



# *Exodus*

## **A 12 WEEK INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY**

**SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES**

*By Lisa Hughes*

## Welcome

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?*

Nothing could be more true! There is no better foundation for a believer than the rock-solid Word of God. It's my prayer that your faith and love for the Lord will be strengthened as you study His Word in these lessons. I want your hunger for the Scriptures to grow as you study its truths. And more than anything else, I want you to know that you can live upon the Word of God.

Steadfastness, assurance, and hope are the characteristics of all those who build upon the unshakeable foundation of the Word of God. That's why I'm so thrilled you've found your way to this Bible study. Our Bibles contain all the wisdom and guidance we'll need for our daily life (2 Peter 1:3). God's Word is one of the primary means God uses to strengthen our faith and sanctify our hearts. That's why it's so important to dig in to the details of the Scriptures and mine the treasures tucked away for us there.

*Scripture Paths Bible Studies* are in-depth, inductive studies of the Scriptures. Each lesson endeavors to teach you how to feed yourself when you delve into God's Word. As you spend time on each lesson you will grow in Bible knowledge and understanding, learn how to apply the Scriptures to your life, and become more firmly convinced than ever that God's Word is authoritative, complete, without error, and sufficient for your life.

### **HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT *SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES*:**

1. *Purposefully prepared.* Each lesson has a unique goal, whether it's to train you in the art of studying the Scriptures or to showcase the point of the passage. None of it is busywork—it's lifework for our souls.
2. *Plan ahead.* Adding a Bible study to an already busy life takes preparation. You'll need to figure out when you can complete your lessons. Do you like to set aside bits of time each day to work on the lesson or do you prefer to do it all in one sitting? Try experimenting with a method that works best for you.
3. *Persevere.* Keep going to the Lord for wisdom, for strength, and the desire to press on when life gets busy and you find it difficult to finish your lessons.
4. *Pray.* Ask the Lord to transform you through the study of His Word. Use your study time to get to know the Lord better.

5. *Prompt your memory.* Try to glean little nuggets of truth or application from each lesson, and then share them with someone. This will help solidify what you're learning and encourage someone else too.
  
6. *Put it into practice.* Nearly every lesson has questions for you to apply to your life. To study just to study is not our goal. Studying to grow in our understanding of the Scriptures, of the Lord, and how to live lives honoring to Him is what we're aiming at. Look for opportunities to apply God's Word.

There are treasures upon the surface of the Word which we may pick up very readily: even the casual reader will find himself able to understand the simplicities and elements of the gospel of God; but the Word of God yields most to the digger. ~Charles Spurgeon

## **THE GOAL AND PURPOSE OF THIS BIBLE STUDY**

*Grace to you and peace* John Calvin wrote, “We owe to the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God, because it has proceeded from Him alone, and has nothing of man mixed with it.” It’s that premise which propels me to write and study the Bible for myself and for anyone else who wants to study along with me. God has revealed Himself in the pages of Scripture. The Bible is complete and authoritative and contains everything we need to live for His glory. It’s in the study of the Scriptures that we grow in our knowledge of God and are transformed into His likeness. A commitment to lean on and live in God’s Word is a distinguishing characteristic of a Christian as Jesus explained to a crowd of His followers in John 8:31-32: “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Because all “Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16) we study inductively in order to glean as much as we can from the Word of God. Inductive Bible study consists of observation, interpretation, and application. Simply put, *observation* is noticing what the author is saying; *interpretation* is finding out what he means; and *application* is utilizing those truths to your life.

As you study this book of the Bible it is my prayer that you will grow in your commitment to the Word of God as the source of life and godliness, and you will accept it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe (1 Thess. 2:13). As a young man Jonathan Edwards (one of America’s most famous theologians and preachers) made a list of resolutions he desired, by God’s grace, to do his best to live by. One of those commitments is resolution #28: “Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.” May you see the study of God’s Word making such a difference in your life that you bear the fruit of wisdom, knowledge, godly conduct, that you overcome sin and grow daily in your love for Christ.

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
Lisa Hughes*

## **HOW TO USE THIS STUDY**

Feel free to tailor this study to your needs. Some have found it works best for them to complete the lesson in one sitting, while others find that breaking up the lesson by answering a few questions each day works the best for them. Try experimenting with different ways to complete each lesson, you'll soon discover what works for you and produces the most spiritual benefit.

Some of the lessons have what I call "Eager Beaver" questions. They're rabbit-trail questions. They don't really fit with the theme of the passage, but they're interesting nonetheless. They're there for your enjoyment and growth.

Another feature of the Bible studies is the opportunity to do word studies. Whenever I want you to study a word further I'll include the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance number with it. The Strong's number is basically a reference number attached to most words found in the Bible. That number allows you to search for it in different reference works easily—even when you don't know Hebrew or Greek. I explain how to use those resources in an Addendum at the end of the study. These tools are valuable for any Bible study student, yet not mandatory for completing these lessons.

If you're new to studying the Bible then you may feel a bit overwhelmed, but I want to encourage you to stick with the study. Studying the Bible takes planning on your part and commitment, but the spiritual blessing and personal growth in Christ makes any "hardship" worth it. Remember, the goal of studying the Bible is that you would grow more in Christ, so start each lesson with a time of prayer asking the Lord for wisdom and His grace to study His Word, then continue to seek the Lord as you complete the lesson.

If you're a leader and you're introducing this study to your ladies for the first time, be sure to encourage them a lot! Though each lesson was written to achieve a specific purpose, you may find your ladies would fare best if they take two weeks to complete each lesson. If that's the case, feel free to do so. You want the ladies to enjoy studying God's Word, so keep encouraging them. Pray together, memorize a chapter out of the book, and dig in to each lesson. As you work on the lessons each week you will all gain a clearer picture of our great God, His will for us, and how to live for Him.

*And what could be better than that?*

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore, my soul observes them.  
 The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.  
 I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for Your commandments.  
 Turn to me and be gracious to me, after Your manner with those who love Your name.  
 Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.  
 Psalm 119:129-133

## Exodus

### Lesson #1, Chapters 1-2

*“Exodus stands at the heart of the Old Testament as the greatest example of the saving acts of God before Christ.”<sup>1</sup>*

*The climax of the entire Old Testament is recorded in chapters 12–14: the salvation of Israel through blood (the Passover) and through power (the Red Sea). The Exodus is the central event of the Old Testament as the Cross is of the New Testament.<sup>2</sup>*

As you embark on this study of the book as Exodus, ask the Lord for His help and insight into His Word.

1. List five facts about the book of Exodus you discovered in the introductory notes of a study Bible, commentary, Bible encyclopedia<sup>3</sup>, or online Bible study website.<sup>4</sup> Look for answers to the who, what, when, where, and why questions. You can start with questions like *who wrote the book, what is the book about, when did the events of the book take place, where do the events in the book take place, and why is this book important for today?* Record your cool five facts below!
2. What are some reasons to study the book of Exodus? See Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
3. Look up Genesis 12:1-3; 46:3, 26-27; 48:3-4 and Deuteronomy 26:5. Explain how the time in Egypt was significant for the descendants of Abraham.

---

<sup>1</sup> Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa, *Talk Thru the Bible* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1983), 15.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 14.

<sup>3</sup> Recommended resources: *Talk Thru the Bible* by Wilkinson and Boa; *The Expositor's Bible Commentary* by Walter Kaiser Jr.; *Moses and the God's of Egypt* by John J. Davis; *Exodus* by John L. Mackay.

<sup>4</sup>You can find some great information about the book of Numbers on different Bible study websites. I would highly recommend [https://www.preceptaustin.org/exodus\\_commentaries](https://www.preceptaustin.org/exodus_commentaries). Check out these sites as well: <http://net.bible.org>, [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com), [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com), or <http://preceptaustin.org>. There are other sites out there, but these are a good starting point.

4. Based upon your preliminary reading and study, describe how the book of Exodus is divided. Try to answer with broader characterizations, rather than more super detailed, specific divisions.
  
5. The book of Exodus picks up where the book of Genesis ends. What was the situation for the family of Jacob at the end of the book of Genesis? See Genesis 50:22-26.
  
6. What do we learn about this family as the book of Exodus opens in Exodus 1:1-7?
  
7. What do you learn about the new king mentioned in Exodus 1:8? What were his concerns about the Israelites? See Exodus 1:9-10.
  
8. What was the king's solution? See verses 11-14.
  

Eager Beaver: See what you can discover about the storage cities, Pithom and Raamses and list a few details here.

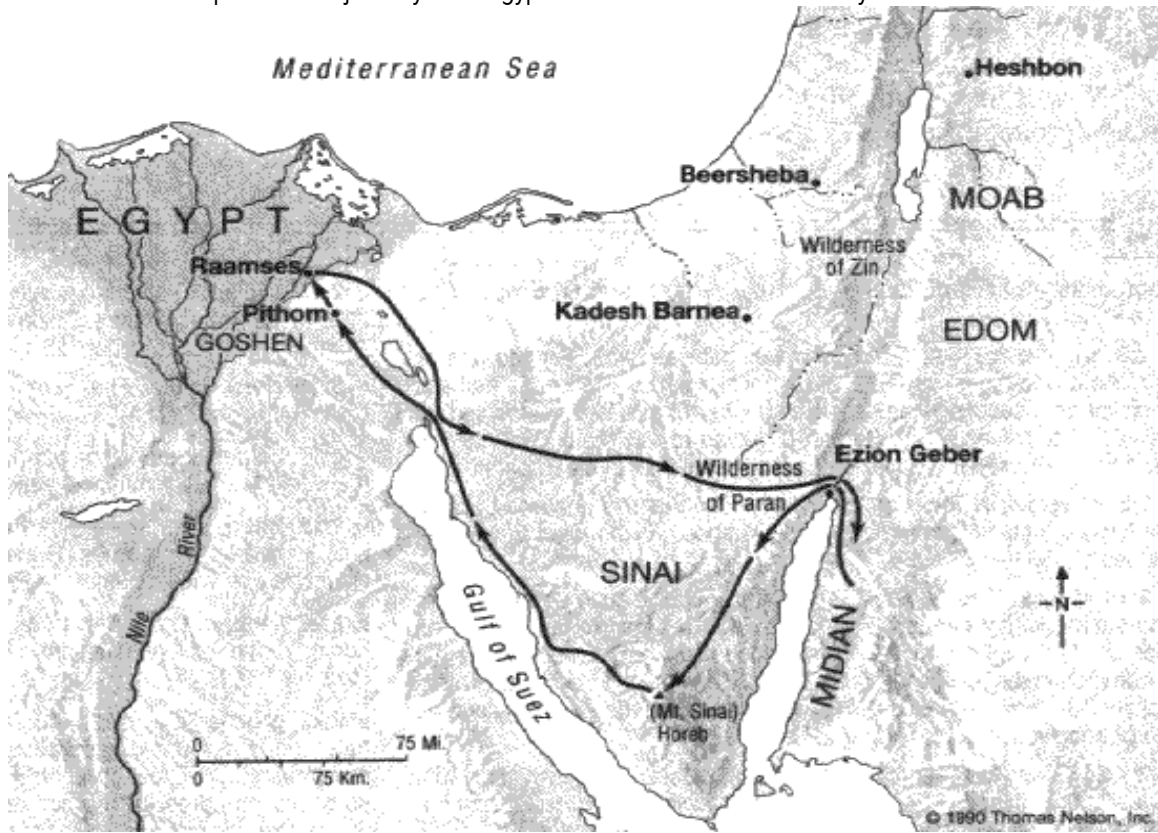
  
9. The king continued his efforts to curb Israel's population growth. What was this new solution? See Exodus 1:15-16.

10. What do you learn about two particular Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1:15-21)?
  
11. Because forced and rigorous labor didn't work at reducing the population, nor did the command for the Israelites to kill their male children, the king ups the ante in verse 22. Who else is enlisted in his wicked plan?
  
12. Consider what life would have been like for the descendants of Abraham as told in Exodus chapter 1. What *words* would you use to describe it?
  
13. Chapter 2 begins by drawing our attention to *one* family in the midst of the thousands of Abraham's descendants residing in Egypt. What do you learn about this family in verses 1-4?
  
14. Speaking through the author of Hebrews, what extra insight does the Holy Spirit give us about this particular family? See Hebrews 11:23.
  
15. According to the author of Hebrews, why weren't Moses' parents afraid of disobeying the king's command? See Hebrews 11:1-2, 6.
  
16. Moses' parents looked to God for help and deliverance for their family. How did the Lord provide for them? See Exodus 2:5-10 and Acts 7:20-22. What events from those verses stand out to you as particularly noteworthy or awe-inspiring?



17. Exodus 2:11 records an interesting turn of events. What do you learn from Exodus 2:11; Acts 7:23 and Hebrews 11:24-26? What insights do you gain from those passages about Moses' faith in the One, True God?
  
