was passed on through his descendants, Isaac and Jacob. But at the end of Genesis...

- 1.) They're not a great nation.
- 2.) They don't possess any land.
- 3.) They are living as foreigners in Egypt.

Read Exodus 1:6-7.

- 4.) They've become enslaved. (1:8-16)

Theme

God redeemed His people out of slavery into a special relationship with Him. In doing so, He 1.) spread His fame through the world, 2.) continued His re-creation plan, 3.) Established covenant terms for this special relationship, 4.) Foreshadowed the coming life and ministry of Christ.

¹ These dates are rounded for simplicity's sake, and based on 1 Kings 6:1 as a reference, knowing that the Temple construction began in 966 BC. The dates also assume that the 400 years mentioned in Genesis 15:13 began when Joseph was enslaved.

² Redemptive History: The historical record of God redeeming a people to Himself after they've fallen into sin.

³ The promise from last week that God had made to Abraham that his descendants would comprise a great nation that would possess the land of Canaan, and be a blessing to the world.

Outline With Pivotal Texts

I.) **Exodus 1:1-6:13**

The People of God are cruelly oppressed – section ends with God's promise to rescue
(The "seed of the serpent" persecutes the "seed of the woman")

II.) **Exodus 6:14-12:39**

The Lord publicly punishes the oppressor of His people –section ends with the Exodus
(The "seed of the woman" and the "seed of the serpent" do battle.)

III.) **Exodus 12:40-18:27**

God's people are now free to live in fellowship with Him – led to Mount Sinai
(The "seed of the woman" has triumphed by God's grace.)

IV.) **Exodus 19-23**

Covenant Obligations:

Ch. 19-20	Decalogue as standard for all of life
21:1-22:15	Social life
22:16-23:9	Moral life
23:10-23:33	Religious calendar

V.) **Exodus 24**

Covenant Ceremony – and the promise to be with them

VI.) **Exodus 25-31**

Covenant Meeting Place Described – how to build the tabernacle

VII.) **Exodus 32-34**

Covenant Disobedience and Covenant Grace:

Ch. 32 - The people break the covenant and Moses intercedes
Ch. 33- Moses "sees" the glory of the Lord
Ch. 34 Covenant is renewed

VIII.) **Exodus 35-40**

Covenant Meeting Place Built – tabernacle is built

IX.) **Exodus 40:34-38***

Covenant Presence of the Lord - climax of the book

Theme Texts

3:7-12

**3 overarching themes in the exodus that help us understand
how it fits into the whole story of the Bible:**

1. **The Lord redeems His people from brutal slavery...**

_Read **Exodus 3:7**.

2. by God Himself through a blood-sacrifice,...

_Read **Exodus 3:8**.

_Read **Exodus 6:6**.

But God accomplished the final act of deliverance through a blood-sacrifice (ch 12).

3. ...to have fellowship with Him in the land which He is giving them.

3:8: God took them *out* of slavery to take them *into* something else: the promised land.

Type: Land

Antitype: Future Re-creation of the entire universe

3:10: "My people"

3:12: When they come out of Egypt they will serve Him.

There are over 120 explicit OT references to the Exodus in law, narrative, prophecy, and psalm, and it is difficult to exaggerate its importance. Foundational to Israel's self-perception...it is recalled in liturgy, prayer, and sermon. As the preeminent saving event in their history, the Exodus profoundly shaped Israel's social structures, calendars, remembrance of the ancient past, and hopes of further restoration. Because of their conviction that Jesus fulfilled Israel's destiny, the NT authors couch their works in Exodus language, albeit on a cosmic scale and with reference to all peoples.⁴

3:13-15

Read **3:13-14**.

God's revealed name: "I AM WHO I AM."

- He is self-existent – not created by anything, but Creator of everything.
- He is self-sufficient – needing nothing, but desperately needed by everything else.
- He is eternal – having no beginning and no end.
- Everything else exists by His will, for His glory, and is therefore subject to His authority.

⁴ Alexander, T. Desmond., Brian S. Rosner, Donald A. Carson, Graeme Goldsworthy, and Steve Carter. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 2000. (p. 487)

- A personal, relational God (the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob).⁵ This was a new event in redemptive history.^{6 7}

4:22

Read 4:22-23.

Israel is called "**God's son**" (in a unique relationship with Yahweh).

