

Old Testament Survey Lesson Six

Introduction:

Week 1: Introduced the Old Testament

Week 2: Discovered how to study the Old Testament

Week 3: Studied Genesis 1-11 (Beginnings)

Week 4: Studied Genesis 12-50 (Patriarchs)

Week 5: Studied lands of the Bible

Today: Moving the biblical narrative forward about 400 years after Joseph

- Setting: Egypt
- Problem/Plot: Israel's Oppression
- Climax: Deliverance/Salvation

Focus of Next Three Weeks:

- Exodus Event
- Passover
- Crossing of the Red Sea
- The Law
- Israelite Worship

I. Overview of the Book of Exodus

A. Biblical Location

1. Second book in the Pentateuch (5)
2. Center of the Pentateuch based on themes
 - a. Exodus deliverance
 - b. Giving of the law at Mt. Sinai
 - c. Construction of tabernacle
 - d. Forming and establishing of a people
3. Tightly linked to Genesis and the story of the Patriarchs
 - a. Link to genealogy of Jacob and his family

Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, ³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; ⁴ Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. ⁵ All those who were descendants^[a] of Jacob were seventy^[b] persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already). Exodus 1:1-5 NKJV

⁸ Now these were the names of the children of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt: Reuben was Jacob's firstborn. Genesis 46:8 NKJV

b. Oppression and Exodus are foretold in Genesis narrative

¹³ Then the LORD said to Abram, "You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years.¹⁴ But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth. Genesis 15:13-14 NLT

c. Link to reference of the fulfillment of God's promises to the ancestors (70 in Goshen)

⁶ I will make you extremely fruitful. Your descendants will become many nations, and kings will be among them! Genesis 17:6 NLT

⁷ But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land. Exodus 1:7 NLT

d. Link to God's covenant promise made with Patriarchs

¹⁸ So the LORD made a covenant with Abram that day and said, "I have given this land to your descendants, all the way from the border of Egypt^[a] to the great Euphrates River—¹⁹ the land now occupied by the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰ Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, ²¹ Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites." Genesis 15:18-21 NLT

⁷ "I will confirm my covenant with you and your descendants^[a] after you, from generation to generation. This is the everlasting covenant: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ And I will give the entire land of Canaan, where you now live as a foreigner, to you and your descendants. It will be their possession forever, and I will be their God." Genesis 17:7-8 NLT

²³ Years passed, and the king of Egypt died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God.²⁴ God heard their groaning, and he remembered his covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Exodus 2:23-24 NLT

⁴ And I reaffirmed my covenant with them. Under its terms, I promised to give them the land of Canaan, where they were living as foreigners. ⁵ You can be sure that I have heard the groans of the people of Israel, who are now slaves to the Egyptians. And I am well aware of my covenant with them. Exodus 6:4-5 NLT

4. Tightly linked to Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

- a. Closing of Exodus (building of Tabernacle) and beginning of Leviticus (God comes down to speak in the Tabernacle)
- b. Context of laws and instructions in Leviticus and Numbers 1-10 is Mt. Sinai (location of portion of Exodus)
- c. Deuteronomy rehearses Exodus events with repetition of Decalogue, instructions, an appeal to trust and obey God based on Exodus events

B. Structure

1. Movement from serving Pharaoh to serving Yahweh: Hebrew “avad” used 97x in Exodus
2. Movement from slavery to worship
3. Movement from enforced construction of buildings for Pharaoh to glad and obedient offering for a building to worship God
4. Movement from an apparent distance of God to a close and intense presence among community

NOTE: The centerpiece to Exodus’ structure is the saving event at the Red Sea

NOTE: Salvation makes possible for an enslaved community to worship Christ

NOTE: The centerpiece to our salvation is the redemptive work of Christ breaking the bondage of sin and giving us eternal access into the throne room of God

C. Origins

1. “Exodus” means “road out,” “escape,” or “exit”
2. Name is derived from the Greek and Latin versions of the Bible
3. Hebrew Bible title is “And these are the names” reflecting Ex. 1:1

These are the names of the sons of Israel (that is, Jacob) who moved to Egypt with their father, each with his family Exodus 1:1 NLT

These are the words that Moses spoke to all the people of Israel while they were in the wilderness east of the Jordan River. Deuteronomy 1:1

4. Authorship: Tradition Moses (JEDP)
5. Geography
 - a. Israel in Egypt (1:1-12:36)
 - b. Israel in the desert (12:37-18:21)
 - c. Israel at Mt. Sinai (19-40)

6. Timeframe

- a. Exodus 1—400 years (Genesis 15:13)
- b. Exodus 2:1-15:21—80 years (Exodus 7:7; Acts 7:23, 30)

- c. Exodus 15:22-19:2—3 months (Exodus 19:1)
- d. Exodus 19:3-40:38—11 months (Numbers 10:11)