18. At the age of 40, Moses threw in his lot with the people of Israel. How do the events recorded in Exodus 2:11-15; Acts 7:23-29 and Hebrews 11:24-27 reveal Moses' motivations? What indication is there in the Acts 7 text that Moses knew God intended to use him to deliver his suffering brethren from their Egyptian bondage?
  
19. Though Moses *was* called to deliver the Israelites, the timing wasn't yet right. Rather than leaving Egypt with *all* the people in tow, at this point, the only one to leave Egypt was Moses. What does this teach us when we want to "help" God along by moving ahead of Him? See Exodus 12:41; Habakkuk 2:3; Romans 5:6; 1 Timothy 2:6; 6:15; Titus 1:3.
  - a. Also consider what it teaches us about our ability to "ruin" God's sovereign plans. See Genesis 50:20; Job 23:13; Proverbs 16:1, 9; 19:21; 21:1; Psalm 33:10-11; Isaiah 46:10; Acts 4:27-28.
  
20. In Exodus 2:15 we read, "When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the presence of Pharaoh and settled in the land of Midian, and he sat down by a well." And just like that, the next chapter of Moses' life begins. Where did Moses escape to? What information can you find about that place?

Map of Moses' journey from Egypt to Midian and the return 40 years later.<sup>5</sup>



21. Moses new life begins when he sits down at the well. What happened next? See verses 16-22.
  
22. The prince of Egypt becomes a shepherd. Though the next 40 years of Moses' life are not remarked upon in the Word of God, we know God never wastes time or opportunity to teach and train His children. We do know that those years caring for sheep in the Midian desert prepared him for the next phase of his life. What did that next phase include? See Exodus 2:23-25; 3:10.

<sup>5</sup> John MacArthur Jr., ed., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 95.

- a. Exodus 2:23-25 eloquently hint at changes soon to come. List what you learn about Israel and about God from verses 23-25.
23. The final verses of Exodus chapter 2 contain precious and encouraging truths that can strengthen us today. When we read that *God heard, God remembered, God saw, and God took notice*, we see our God at work. He is active to rescue and save His children. Write a prayer of hope, trust, and praise to the Lord as you meditate on Exodus 2:23-25; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 34:17-18; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Corinthians 1:8-9.

God's Promise

By Fanny Crosby

He who brought His ancient people,  
With a strong and mighty hand,  
Out of all their cruel bondage,  
Into Canaan's promised land.

He who led them through the desert,  
By the cloud that went before,  
He whose goodness never failed them,  
Though they grieved Him o'er and o'er.

God is faithful to His promise,  
He is mindful of His own;  
On our journey to His kingdom  
We shall never walk alone.

We shall have His kind protection  
And His love as in the past;  
Though our days be few or many,  
He will guide us to the last.

*He has said, and we believe it,  
'Tis a promise made of old,  
From the trusting and the loving  
No good thing will He withhold.*

## Exodus

### Lesson #2, Chapters 3-4

These chapters contain more nuggets than we have time to mine! Ask the Lord to open your eyes to behold wonderful things from His Word (Psalm 119:18) and for a willingness to take it to heart (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

1. A number of important details greet us in Exodus 3:1. What do you learn about what was going on in Moses' life at that time?
  - a. Look up Acts 7:23, 30 to determine Moses' age and how long he'd been in Midian.
  - b. Horeb is also known as what mountain? Compare Exodus 19:10-11 with Deuteronomy 4:10.
2. Briefly describe the events of Exodus 3:1-6. Did you find any particular detail or information interesting in those verses? If so, what was it?
3. What do you learn about *the angel of the Lord* in Exodus 3:2?
  - a. What added information about the angel of the Lord do you glean from Exodus 3:4-6 and Acts 7:30-33?

- b. Based on what you've learned, *who* is the angel of the Lord?
  
4. The Lord very clearly communicates two important pieces of information about Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:5-6. What does the Lord want Moses to know and understand about Him? Why?
  
5. How is that same information vital for us today as we interact with the Lord and live before Him? See also Leviticus 10:3; Hebrews 10:22 and Genesis 17:7-8; Exodus 2:24.
  
6. From Exodus 3:6 and 7:32, what is Moses' reaction when he realizes what's happening and who he is interacting with? What else do you learn as you read the following Scriptures? See Genesis 17:3; Judges 13:21-22; Isaiah 6:1, 5; Matthew 17:5-6.
  - a. Why are those reactions good and right in dealing with a holy God?
  
7. After miraculously revealing His identity in preceding verses, God now makes a series of pronouncements of things He knows or intends to do in Exodus 3:7-12. List what you observe about what God *knows* or *intends to do*.
  
8. Now summarize what you learn about the character and nature of God from your observations. How should understanding this about God make a difference in your life *today, this week, in your life?*

9. In spite of talking with a bush, and a burning one at that, standing in God's presence, and being encouraged by many truths about God's character, Moses still has a difficult time coming to terms with his calling. What is Moses concerned about? See Exodus 3:11, 13.
10. Moses asks for God's name so he can introduce Him to the Israelites in Egypt. What do you learn? See Exodus 3:14-15.
- a. Since this was the first time God used His name, Moses didn't have any other teaching to round out his understanding of God's name. Thankfully, we do have added instruction. Look up the following Scriptures that add to our own understanding of God's name: Exodus 6:2-3; Isaiah 43:10-13; 44:6; 66:1; John 8:24, 28, 58.
  - b. What does God want to convey to us in *His name*?
11. God reveals His plan for rescuing the Israelites in Exodus 3:16-22. God, who knows all things, even prepares Moses for some of bumps and roadblocks that will occur.
- a. What are the first things Moses will *do*?
  - b. What reactions Moses will *encounter*?
  - c. How will God *intervene*?

12. As chapter 4 begins, Moses' unwillingness or fear at accepting the mantle of "leader" once again exhibits itself. What is Moses' concern *this time*? See Exodus 4:1. How does God patiently provide for His commissioned servant in Exodus 4:2-9?
  
13. Oh goodness gracious! Moses *continues* in his unbelief and unwillingness to accept God's call. What further concerns does he bring to the Lord in Exodus 4:10? What is God's loving solution for Moses (Exodus 4:11-12)?
  
14. Even after all God's accommodations and encouragements, how does Moses respond in Exodus 4:13?
  
15. This time Moses' quibbling earned a different response from the Lord. What do you learn from verse 14? Yet, even in His rebuke to Moses, the Lord continued to provide for him, so he could do the job God had called him to do? See Exodus 4:14-17.
  
16. We can learn some amazing lessons from this point in Moses' life. Consider what you learn about God's willingness to help and provide for His children in whatever He may call us to do. What insights do you gain as you ponder God's call for Moses' life, even though Moses in no way felt prepared or able to accomplish it? How does that strengthen your heart for those times when you're called to do something outside your comfort zone?
  
17. We see in Exodus 4:18-20 Moses finally accepting his new role as deliverer to the nation of Israel. What steps does he take to fulfill his calling (Exodus 4:18-20)?

18. Once Moses arrives back in Egypt, what admonishment and encouragement does God give to his somewhat reluctant emissary? See Exodus 4:21-23.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
19. Exodus 4:24-27 contains an interesting little story, yet it tells us much if we consider it a bit further. First, what did God intend to do to Moses?
  - a. The “why” isn’t given, but it obviously had something to do with circumcision. What did circumcision signify? See Genesis 17:7-14, 23-27.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. When did God relent in His anger against Moses according to Exodus 4:25-26?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
20. What was it that Moses should have done, but didn’t that it put him in peril of death? What does this teach you about obeying the Lord, no matter who you are, or what your calling may be?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
21. Where does Moses’ long-awaited reunion with his brother take place? See Exodus 4:27, then compare with Exodus 3:1. Who set the meeting up for the brothers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
22. After Moses fills Aaron in on God’s plans, they return to the people. What did they do the brothers do first? See Exodus 4:29-30.



- a. How did the people of Israel respond to Moses and Aaron? See Exodus 4:31.
23. Exodus 4:31 contains a point of application for us today. When the Israelites learned of God's care, concern, and intended deliverance, the text says, "they bowed low and worshiped." What is exemplary about their response? What are some ways *you* can worship the Lord when you read about His care and concern for you? Take some time to read the following Scriptures and then spend time in worship to the Lord: Psalm 118:5-9; 121:1-8; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; 3:3; Hebrews 13:5-6; Jude 24-25.

"It is certain that our happiness in heaven will consist in part in our perfect knowledge of the blessed and boundless God. And it is as certain that our holiness in this world depends a lot upon our knowledge of Him. They who know His beauty and bounty cannot but love Him, and they who know His power and faithfulness cannot but trust Him!"<sup>1</sup> George Swinnock

---

<sup>1</sup> George Swinnock, *Voices from the Past, Volume 2* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2016), page 265.

## Exodus

### Lesson #3, Chapters 5-7

These chapters teach us that God always has so much more He intends to accomplish than merely delivering us from our distress. He intends to teach us, train us, to give us a glimpse of His glory, to make us holy, and so much more. Ask the Lord to prepare your heart to learn what He would have you learn as you study His Word.

1. After meeting with the people (Exodus 4:29-31), Moses and Aaron then meet with Pharaoh to present their request to go worship the Lord God in the wilderness (Exodus 5:1, 3). List how Moses and Aaron's meeting with Pharaoh results in things going from bad to worse in Exodus 5:2-19.
  
2. In this section of my Bible I have written in the margin, "The path to blessing is not necessarily easy." When the people heard from Moses and Aaron of God's concern for them and His intention to deliver them, they were thrilled. Yet, they didn't expect their deliverance to include more difficulty. The people were unprepared for these new events and certainly didn't want an increase to their miseries. Who do they blame for their increased trials? See Exodus 5:20-21.
  
3. Being blamed for things that aren't your fault is always a difficult pill to swallow (Exodus 5:4, 14, 17, 20-21), yet God has a purpose in it. What is one of the ways it showed up in Moses' life? See Numbers 12:3.
  - a. Look up the following Scriptures for a prescription for responding with grace though treated unjustly: Romans 12:14-21; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; 1 Peter 2:18-20, 21-24; 3:1-6, 9.

4. Apparently, Moses was as unprepared for the increasing pressures and difficulties as the Israelites. How did Moses respond to the Lord in Exodus 5:22-23?

a. How do verses 22-23 reveal Moses' real heart expectations?

5. The Israelites' circumstances seemed to contradict God's promises of help and deliverance. Look up the following passages and choose at least one to trace how the writer moved from dismay and doubt to faith: 2 Chronicles 20:5-12; Psalm 73:1-28; 77:1-20; Lamentations 3:17-23; Luke 12:22-32.

6. How can that process be a guide for you when your present reality doesn't seem to fit with God's promises?

7. What do you think is the most challenging part in moving from unbelief to faith?

8. Exodus 5 concludes with Moses grumbling to the Lord about His method of delivering the people. What does God reveal in Exodus 6:1 about His plan?

9. What truths about God's character in Exodus 6:2-5 does He proclaim to Moses?



“How earnestly would I persuade them to overcome their very natural tendency to a hasty judgment! Press on, dear friend. Be of good courage. Pharaoh will not long be able to make you keep up that enormous number of bricks. Within a very few days he will be glad to get rid of you. Wait hopefully; for the God who begins in darkness will end in light, and before long you will come to understand those ways of mercy, which are now past finding out. Not many weeks after the sobbing and sighing at the brickyards, Moses and the children of Israel sang this song unto the Lord: “Sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.” The work of deliverance began very grimly, but it ended very gloriously.”<sup>2</sup> Charles Spurgeon

13. The Lord is so patient! Even Moses quibbles and stalls at obeying God’s next task. What does God want him to do and what is his objection to it? See Exodus 6:11-12.
  
14. Exodus 6:14-27 contains some genealogies. What main family line is being traced and for what purpose?
  - a. What’s significant about this particular family line for the nation of Israel? See Numbers 18:21-23; 1 Chronicles 6:49.
  
  - b. What are some interesting things you noticed in this section? List at least one item.
  
15. Exodus 6:28-7:7 summarizes God’s plan for rescuing the Israelites. Verse 8 resumes the narrative with instructions for Moses and Aaron. When they go before Pharaoh, what are they supposed to do? See Exodus 7:9. How do Pharaoh and his court respond (Exodus 7:10-13)?

---

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., 307.