- First in God's affections as His covenant people.
- Also have a special responsibility:
 - to display Yahweh's glory to the rest of the nations and
 - make Him known throughout all

Five things about Israel as the "son of God" in Exodus:

1. They miraculously passed through the waters of the Red Sea (Exodus 14).
2. They were tempted in the wilderness (Exodus 16:2).
3. They complained about having no food, just after crossing the sea (Exodus 16).
4. They "tested" the Lord with their quarreling when they didn't have water (Exodus 17:2).
5. They worshipped other gods while Moses was on the mountain, getting the very 10 commandments (Exodus 32).⁸

Typology: Jesus is the true and better Son, who succeeded where Israel failed...

1. Matthew 3:16 – Jesus passed through the waters.
2. Matthew 3:17 – called "God's beloved Son."

⁵ Not only that, but Jesus sees here that the great "I AM" is a God who raises the dead, by calling Himself the God of these people who have long since died (Mark 12:26f).

⁶What does it mean when you read "The LORD" in your Bible? "I AM" is the literal meaning of the Hebrew name "Yahweh/Jehovah." Well, long-story-short, most instances of "the LORD" in the OT are a loving, respectful translation of "Yahweh," or "I AM."

⁷ It is also interesting to note that in John 8:24 and 8:58, etc., Jesus calls himself "I AM," revealing Himself as God. Jesus is who we are reading about here in Exodus, this God who performed great miracles to rescue His people.

⁸ Interestingly, the first commandment was to have no other gods before Yahweh, and the second was not to make any idols. Meanwhile, down at the foot of the mountain, the people fashioned an idol, called it "*their* god," and worshipped it!

3. Matthew 4 – went into the wilderness to be tempted.⁹
 1. 1st temptation surrounded food (verses 3-4).
 2. 2nd was to “test” God (verses 5-7)
 3. 3rd was to worship someone other than God (verses 8-10).

5:2 et al.

Why Yahweh did rescue His people, and why did He do it through all the plagues that He reigned down upon Israel's oppressors, the Egyptians?

Q: “Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice...?”

A: The rest of ch. 5 through ch. 18.

The exodus was Yahweh's self-introduction onto the world's stage: Yahweh taking His glory public.

To the nation of Israel in **6:7**

Of the Egyptians in **7:5**

The intent of the first plague: **7:17**

The second plague **8:10**

The protection of Israel from the plagues **8:22**

Why He provided for His people in the desert **16:12**

To Pharaoh in **9:14-16**.

All this happened in Egypt so that Yahweh's reputation for being a powerful Savior would be proclaimed in all the earth.

_Read **14:31**. Israel believed in Yahweh.

_Read **18:11**. (Rf. **Joshua 2:8-11**)

–Jonathan Edwards, “All that is ever spoken in the Scripture as an ultimate end of God's word is included in that one phrase, the glory of God.”¹⁰

⁹ Jesus succeeded by quoting Scripture from Deuteronomy, where Moses told Israel what they should have done during those temptations. So let's follow the example of Jesus. Jesus not only knew the Scriptures, but *in context* as they are *meant* to be understood, and He knew how to apply them the right way at the right time.

¹⁰ John Piper and Jonathan Edwards, *Gods Passion for His Glory: Living the Vision of Jonathan Edwards. With the Complete Text from “The End for Which God Created the World” / by Jonathan Edwards.* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1999), p.92)

He is creating, revealing Himself, redeeming His people, doing justice, etc., for His own glory, that He may display glory, that we may see His glory, that we may marvel at His glory, that we may enjoy His glory.¹¹

11:1-12:32: The "Passover."

Read **Exodus 11:4-6**. Pharaoh is unmasked as an imposter when he cannot protect Egypt nor stop Yahweh from taking his son.

However, no Israelites would die because they are God's covenant people (v7)

- Had to take a one-year-old male lamb without blemish and spread its blood over and around the doors to their homes.
- Had to eat the lamb together with unleavened bread.
- The people of God did just that (12:11-13)

A blood sacrifice by faith was the means by which God's wrath "passed over" His people (grace). We will see this again.

- The work of the Old Testament priests (sacrifices).
- The Lord Jesus Christ (absorbed the wrath of God on behalf of His people, and shed His blood in the process – John 1:29)

19:1-20; 20-21

Read **19:4-6**. Again, Israel has great privileges + great responsibilities.

Read **19:16-20** – The scene on the mountain... wow.

Read **Exodus 20:1-17 – The 10 Commandments**.

Where do these commands fit into a covenant of grace?