NOTE: A large part of Exodus unfolds in a period of 14 months

II. The Story of Exodus

A. Israelite Oppression

¹¹ So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king.¹² But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread, and the more alarmed the Egyptians became.¹³ So the Egyptians worked the people of Israel without mercy.¹⁴ They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands. Exodus 1:11-14 NLT

1. Oppression stemmed from Pharaoh's fear of Israel's growing population

⁹ He said to his people, "Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are."¹⁰ We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don't, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country." Exodus 1:9-10 NLT

- a. Egyptians feared for their life (fight against us)
- b. Egyptians feared they would lose their servants, which would bring decline to economy (escape from country)

"In Genesis 12-50 it was often infertility that passed a threat to the realization of God's promises. In the opening chapters of Exodus it is superfertility that poses a threat" (Victor Hamilton).

2. New leadership brought strict reforms

⁸ Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. Exodus 1:8 NLT

- a. New king was unfamiliar with Joseph's story, family, and contribution to Egypt's success
- b. New king saw a growing people (1:7) as a major threat to Egypt's rise to fame

3. Pharaoh had a remedy to alleviate an Israelite rebellion or mass exodus

- a. Excruciating manual labor was required
- b. Build supply cities for the king

- c. Result: Israelites multiplied and spread
- d. Increased labor and demands

¹⁴ They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands. Exodus 1:14 NLT

- e. Edict: have Hebrew midwives kill all Hebrew boys and let girls live

NOTE: The killing of Abel, the coming of a flood, infertility of Sarai, the famine in Canaan, and now an edict to kill all Hebrew boys were events/attempts that almost brought an end to God's promise of a seed. Even in the NT, Herod issues a decree to kill all boys under two.

NOTE: Through the sovereignty of God, He preserves/protects a people

NOTE: The promise/plan of God cannot be overturned by humanity

"God's sovereignty—cannot know it, but we can trust it!"

- f. Midwives refused orders of Pharaoh (women are key)
- g. Israelites continued to multiply and grow in power
- h. Edict #2: every newborn boy thrown into the Nile

4. Chapter 1—God's saving of people as a whole

5. Chapter 2—God's saving of one of His people (Moses)

NOTE: The oppression will become so extreme (greater in 5:1-21), Israel calls out to God, and God decides to act (2:23-24)

B. Moses

1. Birth

- a. Son of a Levite man and woman (2:1)
- b. No supernatural announcement or event like that of Jacob or Samuel
- c. Parents remain unidentified until Exodus 6:20 (genealogy)
- d. Child was born during intense slavery of Hebrews and while Pharaoh was killing male babies (Samuel born during spiritual and political corruption)

NOTE: Moses' survival is credited to God's divine protection and sovereignty—he should have died

- e. Mother hid Moses for 3 months

2. Plan to protect and preserve Moses

- a. Waterproof basket was placed in the Nile riverbank
- b. Moses' sister watched carefully the basket down the river
- c. The basket was discovered by Pharaoh's daughter's servants while bathing in the river
- d. Moses' mother was given the opportunity to nurse the child

NOTE: We witness the orchestration of God's divine plan

- e. Adopted and raised by Pharaoh's daughter
- f. Named "Moses"
 - 1) "To draw out"
 - 2) Who he is and what he is: Name means mission—He will draw people out of Egypt

3. First 40 years

- a. Egyptian education
- b. Foremost center of civilization
- c. Developed a connection with high profile leaders
- d. Received wisdom of Egyptian wisdom

²⁰ *"At that time Moses was born—a beautiful child in God's eyes. His parents cared for him at home for three months. ²¹ When they had to abandon him, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and raised him as her own son. ²² Moses was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in both speech and action. Acts 7:20-22 NLT*

- e. Kills an Egyptian

¹¹ *Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews. ¹² After looking in all directions to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand. ¹³ The next day, when Moses went out to visit his people again, he saw two Hebrew men fighting. "Why are you beating up your friend?" Moses said to the one who had started the fight. ¹⁴ The man replied, "Who appointed you to be our prince and judge? Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?" Then Moses was afraid, thinking, "Everyone knows what I did." Exodus 2:11-14 NLT*

- f. Flees Egypt into Midian (2:15)
- g. Marries Zipporah, daughter of Priest of Midian (Exodus 2:21)

4. Second 40 years

- a. Shepherd in Midian (wilderness exposure)

- b. Experienced the wilderness land

NOTE: Moses' time in Egypt as prince and in Midian as a shepherd prepared him for leading Israel out of Egypt into the wilderness (experiences prepare us for God's plan)

5. The Call: Burning Bush (Exodus 3)

- a. Sinai (call and law)
- b. Bush in flames, but not consumed (miracle)
- c. Theophany: I am God of your fathers ...
- d. Call would provide motivation for Moses later in his journey
- e. Moses' excuses

- 1) Inadequacy (3:11)—“Who am I?” (3:12-response)
- 2) Ignorance (3:13)—“What shall I say?” (3:14-15-response)
- 3) Incredibility (4:1)—“Won't believe me” (4:2-9-response)
- 4) Inarticulateness (4:10)—“Slow of speech” (“Who made mouth?”-response)
- 5) Insubordination (4:13)—“Send someone else” (Aaron)

NOTE: God will equip those He calls!