16. What little tidbit do we learn about Moses and Aaron in Exodus 7:7?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
17. Someone once remarked, “We never grow old. We get old when we stop growing.” When many are more than happy to retire and let someone else do the work, Moses and Aaron were the busiest they had ever been in their lives. See also Deuteronomy 34:7; Joshua 14:6-15; Psalm 92:12-14; 2 Corinthians 9:8. What does this teach you about God’s timing, usefulness in His kingdom, and a right attitude toward aging?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
18. In Exodus 7 God begins to perform miracles through Moses and Aaron. What ones are listed in this chapter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
19. In each instance, how did Pharaoh respond? See Exodus 7:11-13, 22-24.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
20. What is God’s purpose in using signs and wonders? See Exodus 4:1-9; Deuteronomy 4:33-35; 7:17-19; Nehemiah 9:10; Hebrews 2:2-4.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
21. We might be tempted to think that if we saw miracles like the Israelites did, we would have greater faith in God, yet what is actually the case? See Exodus 7:13; Mark 6:3-6; Luke 16:30-31.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
22. What’s the answer to growing in faith in the Lord? See Mark 9:23; Luke 17:5-6; Hebrews 2:7-13; 11:1, 6.

23. God's wisdom in dealing with men's hearts is on display in Exodus 5-7. He begins to enact the long-awaited promise of deliverance for the people of Israel, yet it comes in a far different way than they expected. What are some lessons you can apply to your heart as you consider God's wisdom, mercy, sovereignty, and more?

"The strength of every saint lies in the Lord of Hosts. God can overcome His enemies without our hands, but we cannot so much as defend ourselves without His arm." William Gurnall<sup>3</sup>

"We judge by sense and appearance, and do not consider that God's heart may be towards us, while His hand of providence seems to be against us! If things continue at a slow rate for us, we think our prayers are lost, and our hopes have perished from the Lord. Much more, when things grow worse, and troubles increase, as usually they do just at the break of day—which will come to change our conditions—we conclude that God is angry with our prayers. . . . Delay is preparing your heart to receive mercy—that you may receive it with the greatest advantage of comfort." John Flavel<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> William Gurnall, Richard Rushing, editor, *Voices from the Past, Volume 1* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009), 14.

<sup>4</sup> John Flavel, Richard Rushing, editor, *Voices from the Past, Volume 2* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2016), 364-365.

## Exodus

### Lesson #4, Chapters 8-11

In this lesson, we'll take a look at the plagues God sent upon Pharaoh and Egypt. Ask the Lord to help you see His wisdom in sending them and what He wants you to learn from them.

1. We didn't specifically focus on the beginning of the Ten Plagues in the last lesson, so we'll backtrack a bit into chapter 7 to do so. First, what was God's purpose in sending the plagues on Egypt? See Exodus 3:7-8, 19-22; 6:1, 7; 7:3-5. Also include Genesis 28:15; 48:21.
  
2. What was the *first plague* God gave to Pharaoh and the Egyptians (Exodus 7:20)? What were the results of the plague? See Exodus 7:21, 24. How did Pharaoh and his court respond? See Exodus 7:22-23.
  
3. What was the *second plague* God sent in Exodus 8:1-7?
  - a. What negotiation took place between Moses and Pharaoh regarding this plague? See Exodus 8:8-13. What was God's purpose behind this plan as seen in those verses?
  
  - b. How did Pharaoh respond to the reprieve? See Exodus 8:15.
  
4. What was the *third plague*, its effect upon Egypt, and how did Pharaoh respond in Exodus 8:16-19?



5. We learn about the *fourth plague* in Exodus 8:20-24. What was the plague, yet what distinction was made as it came upon the land?
  - a. More negotiating took place between Moses and Pharaoh. What details are given in Exodus 8:25-32?
  
6. What are the unique details about the *fifth plague* (Exodus 9:1-7)?
  
7. The *sixth plague* affected the Egyptians in a personal way. What was this plague and how did it begin? See Exodus 9:8-12.
  
8. Moses was to deliver a message to Pharaoh before he commenced with the *seventh plague*. What did God want Moses to tell Pharaoh (Exodus 9:13-19)? Why was Pharaoh still alive (verses 14-16)?
  - a. How did some of the Egyptians respond to Moses' warning about this plague? See Exodus 9:20-21.
  
9. The *seventh plague* was described in Exodus 9:22-26. What happened during this plague?

10. What did Pharaoh ask of Moses and Aaron (Exodus 9:27-28)? In spite of this encouraging message, what did Moses know about Pharaoh according to verses 29-35?
  
11. What was God's purpose in hardening Pharaoh's heart in Exodus 10:1-2?
  
12. The pressure upon Pharaoh didn't let up with the commencement of the *eighth plague*. What do you learn about this plague from Exodus 10:3-6?
  - a. What happened when Pharaoh's servants put pressure on Pharaoh to let the Israelites go? See Exodus 10:8. What interaction transpired between the brothers and Pharaoh in verses 9-11?
  
13. What did Pharaoh request of Moses in Exodus 10:16-17? Yet, what do you observe about the true state of Pharaoh's heart (verses 18-20)?
  
14. The *ninth plague* is described in Exodus 10:21-23. What do you learn about this plague?
  
15. What concession was Pharaoh willing to make in Exodus 10:24? Describe what happened to the negotiations between these two men from verses 25-29.

16. What sad, but welcome news did the Lord give Moses in Exodus 11:1?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
17. What task was given to the Israelites in Exodus 11:2-3? How were the Israelites and Moses then viewed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
18. Explain the details of the *tenth and final plague*. See Exodus 11:4-8.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
19. What apparent “difficulty” do we run into between the statements in Exodus 10:28-29 and Exodus 11:8? In light of that information, when does Moses’ final pronouncement of judgment take place (Exodus 11:4-8)?

“It is more than likely that we should render “the Lord had said to Moses” in verse 1, for verse 4 is obviously the continuation of 10:29, which introduced Moses’ parting words to Pharaoh. Verse 8 suggests that even as the priesthood had collapsed, so now the high court officials were prepared too late to defy their master.<sup>1</sup>” H. L. Ellison

20. As you consider the context from Exodus 10:27-11:8, explain why Moses was angry with Pharaoh. Take into account what we know about Moses from Numbers 12:3.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
21. How is Exodus 11:9-10 a fitting epitaph to the section on God’s plagues upon Egypt?

---

<sup>1</sup> H. L. Ellison, [Exodus](#), The Daily Study Bible Series (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1982), 60.

22. What do you learn about Pharaoh's hard heart from Exodus 7:13, 22; 8:13, 19, 32; 9:7, 12, 35; 10:20, 27; 11:10?
23. When did God finally begin to harden Pharaoh's heart? Why did God do this? See Exodus 3:19-20; 4:21; 7:3; Deuteronomy 2:30; Joshua 11:20; Romans 1:28; 9:17-18.
24. What attributes about God do you find on display in these chapters? What response do they, or should they, inspire in you?

"His purpose in preventing Pharaoh from giving in too easily and too early was, as will be seen in subsequent parts of the narrative, to allow himself fully to demonstrate his sovereignty over Pharaoh, the Egyptians, the land of Egypt itself, and the gods in which Pharaoh and the Egyptians trusted."<sup>2</sup> Douglas K. Stuart

"Among the natural punishments which God has attached to sin, would seem to be the hardening of the entire nature of the man who sins. If men "do not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gives them up to a reprobate mind" (Rom. 1:28); if they resist the Spirit, he "takes his holy Spirit from them" (Ps. 51:11); if they sin against light he withdraws the light; if they stifle their natural affections of kindness, compassion and the like, it is a law of his providence that those affections shall wither and decay. This seems to be the "hardening of the heart" here intended—not an abnormal and miraculous interference with the soul of Pharaoh, but the natural effect upon his soul under God's moral government of those acts which he willfully and wrongfully committed."<sup>3</sup> H. D. M. Spence-Jones

---

<sup>2</sup> Douglas K. Stuart, *Exodus*, Vol. 2, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006), 146–147.

<sup>3</sup>H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., *Exodus*, Vol. 1, The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 103.

## Exodus

### Lesson #5, Chapters 12-13

In this lesson we come to a pivotal point in Israel's history. One commentator put it like this: *"The climax of the entire Old Testament is recorded in chapters 12–14: the salvation of Israel through blood (the Passover) and through power (the Red Sea). The Exodus is the central event of the Old Testament as the Cross is of the New Testament."*<sup>1</sup> This lesson barely scratches the surface of all God desires us to learn and understand about His work, His ways, and His own character. Continue to ask Him for insight and help as you work on your lesson.

1. In Exodus 12:1-2 what announcement does God make to Moses and Aaron?
  - a. What other details can you gather from Exodus 13:4; 34:18; Leviticus 23:5; Deuteronomy 16:1?
  - b. Approximately when does that time period occur on our calendars?
2. Summarize the details each household is to undertake regarding a lamb from Exodus 12:3-11.
3. Exodus 12:11 gives the feast a name. What is it? Exodus 12:12-13 tells us what the feast commemorates. What do you learn?

---

<sup>1</sup>Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa, *Talk Thru the Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1983), 14.

“The blood on the doorposts showed acceptance of God’s plan for rescue and trust in his word. After all, the sight of dried blood by itself had no power to deter death; it was only as the dried blood painted on the top and sides of the door was a testimony to the faith of the inhabitants in Yahweh that it had its efficacy. Thus the statement, “When I see the blood, I will pass over you”—in other words, I will spare all those who show that they have placed their faith in me.”<sup>2</sup>

4. But wait! The Passover Feast is only the beginning. What else are the Israelites to do? See Exodus 12:14-20; for added details also see Leviticus 23:4-8; Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Luke 22:1.
  
5. God institutes some interesting requirements for these two feasts—all for the purpose of teaching and reminding the Israelites about some specific things.
  - a. What do we learn from the Scriptures about the Passover Lamb? See Exodus 12:6, 13; Isaiah 53:4-7, 10-11. Ultimately, what do we learn from John 1:29, 36; 1 Peter 1:18-19?
  
  - b. Describe the manner in which the Israelites are to eat the Passover Feast. See Exodus 12:11.
  
  - c. What was significant about removing all leaven from the household? See Deuteronomy 16:3-4; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; 11:23-32; Galatians 5:9.

“Sin is a leaven, the smallest portion of which will leaven and defile our whole souls. It must therefore be purged out with all possible care and diligence. If we retain knowingly and wilfully the smallest measure of it, we have nothing to expect but an everlasting separation from God and his people———Let us then search and try our own hearts; and beg of God also to “search and try us, to see if there be any wicked

---

<sup>2</sup>Douglas K. Stuart, *Exodus*, vol. 2, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006), 278.

way in us, and to lead us in the way everlasting”——We must be “Israelites indeed and without guile,” if we would enjoy the full benefits of the body and blood of Christ.”<sup>3</sup> ~ Charles Simeon

6. What is noteworthy about the *order* of the two feasts—first the Passover Feast, then the Feast of Unleavened Bread? As you form your answer consider the details of those two feasts from the questions from #5 above, then look up 2 Corinthians 5:21; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:24.

“May the Holy Spirit grant us grace to accomplish this sweeping of the house. Where the precious blood is sprinkled, no sin can be tolerated.”<sup>4</sup> ~ Charles Spurgeon

7. Moses calls the elders, the leaders and fathers of the Israelites, to administer the Passover Feast to the people. He again explains how to celebrate the feast. What new details are given that continue to fill out your understanding of how this feast was to be celebrated? See Exodus 12:21-27.

8. After they had eaten the Passover Feast, or possibly while they were eating it, the last plague came upon the Egyptians. What finally happened as a result of this last plague? See Exodus 12:29-32; Hebrews 11:28.

- a. What is notable about Genesis 15:12-16 as it relates to Exodus 12:29-32?

9. How did the Egyptian people respond to the Israelites after the last plague? See verses 33-36; see also Genesis 15:13-14; Exodus 3:21-22; 11:2-3.

---

<sup>3</sup>Charles Simeon, *Horae Homileticae: Genesis to Leviticus*, vol. 1 (London: Samuel Holdsworth, 1836), 380.

<sup>4</sup>C. H. Spurgeon, *The Interpreter: Spurgeon's Devotional Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1964), 79.

- a. How was this another way the Lord provided for the Israelites?
- 
10. What stands out to you as you read the summarizing statements from Exodus 12:37-41?
- 
11. In Exodus 12:42-51 God continues to fine-tune the details for celebrating the Passover. What helpful details are given in this section that weren't included previously?
    - a. What kind of commitment was God asking of those who desired to partake of the Passover? See Exodus 12:44, 48.
    - b. Why would God require that commitment of the "foreigners/strangers/aliens" or "slaves" who desired to reside with the Israelites?
- 
12. As chapter 13 begins, God continues His instructions for life in the Promised Land. One of the first regulations Israel needed to understand and undertake is described in Exodus 13:2. What does God want the Israelites to do? What does *sanctify* mean as it's used here? To help you define the word also look up Genesis 2:3; Numbers 3:13; 8:17; Nehemiah 13:22.
- 
13. That discussion (from Exodus 13:2) is then picked up further in the chapter in Exodus 13:11-16. What do you learn about the sanctifying of the firstborn for God from Exodus 13:11-13?



