

EXODUS:

Some of the Greatest Stories of God's People.

Exodus: An Amazing Story of Deliverance and Protection!

First: A little Introduction to Chuck Ramsay (Charles III)

- *Who is this guy in front of the class?*
- *Where did he come from?*
- *Why should I care what he has to say?*
- *I want to instill in people a love of the Bible!*

On with our lesson!!!



The Rev. Dr. Charles Ramsay, Sr. in 1967 at the Great Egyptian Pyramid.

These are the objectives of this class as well as all others:

- *What story does this book of the Bible tell?*
- *How does it fit into the rest of the Bible?*
- *What truths can we learn from this book?*
- *How does this book speak to us today?*

A two-sentence summary of Exodus might read something like this:

“Exodus is the history of Israel’s departure from Egypt. They were identified as God’s (Yahweh’s) chosen people by the giving of the law and the establishment of the tabernacle.”

OH, BUT THERE IS SOOOOOOO

MUCH MORE TO IT.....



Some basics first:

- The authorship is generally credited to Moses although most modern scholars do not believe he personally wrote it.
- The date of the events described are probably between 1450 and 1350(BCE). There is debate about these dates as well.
- The word "Exodus" means to 'exit' or 'depart'
- The book of Exodus is full of very dramatic and engaging stories. (Is there anyone here who has NOT seen Cecil B. de Mille's movie called "*The Ten Commandments*"?)
- The book of Exodus was written to the Israelites but has application to all believers.

Exodus 20: 1-11

You shall have no other gods before Me.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image; You shall not bow down to them nor serve them

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother

You shall not murder

You shall not commit adultery

You shall not steal

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor anything that is your neighbor's

The themes of the book center on God's protection and provision being available to His children in times of need. Obedience to the Word of God brings prosperity and blessings while disobedience brings failure and punishment.

There is also an emphasis on our covenant relationship with God –trust and obey Him in return for His deliverance and salvation.

The Literary
structure of
Exodus is
broken into five
parts:

Deliverance from Egypt and the Journey to Sinai

Chapters
1:1-18:27

Covenant at Sinai

Chapters 19:1-24:18

Instructions for Tabernacle and Worship

Chapters 25:1-
31:18

Breach and Renewal of Covenant

Chapters 32:1-
34:35

Building of the Tabernacle

Chapters 35:1-
40:38



- Other Bible teachers have used a more geographical outline to understand the book.
- Since Exodus is essentially a story about a journey—this makes sense!
- It might look something like this:
- *First: Israel in Egypt* (Chapters 1:1– 13:16)
 - God's saving presence: Liberation from Egyptian slavery.
- *Second: Israel in the Wilderness* (Chap.13:17–18:27)
 - God's Guiding, Providing, Presence during the Sinai Journey
- *Third: Israel at Sinai* (Chapters 19:1–40:38)
 - God's worshipful presence at Sinai through worship, the tabernacle and the Priests.

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OK:

Ok. Let's get started on the journey!!!

Open:

Open your Bibles to the first chapter of Exodus. Look at the first verse.

Look:

Let us read Exodus 1:1-7



> Chapter 1:5 Only 70 descendants were in Egypt originally from Joseph's family as we learned from Genesis. Yet they turn into an estimated three million people in about 431 years. Trouble starts in Egypt because there are so many of them.

> And soon we have the familiar story of Moses being rescued from the Nile and his subsequent realization of his Jewish heritage. Remember the movie?!

The Burning bush that was not consumed!!