1. Israelites were not saved because they kept the law (v2).

¹¹ Here are only a few example of God working for the propagation of His own glory: Genesis 1:26-27; 11:1-4; Exodus 9:13-16; 14:4; 20:3-6; 32:9-13; Deuteronomy 9:1-3; 1 Samuel 12:19-22; 2 Samuel 7:23; Psalm 19:1-2; 23:3; 86:8-10; 106:6-8; Isaiah 43:6-7; 48:9-11; 49:3; Ezekiel 20:6-22; 36:22-23; Matthew 5:16; John 7:18; Romans 3:21-28; 15:8-9; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 1:3-14; 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 1 Peter 4:11; Revelation 4:11; 19:6-7

2. Israel points back to the paradise lost AND forward to paradise restored. Therefore, Israel needs direction on how to rightly display God's image... and so the law.
3. The law also reminded them that they still need Someone to come and rescue them from their sin (v19-20).

Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 22:38-40, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

32:1-34:35

Q: How is the covenant lived out?

A: In Genesis 15, God alone took upon Himself the oath and the symbolic curse should He break His promises.

But this time the people do have obligations, and so they too are bound by a blood-oath to keep their end of the covenant, as shown in this ceremony (Ex 24:3, 7-8).

Read **32:1**.

Q: How does Yahweh respond to this covenant disloyalty?

A: God, "your people" (v7-10)!

Moses *truly* acts a type of Christ (v11-13), interceding on behalf of the people.

Read **32:14**. Israel is called "God's people" again!¹²

¹² The Pattern: Israel turns its back on the covenant. The Lord sends His wrath, but with mercy in its wake. He always pursues His people and restores His relationship with them. He is jealous for their holiness, so you see His anger. But He is also jealous that they be exclusively His, so He graciously welcomes them back, not to rebel again. The Old Testament, as a whole, cries out over and over again that these people are sinners through and through. If the Savior to come is going to eternally reconcile anyone to God, He has to deal radically, decisively, and finally with the sin so entrenched in their hearts. Honestly, we can see a lot of Israel in us, too. So we ought to praise the Lord for His unfailing and constant grace towards us!

33:12-23

- The Covenant is the means to a greater end: knowing and enjoying God (v12-17).
- Moses asks to see God's glory (the full manifestation of all His internal perfections and beauty – v18).
- V19-23 – Yahweh's answer.¹³

28:38-46

Q: How can a holy God and sinful people live together without God's righteous judgment breaking out against them?

A: Old Testament – The Tabernacle

1.) This offering is to make atonement for sins (v38). *Sacrifices are for the atonement for sins, and had to be carried out every day (v36, et. al.)!*

2.) Only through forgiveness of sins can anyone meet with God (v42). *That's why these offerings needed to be made at the entrance to the tabernacle.*

3.) The tabernacle is the place where Moses receives revelation from God (v42).

4.) The tabernacle is where God will meet and reconcile with His people (v43).

5.) The tabernacle is holy because of the presence of God's glory (v43).

6.) The tabernacle is the physical place where God will dwell in the midst of His people (v45).

7.) The purpose of all of this is to know the Lord their God (v46). *That God be known, in all the beauty, glory, and power of how He is, is the goal.*

A2: New Testament – Jesus Christ

1.) Jesus made atonement for sins, once and for all.

***Hebrews 9:26,** "[Jesus] has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."*

2. Only through Jesus' atonement can anyone can come to the Father (John 14:6).

3. Jesus is the full revelation of God, the place where we learn the most about Him.

¹³ The New Testament doesn't teach this, but theologians have long argued that we have another type of Christ here. How is this event typological of Christ and His work for sinners? Christ protected His sinful people from the holy out-lash of God's glory against their sins through His death on the cross. Now, because we are "in Christ", God has brought us into His presence without destroying us with the overwhelming weight of glory.

Hebrews 1:2, "in these last days has spoken to us in His Son..."

4. God meets and reconciles with His people in Jesus.

Romans 5:11, "...we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation."

5. Jesus is the manifestation of God's glory.

John 1:14, "...the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

6. Jesus is God in a physical body, dwelling with His people.

Colossians 2:9, "...in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form."

7. Only through Jesus does anyone know God.

John 14:7, "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also..."

Conclusion

Yahweh is fulfilling His covenant promises of old.

Read **Exodus 40:34-38**.

Application

1. As Christians, we are twice indebted to God's glory.
2. Don't use the Law as a way to establish your own righteousness, but rather in a way that will drive you to Christ.
3. Help each other in this use of the Law.