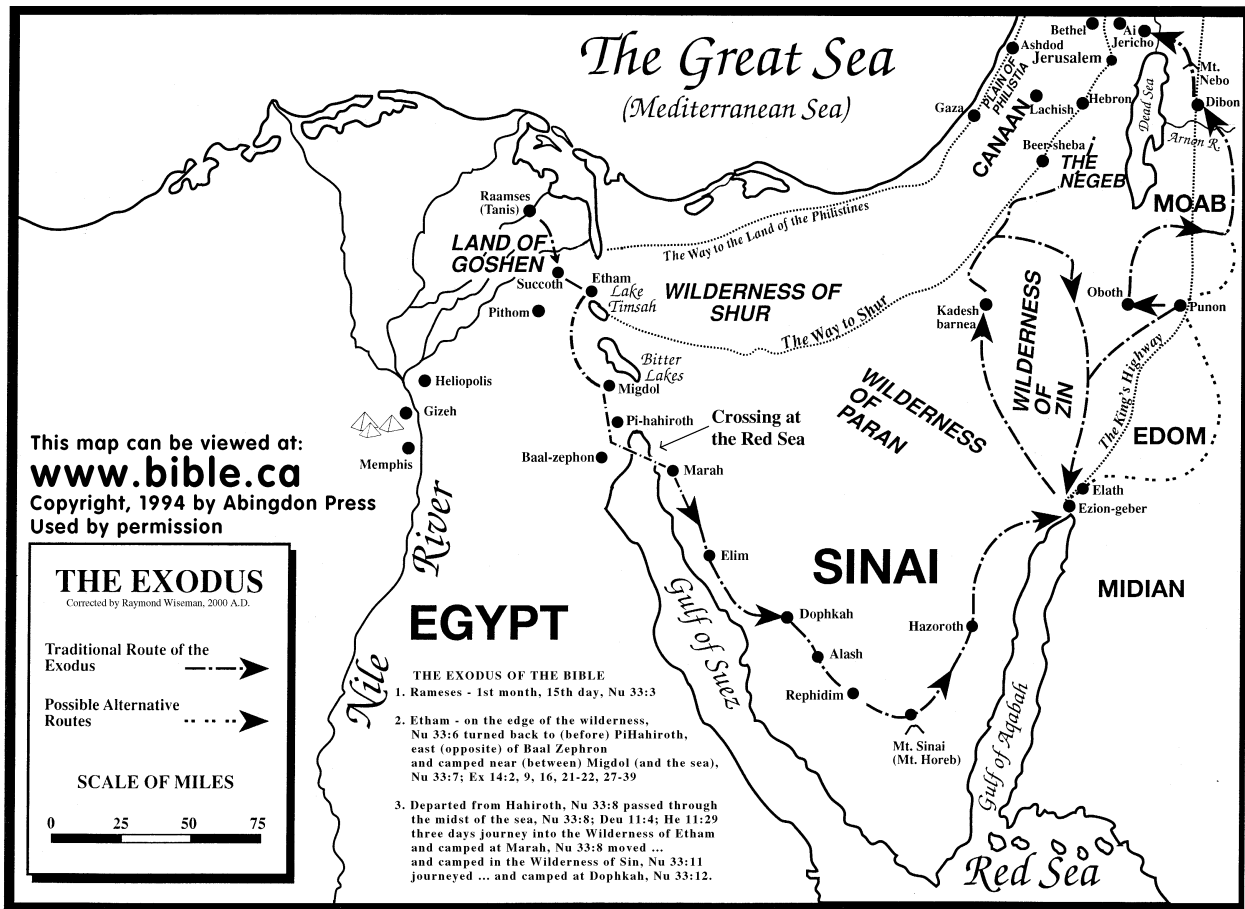
- a. For more insight into what God was requiring also look up Leviticus 11:1-3; Numbers 18:15-17; Luke 2:22-24.
  
  - b. Please summarize what you've learned about the law of setting aside of the firstborn.
- 
14. What does God want the Israelites to understand and remember as they obey the law of the firstborn? See Exodus 13:14-16.
  
  15. Let's jump back up to the beginning of the chapter again and resume our verse by verse look at this chapter. In Exodus 13:3-10 God again instructs the Israelites in celebrating the Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread. What reasons are given in these verses for participating in these feasts?
  
  16. Think about how many times God has instructed the Israelites about the Passover Feast in chapters 12 and 13. Why is God making that such a big deal? What does God want the Israelites to understand and remember?
    - a. What can we learn from His instructions about the Passover Feast from all we've studied?

17. Look at the attached map on the last page of this study and look for the quickest, easiest way to get to the Promised Land. What way did God take the Israelites according to Exodus 13:17-18? What reason does God give for not taking them the quick way in verses 17-18?
  
18. Though he had long since died, Joseph's faith still had an impact upon his family members. What do we learn about Joseph in Exodus 13:19? See also Genesis 50:24; Joshua 24:32; Acts 7:15-16; Hebrews 11:22.
  
19. What encouraging thing did God do for the newly emancipated Israelites? See Exodus 13:20-22. See also Deuteronomy 1:33; Psalm 105:37-39.
  
20. List what you observe about God's dealings with the Israelites from Exodus 13:17-22.
  
21. For a fitting conclusion to all we've studied in these last few chapters, read the Levites' prayer of praise in Nehemiah 9:5-12. Write your own prayer of praise as you consider God's leading and care for you.

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!  
 O words with heav'nly comfort  
 fraught!  
 Whate'er I do, where'er I be  
 Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

*He leadeth me, He leadeth me,  
 By His own hand He leadeth me;  
 His faithful follower I would be,  
 For by His hand He leadeth me.*

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,  
 Nor ever murmur nor repine;  
 Content, whatever lot I see,  
 Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.  
 ~ Joseph Gilmore



## Exodus

### Lesson #6, Chapters 14-15

“Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today (Exodus 14:13).” Oh, there’s so much in this lesson! Take the time to ask the Lord for eyes to see, ear to hear, and a will to do all that God has for you here.

1. As chapter 14 opens, where were the Israelites camped according to Exodus 13:20?
2. In Exodus 14:1-2 God gives Moses some specific directions for the Israelites. What does God want Moses to do?
3. What is God’s purpose in directing the Israelites as He did? See Exodus 14:3-4.
4. Pharaoh once again changes his mind, continuing to harden his heart against the Lord, despite the devastation, destruction, and sorrow his stubbornness created. What is Pharaoh’s motivation in chasing after the Israelites according to Exodus 14:5-9?
5. Describe what the Israelites saw from Exodus 14:6-9.
6. Though Moses had told the Israelites that Pharaoh would chase after them, what happened when the Israelites caught sight of the rapidly advancing army? See Exodus 14:10-12.

7. In spite of all God had done for them during His judgment on Egypt with the plagues, the Israelites' faith was still small to nonexistent. In what ways did their unbelief reveal itself in verses 10-12?
  
8. We don't have to look far in our own lives before we discover similar faintheartedness. Just like Israel, we've been the recipients of the Lord's intervention and deliverance in many ways in the past, yet when tested by new circumstances we can struggle to believe that God will rescue us *again*. Each test brings with it new opportunities to trust the Lord. From the verses that follow list what you learn about gaining courage when your heart grows faint: Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:7-9; Psalm 27:1-14; 43:1-5; Luke 12:22-34; John 16:33; Romans 4:18-21; 1 Peter 4:19.
  
9. How did Moses respond to the people's unbelief? See Exodus 14:13-14. What faith-building elements are contained in his message to the people?
  
10. Notice the verbs in Moses' command to the people in verses 13-14, then note *who* is to do the action. Though we may face different circumstances, our response to them should still be framed in much the same way. How do those truths line up with other admonitions from the Scriptures? See Deuteronomy 31:6-8; Psalm 27:1-3; 37:7; 46:1-3; 56:1-4; Isaiah 41:10-14; 1 Corinthians 10:13.
  
11. Publicly, Moses reminded the people of God's promise to deliver and His power to do so. Privately, in his interaction with the Lord, what can you surmise was going on in Moses' heart? See Exodus 14:14-18.

12. The leader needed encouragement too. What specific things did God do for Moses to strengthen his heart during this intense time of testing? See Exodus 14:15-18. In answering this question, look for elements or principles God used to strengthen His fearful leader.
  
13. God always intended the Red Sea crossing to be an instructive and soul-strengthening time for the people of God. Read the following Scriptures, then consider what God wants us to take away from this amazing wonder: Nehemiah 9:9-15; Psalm 66:5-7; 78:9-13; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 11-13; Hebrews 11:29.
  
14. List God's wonders on behalf of the Israelites from Exodus 14:19-31.
  
15. Read through the Israelites' song of praise to the Lord in Exodus 15:1-18. Notice, and then list, the attributes of God they focus on and how He is described in the song.
  
16. Psalm 103:2 reminds us that we bless Him when we "forget none of His benefits." Take some time right now to look for and review the Lord's many acts of kindness, intervention, and even rescue in your life. Just like He intended for Israel, God desires His works to encourage you to a greater love and trust in Him. Bless God by writing out a prayer of praise and trust in a similar fashion to Israel's song in Exodus 15.
  
17. The final scene of the Red Sea crossing is described in Exodus 15:19-21. How is verse 19 a fitting summary to the Lord's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt?

18. We're told in 1 Corinthians 10:11 that, "Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." What lessons for life can you glean from the Israelites' story that will help you live your own to the glory of God?
- a. Here's one to get you started: The Israelites were surprised to find themselves stuck between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army, yet God had led them to that very spot. You may find yourself in a fearful spot too, yet you are exactly where God intends you to be also. In fact, He has led you here. The difficulties you are facing are part of His sovereign plan for you.
  - b. What else can you glean from their story?
  - c. Anything else?
19. If only we could end the study on this triumphant note with Israel trusting the Lord and praising Him for His deliverance. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case. What happened next in the Israelites' journey according to Exodus 15:22-24?
20. Charles Spurgeon said, "Their first trouble was too much water, the second is too little; our trials are of all kinds."<sup>1</sup> Sometimes the littlest things discourage us, so that we grumble and complain against the Lord. How does an active remembrance of the Lord's past dealings protect us from unbelief and lack of faith? See also Deuteronomy 7:17-19; 8:2-3; Psalm 27:13; 63:6-8; 143:5-6.

---

<sup>1</sup> C. H. Spurgeon, *The Interpreter: Spurgeon's Devotional Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1964), 85.

21. Exodus 15:25 says that God *tested* the Israelites. As you read the verses that follow, consider God's purpose in testing the hearts of his children. What do you learn from Exodus 16:4; Deuteronomy 8:2, 16; Ps 66:10; Proverbs 17:3; Isaiah 48:10; 1 Peter 1:6-7?
  
22. What is God's desire for His children according to Exodus 15:26? What would be God's purpose in giving consequences for unbelief and disobedience? How is Hebrews 12:5-11 the same?
  
23. What truths have stood out to you to take to heart from our brief look at these two chapters?

"Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord."

— Exodus 14:13

These words contain God's command to the believer when he is reduced to great straits and brought into extraordinary difficulties. He cannot retreat; he cannot go forward; he is shut up on the right hand and on the left; what is he now to do? The Master's word to him is, "Stand still." It will be well for him if at such times he listens only to his Master's word, for other and evil advisers come with their suggestions. Despair whispers, "Lie down and die; give it all up." But God would have us put on a cheerful courage, and even in our worst times, rejoice in His love and faithfulness. Cowardice says, "Retreat; go back to the worldling's way of action; you cannot play the Christian's part, it is too difficult. Relinquish your principles." But, however much Satan may urge this course upon you, you cannot follow it if you are a child of God. His divine fiat has bid thee go from strength to strength, and so thou shalt, and neither death nor hell shall turn thee from thy course. What, if for a while thou art called to stand still, yet this is but to renew thy strength for some greater advance in due time. Urgency cries, "do something. Stir yourself; to stand still and wait, is sheer idleness." We must be doing something at once—we must do it so we think—instead of looking to the Lord, who will not only do something but will do everything. Presumption boasts, "If the sea be before you, march into it and expect a miracle." But Faith listens neither to Presumption, nor to Despair, nor to Cowardice, nor to Urgency, but it hears God say, "Stand still," and immovable as a rock it stands. "Stand still;"—keep the posture of an upright man, ready for action, expecting further orders, cheerfully and patiently awaiting the directing voice; and it will not be long ere God shall say to you, as distinctly as Moses said it to the people of Israel, "Go forward." Charles Spurgeon<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup>Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings*, Complete and unabridged; New modern edition. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2006).