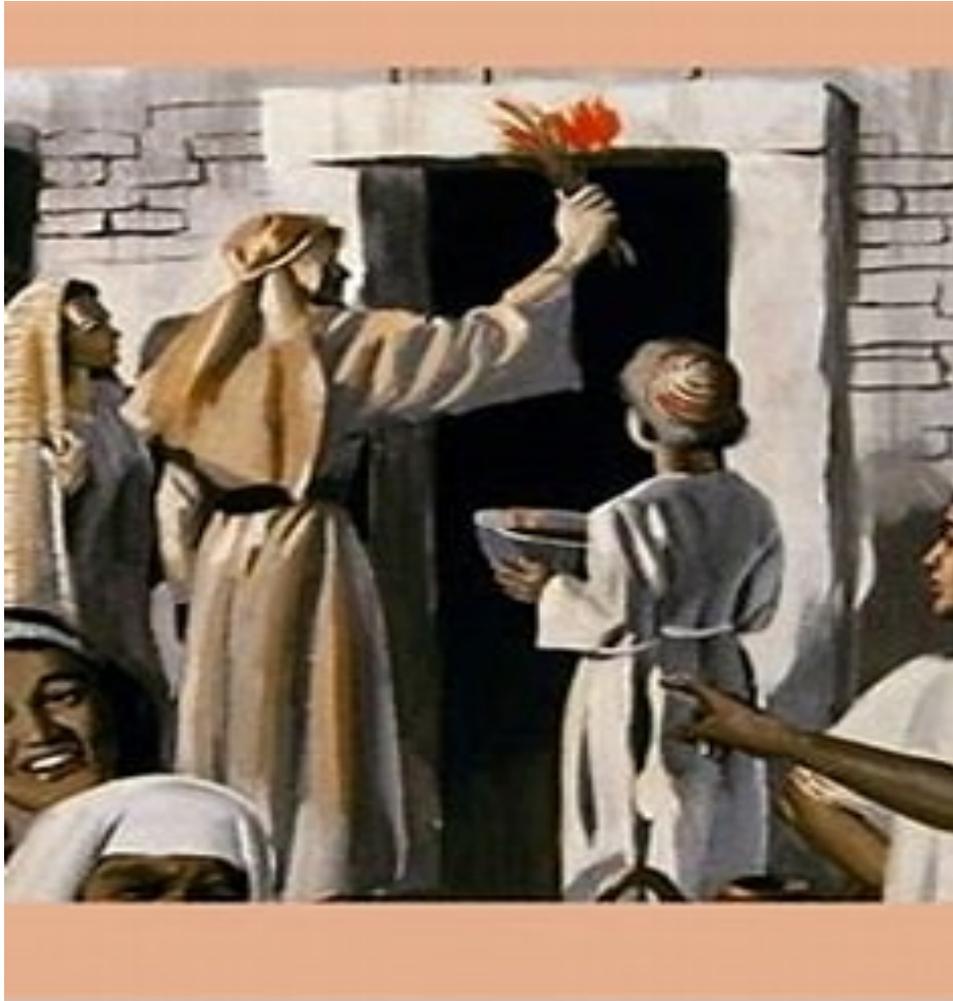
There is the occurrence of the burning bush when Moses was in Midian. God spoke directly to Moses and told him what He (Yahweh) wanted Him to do. Moses was in disbelief briefly but did eventually comply and hence we have the sequence of events in Exodus and the book of Numbers. This event was significant and served as the basis of direction for Moses and faith for the Israelite people. This occurs in chapter 3: 1-10.



Then we have the great Ten Plagues as found in Exodus chapters 7-11

The 10 Egyptian Plagues

1. Water to Blood. When Aaron's staff hit the Nile River, the water became blood, and the first plague began. ...
2. Frogs. The second plague brought an influx of millions of frogs. ...
3. Gnats or Lice. Aaron's staff was used again in the third plague. ...
4. Flies. ...
5. Diseased Livestock. ...
6. Boils. ...
7. Thunder and Hail. ...
8. Locusts. ...
9. Darkness. ...
10. Death of the First-Born

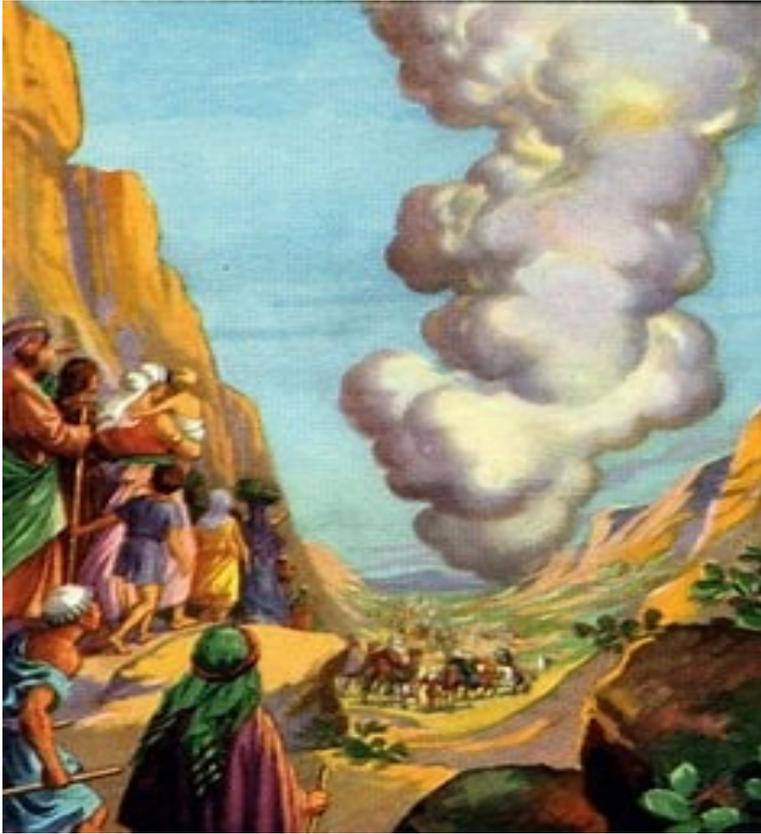


The final plague brought about the death of the first born of all the Egyptians. The Israelites were spared this because of the blood of a lamb smeared on the door with a hyssop branch. Pharaoh lets the Israelites go! But chases after them! (Bad Choice)