NOTE: God gives us what we need to carry out his mission—Aaron

C. Plagues

1. Function of the plagues: to know God

² *“Is that so?” retorted Pharaoh. “And who is the LORD? Why should I listen to him and let Israel go? I don’t know the LORD, and I will not let Israel go.” Exodus 5:2 NLT*

⁵ *“When I raise my powerful hand and bring out the Israelites, the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.” Exodus 7:5 NLT*

¹⁴ *“If you don’t, I will send more plagues on you^[a] and your officials and your people. Then you will know that there is no one like me in all the earth. Exodus 9:14 NLT*

¹⁶ *“But I have spared you for a purpose—to show you my power^[a] and to spread my fame throughout the earth. Exodus 9:16 NLT*

⁴ *“And once again I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will chase after you.^[a] I have planned this in order to display my glory through Pharaoh and his whole army. After this the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD!” So the Israelites camped there as they were told. Exodus 14:4 NLT*

- a. Reveals power of God
- b. Reveals authority of God
- c. Revelation of true God put on display for Pharaoh and Egypt

NOTE: Knowledge based on observation and confrontation not hearsay needed for Egyptians

2. Ten Plagues

- a. Water to blood (Exodus 7:14-25)
- b. Swarms of frogs (Exodus 8:1-15)
- c. Gnats/Lice (Exodus 8:16-19)
- d. Swarm of flies—Hebrews spared (Exodus 8:20-32)
- e. Pestilence upon cattle—Hebrews spared (Exodus 9:1-7)
- f. Boils on humans and animals (Exodus 9:8-12)
- g. Hail, thunder, and lightning—not in the area of Hebrews (Exodus 9:13-35)
- h. Swarm of locusts (Exodus 10:1-20)
- i. Three days of thick darkness (Exodus 10:21-29)
- j. Death of firstborn—human and cattle (Exodus 11:1-12:36)

NOTE: Some believe plagues are attack on Egyptian gods

3. The hardening of Pharaoh's heart

D. The Passover

- 1. Context: 10th plague—Death of firstborn
- 2. Divine requirements
 - a. Year-old male lamb/goat without blemish selected on 10th day of Abib
 - b. Animal slain on the 14th day toward evening and blood applied to doorposts and lintel of each home
 - c. Departure preparation was complete, so ate meal consisting of meat, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs
 - d. Left Egypt immediately (Exodus 12:11)
- 3. Meaning of Passover
 - a. “Pasah” = “Pass over”

¹³ But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt. Exodus 12:13 NLT

²³ For the LORD will pass through the land to strike down the Egyptians. But when he sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, the LORD will pass over your home. He will not permit his death angel to enter your house and strike you down. Exodus 12:23 NLT

- b. Protect or stand guard over (12:23)
 - 1) Lord will block entry of the destroyer
 - 2) Security in his presence
- 4. Connection to Christ
 - a. Passover lamb to Lamb of God
 - b. Kingdom of darkness versus slavery in Egypt
 - c. Redemption is ethical not geographical change
 - d. Not one bone of lamb is broken

⁴⁶ Each Passover lamb must be eaten in one house. Do not carry any of its meat outside, and do not break any of its bones. Exodus 12:46 NLT

³⁶ These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, “Not one of his bones will be broken,” John 19:36 NLT

⁷ Get rid of the old “yeast” by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us. 1 Corinthians 5:7 NLT

¹⁹ It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. 1 Peter 1:19 NLT

NOTE: Lamb died in place of sons and innocent blood was shed so human life was spared

E. Exodus

- 1. The Path
 - a. Shorter route was along Mediterranean Seacoast (Pharaoh aware)
 - b. Many scholars debate the path
- 2. People
 - a. 600,000 men besides women/children (12:37) around 2 million
 - b. Family unit/military unit

c. Number reduced based on Hebrew language

NOTE: Lots of people left per God's promise

F. Crossing of the Red Sea (Reed Sea)

1. Miraculous event (Exodus 14)
2. Saving event for Israel
3. Egyptians were drowned

NOTE: We must not forget God's work of deliverance—Hebrew children did (Exodus 16:2-3)

NOTE: Less than 3 months to Mt. Sinai

Conclusion:

- People prepared for the receiving of a law and covenant
- Place where Moses encounters God
- Witness ...

1. God's sovereignty
2. God's power
3. God's salvation
4. God's protection