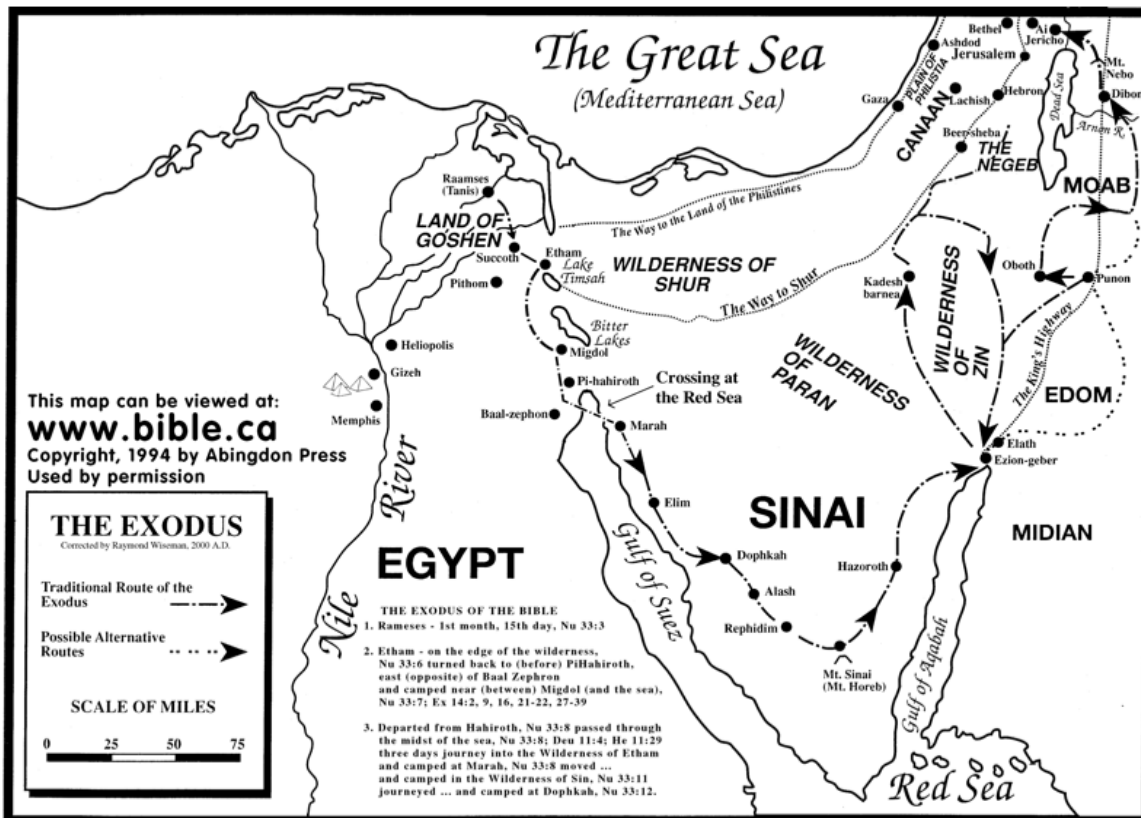


# Exodus

## Lesson #7, Chapters 16-17

God intended Israel's story to be instructive and redemptive for us (1 Corinthians 10:6, 11-13), so hang onto your hat because these chapters contain much for us to consider in our own lives. Prepare to study this lesson by going to the Lord in prayer, asking Him to help and guide you.

1. Where was Israel camped at the end of chapter 15? What is unique about that particular spot? See Exodus 15:27 for your answer.
  
2. Chapter 16 begins with Israel setting out from camp. List all the specific details given in Exodus 16:1. Locate where these events take place on the map below.



3. According to Exodus 16:2, what happens next? What accusations are made and who is the target of this sinful response according to Exodus 16:2-3?
  
4. Exodus 16:2-3 doesn't say how long it took after departing Elim before Israel fell into this troubling response. Unfortunately, a pattern seems to be emerging. Three days after the Israelites were *miraculously* delivered from Egypt, what happened in Exodus 15:22-24?
  - a. It's quite possible these events (from Exodus 15:22-24 and 16:2-3) take place within a week of each other, yet we see the Lord compassionately responding to the Israelites' faintheartedness by providing for them. God's provision also has a purpose. What is it and how does He intend to accomplish this purpose according to Exodus 16:4-5?
  
5. Though the Israelites had seen miracles galore and had been on the receiving end of God's mercies, that didn't protect them from wrong thinking. In spite of these many manifestations of God's grace and power their own hearts remained unchanged. The same can be true of us as well. Look up the following verses and consider what they teach you about responding well when the Lord works on your behalf. See Psalm 19:14; 103:2; 107:43; 119:59; 1 Corinthians 10:6-13; James 1:2-4.
  
6. The Israelites blame Moses and Aaron for their hunger, yet their anger is misplaced. Who are they really attacking? See Exodus 16:6-8.

Have you no words? Ah, think again,  
Words flow apace when you complain;  
And fill your fellow creature's ear  
With the sad tale of all your care.

Were half the breath thus vainly spent,  
To Heav'n in supplication sent;  
Your cheerful song would oftener be,  
Hear what the Lord has done for me!  
~William Cowper<sup>1</sup>

7. What was the Lord's answer to the Israelite's needs and wants? See Exodus 16:9-12. What reason does He give for providing for them in this way?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. The first-time manna makes its appearance in the Scriptures in Exodus 16, although it's certainly not the last time. What particulars about manna do you learn from Exodus 16:13-15?
  - a. What specific instruction did the Lord give them concerning the manna in Exodus 16:16-19, 22-26, 29-30?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. While God's instructions were clear, what did Israel still need to learn? See Exodus 16:20-21, 27-28.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What else do we learn about manna from Exodus 16:31-36?

---

<sup>1</sup>William Cowper, "What Various Hindrances We Meet," <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/w/v/h/wvhwmeet.htm>

9. Like the Red Sea crossing, God intended the daily provision of manna to impact Israel beyond physical sustenance. What do we learn from the following Scriptures about manna's spiritual role? See Deuteronomy 8:3, 16; John 6:26-36; Hebrews 3:7-19.
  
10. What happens after Joshua takes the nation into the long-awaited Promised Land? Read Joshua 5:10-12.
  
11. There's something striking about the brief mention given to the end of that daily provision. What attributes of God do you see demonstrated through God's daily giving of food for the nation of Israel for 40 years?
  
12. The Pillar of Cloud moved, so Israel moved. What do you learn about their new locale from Exodus 17:1?
  
13. What need presented itself in Exodus 17:2-3? Yet, how did the Israelites respond to this new test of their faith?
  
14. What was Moses concerned about and what was God's solution? See Exodus 17:4-7.
  
15. Just like the Red Sea crossing and the giving of manna, the incident at Rephidim remained part of Israel's history and spiritual training. What did God want to remind the

people whenever the names *Massah* and *Meribah* were used? See Deuteronomy 6:16-19; Psalm 95:1-11; Hebrews 3:7-11.

16. Just as things quiet down after the water episode, then another difficulty comes their way. What happens next? See Exodus 17:8-10.
  
17. Who were the Amalekites and what was their relationship with Israel? See Genesis 36:12, 15-16; Numbers 13:25-29; 14:42-45; Deuteronomy 25:17-19; 1 Samuel 15:1-3.
  
18. What was unique about God's deliverance in this case (Exodus 17:9-13)?
  
19. In Romans 8:37 we read, "But *in* all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us." Notice that little word "in." We may be victors *in* the battle, yet the battle must still be fought—and it is our lot to fight it. What principles and insights for faith and life can you glean from Moses in Exodus 17:9-13?
  
20. What does God want Joshua to know according to Exodus 17:14? Why would this have been important to Joshua based on what he had just been through? See also Deuteronomy 25:17-19.

21. To commemorate God’s intervention, what does Moses do? See Exodus 17:15. Look up the following verses to explain the significance of Moses’ declaration about God: Numbers 2:2; Psalm 20:5; 60:4; Song of Solomon 2:4; 6:4, 10.

*Eager Beaver:* The first mention of Joshua is here in this text—Exodus 17:9 and following! What do you learn about Joshua in this passage (Exodus 17:8-16)? The next time Joshua is mentioned is in Exodus 24:13-14. How has his role expanded since the battle against the Amalekites?

22. What did God want the Israelites to learn about Him in Exodus chapters 16 and 17? What similarities do you see about God’s dealings with you? What is the answer for us whenever we’re struggling to trust the Lord? See Exodus 6:6-8; 15:1-18; Hebrews 11:6.

“My little fellow, about four years old, whom I brought with me, gave himself no trouble amid the boats, omnibuses, and railway coaches, on sea, land, and in dark tunnels; his father was at his side, and never a care or fear or doubt or anxiety had he. May we have grace to be led by the hand, and trust to the care and kindness of a reconciled God and Father.” ~Thomas Guthrie<sup>2</sup>

“Commit yourself then to God! He will be your guide. He Himself will travel with you, as we are told He did with the Israelites, to bring them step by step across the desert to the promised land. Ah! What will be our blessedness, if you will but surrender yourself into the hands of God, permitting Him to do whatever He will, not according to your desires, but according to His own good pleasure?” ~Francis Fenelon<sup>3</sup>

“Toward the future let us look calmly, cheerfully, trustfully. The Lord is in it, and if we are His, we need fear no evil.” ~Unknown<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Guthrie, Josiah H. Gilbert, editor, *Dictionary of Burning Words of Brilliant Writers* (New York: Wilbur B. Ketcham, 1895), 598.

<sup>3</sup> Francis Fenelon, Josiah H. Gilbert, editor, *Dictionary of Burning Words of Brilliant Writers* (New York: Wilbur B. Ketcham, 1895), 601.

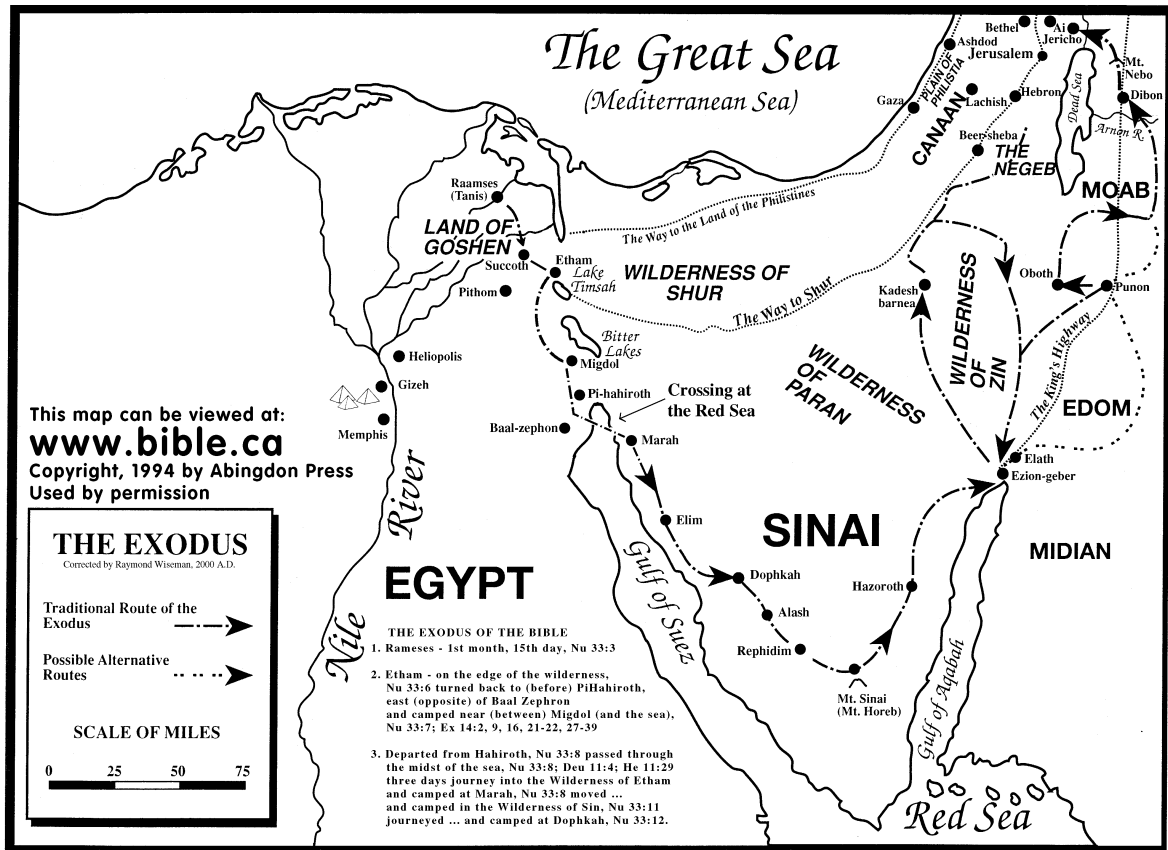
<sup>4</sup> Unknown, Josiah H. Gilbert, editor, *Dictionary of Burning Words of Brilliant Writers* (New York: Wilbur B. Ketcham, 1895), 600.

## Exodus

### Lesson #8, Chapters 18-20

1. Who is Jethro and what do we know about him? See Exodus 2:16-22; 3:1; 18:1-6; Numbers 10:29.
2. What do we learn about Moses' family in Exodus 18:2-6? How do the names of Moses' sons reflect the state of his heart when they were born?
3. Based on Exodus 18:1-3, 5-8, what insights can you glean about Moses' regard for and relationship with his father-in-law?
4. God's miraculous deliverance of Israel makes an impact upon Jethro, a priest of Midian. How does he respond when he hears of all God has done for Israel? See Exodus 18:8-12.
5. Jethro's wisdom is seen in his excellent counsel. How does Jethro's counsel help Moses? See Exodus 18:13-23.
6. Notice how Jethro narrows down Moses' "job" description in Exodus 18:19-20. How is that "narrowed down" focus similar to other leaders in the Scriptures? See Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 4:13-16.

7. What leadership principles do we find in Exodus 18:21-26? Are there any principles you can glean from this passage to apply in your life, home, or work?
  
8. Trace Israel's journey on the map below. Also note how long it took after they crossed the Red Sea and entered into the desert from the verses that follow: Exodus 15:27; 16:1; 17:1; 18:5 (for further clarification read Exodus 3:1, 12; 4:27; 24:13); 19:1-2.



9. Where did Moses meet with God? See Exodus 19:3.



10. What does God desire Israel to know and understand from Exodus 19:4-5? How do the people respond to the Lord's message (Exodus 19:7-8)?
  
11. What does the Lord do for Moses? Why? See Exodus 19:9.
  
12. What instruction does God relay to Moses for the people in Exodus 19:10-15? What things does God want them to learn about worshiping Him from these directions?
  
13. How does God manifest Himself as the people come to meet with Him? See Exodus 19:16-20.
  
14. The Lord protectively reminds the people not to come near the mountain lest they be put to death. And then without much preamble, the Ten Commandments are given. As we look at the "shorthand" version of how to live well and please God, consider what God wanted the Israelites to understand about Him. What do you learn as you review Exodus 20:1-17?
  
15. Although we can't say we've been delivered from *Egypt* as Israel had (Exodus 20:2), God can still make a similar declaration to us. What deliverance have we experienced? See Romans 8:12-17; Galatians 1:3-5; Colossians 1:13-14; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:14-15.

16. What kind of worship does God desire? See Exodus 20:3-7 as you consider your answer.
  
17. What reason is given for setting aside a day of rest in Exodus 20:8-11?
  
18. By Jesus' day, Israel's thoughts about the Sabbath had been distorted and manipulated. What did Jesus remind the people about the purpose of the Sabbath? See Matthew 12:8-12; Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:6-11; 13:10-17; John 7:22-23.
  - a. What does the author of Hebrews teach us about the Sabbath? See Hebrews 4:1-11; 10:25.
  
19. With the exception of the Sabbath, the Ten Commandments are still in effect within the Law of Liberty, which is the Law of Christ. How are we to interact with each other according to Exodus 20:12-17? Consider how these commands provide the framework for our interactions with each other today.
  
20. What was happening at Sinai as God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses? See Exodus 20:18-21. What *purpose* is explained for the magnificence of this event?
  - a. What new information is introduced about this event by the author of Hebrews in Hebrews 12:18-29? How should those truths affect how we live?

21. God points out that He spoke to the Israelites from *heaven* in Exodus 20:22. What is the significance of that fact and what bearing should it have upon the people? See also Exodus 20:23; Deuteronomy 5:4-5, 22-33; Hebrews 12:18-21.
  
22. What instructions about an altar are given in Exodus 20:23-26?
  
23. What does the rather surprising instruction in Exodus 20:26 teach you about God and what He expects of His worshipers? See also Exodus 28:40-43; Leviticus 10:3; Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 2:9-10.
  
24. God is specific in how He wants to be worshiped. What details stand out to you from these chapters?

“‘Sir,’ said the Duke of Wellington to an officer of engineers, who urged the impossibility of executing the directions he had received, ‘I did not ask your opinion, I gave you my orders and I expect them to be obeyed.’ Such should be the obedience of every follower of Jesus.” ~C. H. Spurgeon<sup>1</sup>

“Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;  
Bread of heaven! Feed me till I want no more.”  
~William Williams<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Charles H. Spurgeon, Josiah H. Gilbert, editor, *Dictionary of Burning Words of Brilliant Writers* (New York: Wilbur B. Ketchum, 1895), 435.

<sup>2</sup> William Williams, *ibid.*, 263.

## Exodus

### Lesson #9, Chapters 21-24

After the giving of the Ten Commandments, God lays out more “family rules” for the nation, which we’ll be studying in this lesson. Below are a few things to keep in mind.

#### Studying the Old Testament

When studying the Old Testament, it’s helpful to consider: 1) What did the *original audience* understand when the instruction was given? 2) What *timeless truths* about God can we learn from this passage or section of Scripture? 3) Because all Scripture is profitable and useful for training in righteousness, what principles can you glean and apply to your life today?

#### A Word About Covenants

At this time in Israel’s history, Israel is the recipient of God’s gracious covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:2; 15:5). God had not only promised to give the land of Israel to Abraham and his descendants, He also promised personal blessing to Abraham and his offspring. God also promised all the nations of the world would be blessed through Abraham because of Jesus. Abraham didn’t do anything to deserve this favor from God, nor did his offspring. This *unilateral* covenant, also known as the *Abrahamic Covenant*, is in place simply because God chose to bless Abraham and his descendants *forever*. It’s amazing to consider that this covenant is still in effect today!

During the time when the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy take place, the nation of Israel also entered into another kind of covenant with God. This was a *bilateral* covenant, also known as the *Sinaitic Covenant*. God instituted the Sinaitic covenant with the nation of Israel during the time in which the book of Exodus takes place. The covenant with Abraham, which extends to the nation of Israel during the time of the Exodus and wilderness wanderings, is a one-way covenant. God promised to love and care for the people of Israel. But when God rescued them out of Egypt, God also wanted to teach the nation about Himself and how to live lives that give Him glory in all things, so He gave them the laws at Mt. Sinai, which we are now studying. These laws are God’s way of teaching the nation about the things that are important to Him—things like holiness, love for God, and love for your neighbor. In essence, they are God’s “family rules,” so the nation of Israel can live in harmony with God. In this bilateral (two-way) covenant, Israel also played a role, saying they would keep God’s laws, follow Him, and love Him, for He would be their God and they would be His people. God promised to bless them in the land if they would obey Him.

#### Understanding the Law

The law, however, was *never* intended as a means of salvation. Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:1-6; Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6). Salvation has always been by faith as the means of pleasing God (Hebrews 11:6). The law was given to set Israel apart from the nations. Israel’s unique distinctness from the surrounding nations was to be a light pointing the nations to the One, True God. *God always intended that the law would lead people to Him*, that they would learn more about Him, and desire to walk with Him in faith. Everyone who was saved in the Old Testament times was saved by grace through faith in God,

just like everyone today is saved by grace through faith in God. In the Old Testament people looked forward to the promised Savior, while in New Testament we look backward to Jesus' sacrificial and finished work on the Cross for salvation.

“The law was not designed to regulate human behavior for the world at large, but to provide legal, moral, and religious guidelines for a *special people* chosen for a *special task*. The law is not a means of salvation, but contains instructions of how to live. At least four times in the New Testament it is clearly stated that the believer is not under the law (Rom. 6:14-15; Gal. 5:18; 1 Cor. 9:20). The means of salvation for men in all ages has been faith. The Old Testament saint was never saved by law nor can one be saved by law in this dispensation (Rom. 3:20). The Old Testament saint was regenerated and justified by faith as is the one who receives Christ today. *The difference then is not in salvation, but the means by which one's conduct is governed.* In other words, in the Old Testament period fellowship with God was regulated by specific deeds and prohibitions accompanied with a series of checks and penalties. This was designed to protect Israel from the idolatry that surrounded her and provide the way for the appearance of Messiah. When Christ came He brought a new era of grace and truth (Jn. 1:17). *For the believer the law is nonetheless revealing and instructive. It gives insight into the mind of God and helps one to determine what standards of holiness He expects of those who follow Him.*”  
– John J. Davis, from his commentary on Exodus, titled *Moses and the Gods of Egypt*.

For You

It's helpful to remember these key facts (above) when studying the Old Testament and the covenants, yet the most important thing to remember is that the means of salvation has *always* been *by faith* in God. Salvation comes when we look to God to provide everything we need for salvation. We can't please God based on our own merits and works, nor can any amount of faithful adherence to God's laws cover over our sin, nor can our sin be atoned for by the blood of bulls and goats (Hebrews 10:4).

Okay, with that in mind, let's dive into this study!

1. In Exodus 21:1-11, we find instructions regarding the treatment of slaves, specifically a fellow *Hebrew*. What surprising command is given to the master of a Hebrew slave in Exodus 21:2? What other provisional details are given in 21:3-6?
  
2. Unlike their male counterparts, a female, Hebrew slave was not to be set free in the seventh year according to Exodus 21:7. What commands are given that protect women slaves in 21:8-11?



9. In Exodus 22:2-4, we read about guidelines concerning a thief. What interesting distinctions stand out in the instructions given for a homeowner confronting a thief?
  
10. How would the guidelines regarding borrowing something from your neighbor in Exodus 22:14-15 make you pause, if they were in place, the next time you wanted to borrow something?
  
11. The instruction given in Exodus 22 can be summarized as laws dealing with stealing. In the first part of the chapter, it's a bit easier to see this theme. Yet, the theme carries on into Exodus 22:16-17. With that in mind, what is being stolen?
  
12. Review the instruction given in Exodus 22:21-27. What do you learn about God from those regulations? How do the laws still fit with the theme of not stealing from one another?
  
13. In Exodus 22:28-31, we have different instances of stealing from God. How is the command in verse 28 stealing from God? See also James 4:11-12.
  - a. In verses 29-30 how is a *delay* in the giving of an offering, stealing from God?
  
  - b. Verse 31 isn't quite as obvious as the previous two examples, yet it's still an example of stealing. What's at stake if the nation doesn't obey verse 31?

14. In some ways the laws we're studying seem familiar and full of common sense, yet, not every country or culture lives within a framework like the one laid out here. Even for the Israelites, coming out of 430 years of living in pagan Egypt, many of these laws must have seemed surprising, since God required that they live and interact with one another in completely new ways. How are the laws of Exodus 23:1-9 even somewhat foreign for our culture today?
15. What reasons are given for the Sabbath rest in Exodus 23:10-12?
- a. What do you learn about the Sabbath rest from these other passages? See Genesis 2:2; Leviticus 25:2; Deuteronomy 5:12-15.
16. Another way that God desired the Israelites to honor Him as their God is seen in the laws about the feasts in Exodus 23:13-19. What was the purpose of the feasts?
17. The Lord sent an angel with the Israelites. What do you learn about this angel from Exodus 23:20-23?
- a. There are hints in the text as to who this angel might be because of how the Israelites were to follow the angel. The following texts will also help you formulate your answer: Exodus 3:2-6; Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; Isaiah 44:6-8; 46:9.



18. What reason is given for the slow clearing of the land in Exodus 23:27-30?
  - a. In Exodus 23:31-33 what reason is given for clearing out the inhabitants of the land?
  
19. Chapter 24 tells us about the covenant ceremony. In verses 3-8 how did the people respond?
  
20. What did the men who accompanied Moses up the mountain get to see and do (Exodus 24:9-11)? Also see Genesis 32:30; Deuteronomy 5:24; Judges 6:22-24; 13:22-23.
  
21. After the time of eating together before the Lord, Moses alone is called further up the mountain, where he disappears into the cloud of the Lord's presence. Moses confidently entered into the Lord's glorious and holy presence, trusting in His mercy and grace to not put him to death. Read Hebrews 4:14-16 and consider what God desires from His children.
  
22. Let's close our study on these chapters with the following questions:
  - a. What did the *original audience* understand when the instructions were given?
  
  - b. What *timeless truths* about God can we learn from section of Scripture?

- c. Because all Scripture is profitable and useful for training in righteousness, what principles can you glean and *apply* to your life today?

Oh, for a heart that is whiter than snow!  
Then in His grace and His knowledge to grow,  
Growing like Him who my pattern shall be,  
Till in His beauty my King I shall see.  
~Eliza Hewitt

## Exodus

### Lesson #10, Chapters 25-31

If you've peeked at the chapters for this lesson, you may be wondering how the instructions for the tabernacle and the priests can have any bearing on your life. Yet, God preserves *all* His Word for a purpose. As you delve into the contents of these chapters, you will gain tremendous insight into God Himself—and find your soul encouraged to worship the Lord with greater zeal and love. Before beginning the lesson, be sure to ask the Lord for His help and grace to see the treasures of His Word.

1. After giving Moses the laws and commandments (Chapters 20-24), God now instructs Moses about building a dwelling place for the Lord, and the details for worshipping Him there. What does God want the nation to do to prepare His sanctuary? What details are given that describe *how* they were to do this. See Exodus 25:1-2.
  - a. What do you notice about this kind of giving from the selection of verses that follow? See Exodus 35:21; 1 Chronicles 29:3, 5, 9, 14-17; Ezra 1:5-6; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:11-12; 9:7-11.
  - b. Consider your attitude when needs are presented at church and within the church body, what is your response? Is it similar to the ones in the verses above? If your heart isn't eager to give, why not? What do you think gets in the way of joyful, exuberant, generous giving?
2. Why does God want the people to give so generously? See Exodus 25:8. What parameters does God place upon His dwelling place in Exodus 25:9?
3. Read Exodus 25:10-22 and in your own words, briefly describe the ark God desires them to build.

- a. What is the purpose of the ark? See Deuteronomy 10:2-5 and Hebrews 9:4.
- 
4. What is the mercy seat? See Exodus 25:21-22.
- 
5. The next piece of furniture for the tabernacle is described in Exodus 25:23-30. What is it and what is its purpose? See also Leviticus 24:5-9; Hebrews 9:2.
    - a. Now look up John 6:32-35 to see how perfectly God's Word, will, and plans harmonize together to reveal greater truths. What do you learn from these verses?
- 
6. After the table, they were to make the golden lampstand. Try to draw a picture of it based on the description given here in Exodus 25:31-40.
- 
7. See Leviticus 24:1-4 for the purpose of the lampstand. What do you learn about the lampstand stationed in God's house? What picture does that paint for us? Psalm 139:11-12; John 8:12; 12:46; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 5:8; 1 John 1:5.
- 
8. As we move into Chapter 26, God's detailed instructions continue. Briefly explain how the two different curtains work and where they hang in the tabernacle (Exodus 26:1-14).

9. See if you can draw a picture of how the boards are to be the frame for the tabernacle's tent curtains from Exodus 26:30.
  
10. What is the veil's purpose according to Exodus 26:33-34? What do you learn about the veil from the following texts? See Exodus 40:3, 21; Matthew 27:50-51; Hebrews 6:19-20; 9:1-7, 11-12, 10:19-22.
  
11. As you read quickly through Chapter 27, it quickly becomes apparent that God is specific in how He wants to be worshiped. How is that knowledge different than what many think and put into practice today?
  
12. God even cares about the priest's garments. What do you learn about these special clothes from Exodus 28:2-3? What picture do the physical garments paint of the spiritual clothing we wear according to Psalm 132:9, 16; Zechariah 3:1-5; Romans 13:14; Ephesians 4:24?
  
13. From the description given in Exodus 28:6-14, 31-35 what is the ephod?
  
14. What goes over the ephod according to Ephesians 28:15-30? What is the purpose of this priestly garb? See Exodus 28:29-30.

15. What an incredible picture of God’s care and concern for His children! God designed the priestly garments, so the priest “carried the nation” into God’s presence as he made atonement for them once a year. What marvelous truths do you learn from Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 9:11-12, 24; 1 John 2:1-2?
  
16. Even the priest’s turban was to remind him of the God he served. What do you learn about the turban and the role it was to play in the offering and sacrifices? See Exodus 28:36-40.
  
17. What is the purpose of the linen breeches according to Exodus 28:42-43? See also Exodus 20:26; 1 Timothy 2:9 (be sure to notice the context for this verse); Revelation 3:18; 16:15. What do these verses teach us about God, modest, and worship?
  
18. What special preparation needed to take place before the priests were allowed to serve the Lord in His tabernacle according to Exodus 29:1-30? What does it mean to *consecrate* something? Why were these procedures so important for God—and for the priests? See also Exodus 30:29; Leviticus 11:44; 19:2; 20:7; Ephesians 5:26-27; Hebrews 7:27; 1 Peter 1:14-16.
  
19. Even in giving the precepts for His own worship, God provided for the ones who served in His dwelling place. What did God do for the priests according to Exodus 29:31-34?
  
20. In Exodus 29:38-46, God provides us with a reason for the burnt offerings. What does God promise to do in the presence of the burnt offering? See Exodus 29:42-46.

21. Read Exodus 30:1-10 to discover the purpose for the altar of incense. What do you learn? Again, what things do you learn about God from these instructions?
22. What is the purpose of the census in Exodus 30:11-16?
23. What is the bronze laver for according to Exodus 30:17-21? Along with bronze laver, God also gives instructions about the anointing oil and the incense to be used for the sacrifices and offerings. What purpose do these items serve? See Exodus 30:22-38.

A ship that is always leaking, must have the water continually pumped out; while the soul leaks by sin, we must be still pumping at the leak by repentance. Think not, O Christian, that thy sins are washed away only by Christ's blood, but by water and blood. The brazen laver, Ex. 30:18 that the people of Israel were to wash in, might be a fit emblem of this spiritual laver, tears and blood; and when holy mourning is thus qualified, this is, 2 Cor. 7:11 that 'sorrowing after a godly sort,' which makes a Christian eternally blessed.  
~Thomas Watson<sup>1</sup>

24. In Chapter 31, what do you learn about those whom the Lord called to design and build the tabernacle and all its parts? See Exodus 31:1-11. How is that consistent with what we know from 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11-13; and 1 Peter 4:10-11?
25. What is God's purpose for the Sabbath according to Exodus 31:12-18?

---

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Watson, "[Discourses upon Christ's Sermon on the Mount,](#)" in *Discourses on Important and Interesting Subjects, Being the Select Works of the Rev. Thomas Watson*, vol. 2 (Edinburgh; Glasgow: Blackie, Fullarton, & Co.; A. Fullarton & Co., 1829), 95–96.

26. Phew! That was a lot of information and instruction, and yet, we've gained so much more insight into God's character and purposes, Christ's sacrifice on our behalf, and how we can live more faithfully to honor the Lord. What has stood out to you in this lesson?

"Here is the Christian's way and his end...His way is holiness; his end is happiness." ~John Whitlock<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> John Whitlock, *A Puritan Golden Treasury*, editor, I. D. E. Thomas (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1989), 140.



## Exodus

### Lesson #11, Chapters 32-33

1. What is the state of things as Chapter 32 opens? See Exodus 32:1, then see Exodus 24:18 and Deuteronomy 9:11-12.
  
2. What sins can you pick out from Exodus 32:1 that would lead to this new development? How would you counsel the Israelites at that moment of temptation to think rightly about the situation in Exodus 32:1? What Scriptures would you use to remind them of biblical truth?
  
3. Unfortunately, Aaron got caught up in people's sinful thinking too. What did Aaron do to make a bad situation *worse* in Exodus 32:2-5?
  - a. How did his response lead to even greater sins for the people? See Exodus 32:6-8; Deuteronomy 9:16; Nehemiah 9:18; Psalm 106:19-21; Acts 7:41; 1 Corinthians 10:7.
  
4. How does God respond to the spiritual adultery of the nation in Exodus 32:10? Describe Moses' response from Exodus 32:11-13. What elements of God's character and works does Moses focus upon?
  
5. If God had destroyed the nation and then replenished it through Moses, would He still have been faithful to His promise to Abraham? See Exodus 6:18; 18:2-4.

*The solution to God changing His mind, relenting, or repenting is to understand that:*

- God is speaking from man's perspective, using terms men can relate to. God does this, not to overthrow the many Scriptures that teach us He never changes or that His decree is comprehensive and inflexible, but to help us understand Him better.
- God is unchanging. God always acts consistently with His character and nature.
- God is a holy God of justice and wrath. When people sin and will not repent, God consistently promises certain judgment. We might state it definitively as God always judges unrepentant sinners. In both of the examples above, when the people were in unrepentant sin, judgment was promised.
- God is a God of love, mercy, grace, patience, and compassion. God likes to show mercy and extend grace to those who humble themselves and repent. We might state this more definitely as God always shows mercy to those who humble themselves and repent.
- God knows the end from the beginning. He knows the outcome of all things because His providence is working to bring it to pass. In the examples above we see people in unrepentant sin. Judgment is promised. The people of Nineveh repented in the one case and Moses intercedes on behalf of the people in the other case. They change and therefore got to see another side of God's unchanging character, His mercy and grace. You can take a table, for instance, and take pictures of it from different positions in a room. Each picture will be different. From certain angles the table may look like a rectangle, or a trapezoid, or a parallelogram. It may be smaller or larger. In different light the table may even appear to change colors. But the fact is the size, shape, density, and color of the table remain consistent. It is the photographer, by his moving around that allows him to observe different aspects of the table. So, it is with God. He is unchanging. When people are in unrepentant sin, judgment is certain. When they humble themselves and repent, mercy and grace are certain. When we move from rebellion to repentance, we get to see an entirely different side of the unchanging God!

Taken from a lesson by Dr. Jack Hughes, "God's Sovereignty and Man's Responsibility: The Two Wills of God and When God Changes His Mind," Lesson #5. For more information about the study, please contact

[www.drivennails.com](http://www.drivennails.com).

**Below is an excerpt from Dr. Jack Hughes' sermon in Genesis 6:6,  
Which deals with this very topic.<sup>1</sup>**

There is a false theological system called "Open Theism" which says that God isn't sovereign, doesn't have all knowledge, doesn't know the future, but is reacting to the chaos that is happening in the world.

**First of all**, we need to realize that sometimes God speaks in human terms so that we can relate to Him. When the Bible speaks as if God has human emotions, like our text, the big word is *anthropopathisms*. God uses *anthropopathic* language, *language that describes God with human emotions* so that we can relate to Him. Other times the authors of Scripture use *anthropomorphic* language that describes God *as having a physical body, the eyes of the Lord, the strong arm of the Lord*, etc.

God knows all things and has known all things before the foundation of the world. **Eph. 1:11, He is working all things after the counsel of his will. Isa. 46:10, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure.'** God knew about the fall and how mankind would corrupt themselves in eternity past. God never learns anything for He is all knowing. So why does **vs. 6** say **the Lord was sorry that he had made man?** Because sin grieves the Lord, but that does not mean He didn't know it would happen. Jesus predicted His arrest, trial, death by crucifixion, and resurrection multiple times, but yet He was greatly distressed in the garden. Jesus knew Jerusalem would be destroyed by Titus, but He was still grieved and wept.

Someone then asks, *But, what about the texts that say God relented or repented or changed his mind?* God is constant, unchanging, and infinite in all His attributes. Let's say you have a table set in the middle of a large room. Nothing else is in the room, just the table. You have a camera and you take a picture of the table bending over the top of it, then you take another picture straight on from one end, then another at an angle off to one side. You take some up close, some further away, some with the lights up, some with the lights down. Now, when you look at the pictures of that table, every picture is different. It appears to be a rectangle in shape in one picture, a trapezoid in another, a parallelogram in another, smaller in some pictures, larger in others, darker in some, and lighter in others. Every picture is different of the same table.

*Let me ask you, has the table changed in weight, density, color, size, or materials?* No. So, *Why are all the pictures of the table different then?* Because of the perspective of the photographer. The photographer changed his position, changed the lights, changed the distance he was standing from the table, etc. The table's attributes remain constant. The variety of pictures is due to the photographer. Thus, when people are living in sin and rebellion against God, the fixed picture they will always see is judgment. However, if they repent, the fixed picture they will see is mercy and grace.

Yes, when God is considered from man's perspective, He is sorry, relents, or repents. As men change their position in relation to God, they see different aspects of God's unchanging nature. But how does God see or describe himself and His nature? **Numb. 23:19** says, **"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? And I Sam. 15:29** says, **"Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind."**

God promised to destroy Nineveh, sends Jonah to preach judgment to them, and the people of Nineveh repent. When they were in sin, judgment was certain. When they repented, mercy and grace were certain. Thus, all the texts in the Bible that appear to teach God changed His mind, relented, or repented, are looking at God from man's perspective. When men change position, they see different attributes of God.

6. Though Moses pleaded for God to extend mercy to the sinning people, what happens when Moses sees what had so offended God? See Exodus 32:15-20.
  
7. After Moses dealt with the people, he turned his attention to Aaron, confronting him about his sin in Exodus 32:21-24. How would you characterize Aaron's response?
  
8. After considering Aaron's response, how would you counsel him to a right response about his sin? Be sure to include the Scripture references you would use.
  
9. Further consequences of the people's sin are seen in Exodus 32:25. What happened and with what result?
  
10. What do you learn from the following Scriptures about giving way to temptation? See Genesis 4:5-8; Romans 6:12-14; Hebrews 3:13; James 1:13-16.
  
11. What is Moses' plan to quell the rebellion? See Exodus 32:26-29.

"A man must deny RELATIVE SELF, his dearest relations, if God calls; if our nearest alliance, father or mother stand in our way, and would hinder us from doing our duty, we must either leap over them, or tread upon

them. Luke 14:26. 'If any man come to me, and hate not father and mother, and wife, and children, &c. he cannot be my disciple.' Relations must not weigh heavier than Christ."<sup>1</sup>

"Whatever you deny for Christ, you shall find again in Christ, Matth. 19:29. 'Every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for my name's sake, shall receive an hundred fold, and shall inherit everlasting life.'<sup>2</sup>

12. What is commendable about the Levites' role in this incident? See Exodus 32:26-29; also look up Matthew 10:37; Luke 11:23.
  - a. Look up Jacob's prophetic blessing upon his son, Levi, in Deuteronomy 33:8-9. What do you notice in Jacob's blessing that relates to our passage in Exodus?
  
13. From Exodus 32:30-35, what observations can you make about Moses' interactions with God on behalf of the people?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. What truths does the Lord bring up to Moses in Exodus 32:33-35 that bring balance to Moses' thinking? See also Exodus 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 24:16; Isaiah 3:10-11; Ezekiel 18:19-20; Hebrews 12:6-11.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. Though God faithfully and righteously dealt with the people regarding the worship of the golden calves and the other sins they had committed, there were still consequences for the people's rebellion and unbelief. What do you learn about that from Exodus 33:1-6?

---

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Watson, "Discourses upon Christ's Sermon on the Mount," in *Discourses on Important and Interesting Subjects, Being the Select Works of the Rev. Thomas Watson*, vol. 2 (Edinburgh; Glasgow: Blackie, Fullarton, & Co.; A. Fullarton & Co., 1829), 375.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 378.

16. Some commentators have suggested that the angel mentioned here in Exodus 33:2 is different than the one mentioned 3 verses earlier in Chapter 32:34. Do a bit of Bible sleuthing and see what you learn after looking up Exodus 23:20-23; 32:34; 33:2.
  
17. Although God keeps His covenant promise to the patriarchs, sending His angel to fight for the people and guide them into the land, the Lord indicates there will be a change because of the incident with the golden calf. What is it according to Exodus 33:3-6?
  
18. What does it mean to be *obstinate*?
  - a. What sins come from an *obstinate* and *stubborn* spirit? See Deuteronomy 9:6-13; Psalm, 78:8; Zechariah 7:11; Acts 7:51; Romans 2:5; and for the opposite see James 3:13-18.
  
  - b. What are some ways you can guard against stubbornness in your own heart?

“God obviously did *not* want to destroy his people, however, so here he indicated that his rhetorical offer at the present time to them was that he would not directly accompany them in the same degree that he had spoken personally to them from Sinai (20:1–19) or appeared personally to Moses several times at the top of the mountain. The close divine presence at Sinai under this scenario would be moderated after the Israelites left Sinai. God would be more indirectly present with them in the future for their own benefit, lest his intolerance of sin should require him to “destroy them on the way,” that is, before they reached the

promised land. *To keep his plan of redemption on course, God had to limit his contact with Israel* (emphasis added).” ~Douglas K. Stuart<sup>3</sup>

“Although God instructed Moses to lead the Israelites into Canaan, and promised to fulfil his prior commitment to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, he would not go with them. He feared that further acts of rebellion might cause him to destroy the people on the way. ‘*I will send an angel before you*’ was the promise of divine help to overcome the inhabitants of Canaan and echoes 23:23. However, it did not necessarily imply that God would dwell in the midst of the people.” ~T. Desmond Alexander<sup>4</sup>

19. In Exodus 33:7-11 we see one way in which *the Lord did not abide in the midst of Israel*. What do you see happening in those verses?

“The tent mentioned in verse 7 was *not* the tabernacle, which had not yet been erected, but a provisional tent pitched by Moses and called here “the tabernacle (tent) of meeting.” Individuals who desired to seek the Lord could go there, outside the camp. The camp itself had been defiled by the sin of the people, so the tent was situated outside. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud descended, indicating God’s presence.” ~William MacDonald<sup>5</sup>

“The Tabernacle had not yet been made nor the Aaronic priesthood instituted. In addition the camp had been so defiled by the incident of the golden bull, that it was necessary to have the meeting place with God well outside it.” ~H. L. Ellison<sup>6</sup>

20. Exodus 33:11 is often misunderstood as to what it means when God spoke to Moses “face to face,” yet if we take the time to pull together all the doctrinal threads God has laid out in His Word, any confusion is cleared up. First, look up and summarize what you discover from Exodus 33:11, 18, 20-23; Numbers 12:8; Deuteronomy 34:10; John 1:18; 1 Timothy 6:16.

<sup>3</sup> Douglas K. Stuart, *Exodus*, vol. 2, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006), 690–691.

<sup>4</sup> T. Desmond Alexander, “Exodus,” in *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*, ed. D. A. Carson et al., 4th ed. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 117.

<sup>5</sup> William MacDonald, *Believer’s Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*, ed. Arthur Farstad (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 125.

<sup>6</sup> H. L. Ellison, *Exodus*, The Daily Study Bible Series (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1982), 177.





6:18-19; Philippians 3:7-11; 1 Timothy 2:1; Hebrews 11:6; James 4:3, 5-7; 1 John 3:22.

22. God continues to assure Moses that He will go with them into the land, to the point that Moses boldly asks for something unprecedented to take place. What happens between God and Moses in Exodus 33:17-18?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
23. How does God mitigate Moses' request and why is it necessary to do so? See Exodus 33:19-23.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
24. What's the connection between God's glory and His goodness (Exodus 33:18-19)? See also Psalm 27:13; 31:19; 65:4; 145:7-9.

"Goodness is God's darling attribute and His glory. Moses asked for God's glory and was shown His goodness (Exodus 33:18)." ~Thomas Lye<sup>7</sup>

25. How do we see the Lord showing kindness to Moses in Exodus 33:17-23? How can the Lord's dealings with Moses encourage and strengthen you when you remember that the Lord is just as faithful in His interactions with you?

---

<sup>7</sup> Thomas Lye, Richard Rushing, editor, *Voices from the Past, Volume 1* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009), 182.

## Exodus

### Lesson #12, Chapters 34-40

Scrunched into our final lesson of Exodus are treasures you won't want to miss! Be sure to ask the Lord, as the psalmist did, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law (Psalm 119:18)."

1. We can't start into Exodus 34 without first reviewing previous events. What transpired in Exodus 32 and 33 that led to Moses needing two more stone tablets?
  
2. What does God graciously offer to do for Moses and the nation in Exodus 34:1-4?
  
3. Exodus 34:5-9 gives us the details of the actual event discussed between the Lord and Moses in Exodus 33:17-23. What do you learn about the Lord Himself as you piece together information from those two passages? What other nuggets stand out to you as you look at these passages and the complete story?
  
4. What does God intend to do according to Exodus 34:10? Summarize the details God imparts to Moses from Exodus 34:10-28.
  - a. Compare this offer from God with another one found in Genesis 17:1-8.
  
5. No one can come in contact with God and not be changed. How was Moses affected by his time in the Lord's presence? See Exodus 34:29-35.

6. Dear ones, we aren't physically traipsing up the mountain to enter into God's presence, but we do have the privilege of coming before Him, nonetheless. Surely, there should be some difference in our hearts and lives because the time we spend with Him. What do you learn from the following Scriptures about what may hinder our time in God's presence? See 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Corinthians 3:12-18; Hebrews 4:2; 10:19-22; 11:6; 12:18-29.

a. See also Matthew 5:14-16; Ephesians 5:8-10; Philippians 2:15.

7. Paul uses this episode (Exodus 34:29-35) to illustrate some important biblical truths. Though the original audience was never privy to this new revelation, we are, so let's see what further insights we can glean into the things of God. What do you learn about 2 Corinthians 3:7-18? How does Paul use this story to make his point in the passage he is writing about?

He has made us beautiful; decked our souls with rays of his own beauty, made us partakers of the divine nature, filled us with the fulness of God, conformed us to himself, who is the brightness of divine glory. And now we are all glorious within; the King delights in our beauty. There is a brighter lustre on our souls than shone in Moses's face when he had been talking with God, or sparkled in the habit of Christ and his glorious companions when they were transfigured. If the beauty of a sanctified soul could be made visible to the world, the sun would be no longer esteemed a glorious creature, nor the fairest face lovely. Indeed, it was no easy matter to beautify such deformed souls. Christ tells us what it cost him in the text: he loved us and washed us from our sins with his blood.<sup>1</sup> ~David Clarkson

8. What is one of the first things God wants Moses to communicate to the people? See Exodus 35:1-3.

---

<sup>1</sup> David Clarkson, *The Works of David Clarkson*, vol. 3 (Edinburgh: James Nichol, 1864), 5.

9. The next thing the Lord wanted the people to understand and obey is contained in a larger section. Distill God's instruction down to its bare bones commands, the attitudes the people should possess, and any other nuggets you notice from Exodus 35:4-35.
  
10. In Exodus 35:10, Moses talks about the *skillful* [NKJV *gifted*] workmen and then continues to refer to them that way to the end of Chapter 39. Skim through Exodus 35:10-39:43, and briefly note how *skill*, *skilled*, *skillfully* is used. You'll probably discover similarities in use and can "lump" them together, if you'd like.
  - a. Then consider and observe how the person used their "skill" for the Lord.
  
11. Exodus 36:8 contains two different Hebrew words that have been translated into English as "skillful." Define those words [Strong's #2450 and #2803] and explain how they work together to give us a picture of these workmen and how they used their gifts for the Lord.
  
12. Also look up Exodus 28:3; 31:6; Romans 11:29; 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:4-13; 1 Peter 4:10-11 to further develop our understanding of God's gifting to His children. Summarize what you learn from those verses about God's gifts and their purpose.
  
13. In this section and the other passages we just looked at, we see how God gives His children gifts and skills for the benefit of others. We also see how those skills and gifts aren't static; they can be developed and honed to bring even more glory to the Lord. What would you say is your own gifting from the Lord, and how are you developing or using it to bless your local congregation?

14. In the book of Exodus, we come across the word *contribution* [NIV, NKJV *offering*]. In fact, the first time it is used in the Bible is in Exodus 25:2. Let's form a deeper understanding of giving here in the book of Exodus. Summarize what you learn about the "contribution" from the following passages: Exodus 25:2-3; 30:13-15; 35:5, 21-24, 29; 36:3-7. What things stand out to you from these verses?
  
15. It's particularly noteworthy that in this portion of Exodus the people gave so freely and willingly that the craftsmen actually had to tell them to stop giving because they had more than enough to complete construction on the tabernacle. Consider what attitudes and truths about God undergird that kind of exuberant giving?
  
16. Summarize what you learn about giving from the following passages. As you do so, consider what attitudes should accompany our giving. See 2 Chronicles 31:4-10; Matthew 26:6-13; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 11-12; 9:1-5, 6-12; Philippians 4:15-19.
  
17. When God ensures that we have abundant detail from the Scriptures about something, it means we need to take notice of it. The details about the tabernacle and its construction begin in Exodus 25 where Moses is told by God, "According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it." The final instructions about the tabernacle are concluded in Exodus 40. What would the nation of Israel have learned *about God* as they received this vital information about the tabernacle?
  
18. We too have things to learn *about God* as we study these passages about the tabernacle. What is it about the tabernacle and all the details about its construction that is important for us to know and consider *today*?

19. Not only can we learn more about God from Moses' account about the tabernacle, but we have the added bonus of further revelation concerning this earthly place of worship. What increased insights do you gain from the author of Hebrews and the Apostle John from the following verses? See Hebrews 8:1-5; 9:1, 6-10, 11-14, 21-25; 10:1-4, 19-22; Revelation 21:3.
  
20. What happened in Exodus 40:1-33 and when did it take place?
  
21. After the tabernacle and the priests were prepared and offerings given to the Lord, what happened? See Exodus 40:34-35.
  
22. What is the final and fitting epitaph for this book? See Exodus 40:36-38. What do those last words communicate about the God who had rescued the Israelites from Egypt?
  
23. Exodus is a book about *transitions*. It's a story about leaving an old life and entering into a new one. It's a *relationship* tale as the nation of Israel learns how to walk well with their holy, delivering, providing God. And, the book of Exodus is a story in the *middle*. The Israelites' story isn't completed; they haven't yet arrived in the Promised Land; they haven't even made it through to the end of the 40 years in the wilderness. It is a story of *preparation* as God teaches and trains them for the days ahead. *That same God is at work in your life—in your transitions, in your relationship with Him, as you navigate an incomplete story trusting the One who leads you.* What are some lessons you want to take with you from the book of Exodus that will help you live well in the middle of your story?

Step by step, O loving Savior,  
In Thine own appointed way,  
In the path which Thou hast chosen,  
Lead us on, from day to day.

*Lead us on, O lead us ever,  
Till we all Thy face shall see:  
For our hope is in Thy mercy,  
We are trusting only Thee.*

Lead us on, though stormy billows  
Wild and dark before us rise;  
Let Thy precious bow of promise  
Shine resplendent from the skies.

Lead us on, our souls defending,  
Till the latest storm is past,  
And we hear our loved ones singing,  
Welcome, welcome home at last!  
~Fanny Crosby