- The story in the book of Exodus continues after Pharaoh and his army are covered in the Red Sea. The fledgling nation of Israel wanders about because of their disobedience and ignoring of Yahweh and His commands. Yet they are growing into a very populous and unified nation. Dysfunctional yes but increasing effective in battle and national identity. More on this next week in our study of the book of Numbers.
- Importantly God's interaction with His chosen people never goes away. God is faithful.



Exodus 13: 21-22 *"By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud and by night in a pillar of fire....Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people."*

> Here also we see the beginning of the priesthood, and the building and setting up of the Tabernacle. The Ten Commandments are set up (Ch. 20) and the worship of the golden calf brings down the wrath of God in chapter 32.

> Chapter 35 sees the setting up of the Sabbath day as a day of rest.

> Chapter 40 brings the creation of the Tabernacle and the glory of the Lord filling it. A mobile church for the journey.



- Exodus 40:34 "Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle."

So, what are we to take from Exodus? Why be concerned with this basically Jewish book. Why is it important?

Several reasons will follow, and we will add some more later.

A covenant partnership is set up between Israel and Yahweh. Obedience brings protection and salvation. Disobedience brings punishment—quite severe and many times universal.

Exodus defines the character of the faithful, almighty, saving, and holy God. Yahweh is also known as the great "I am" and was revealed as "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob."



Exodus reveals a lot about God's character through His acts. The Pharaohs may come and go but Yahweh preserves His people through the oppression of slavery for over four centuries.

It is very important to note that Israel's selection as the chosen of God was not by their doing, but by God's choice. It was a sort of a 'grace' thing. Yes. That grace!! The grace given to us as well. The grace by which we are saved!

Contemporary Significance for us:

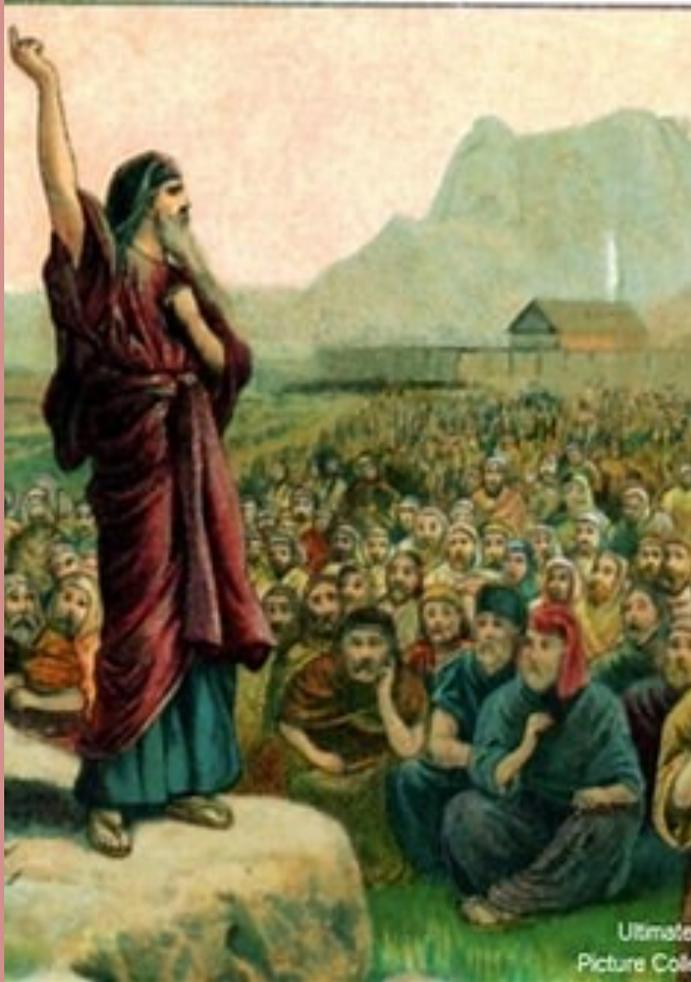
- The Exodus deliverance is to the Old Testament what the death and resurrection of Christ are to the New Testament—the central definitive act in which God intervenes to save His people. Jewish worship focuses on the redemptive, salvific book of Exodus with its journey full of dangers, doubt and a promised land. As Christians, we celebrate the salvation *brought-once and for all*—by Christ's atoning sacrifice.



Also, as a practical matter, we can learn a lot from those parents who put their sons (including Moses) in Yahweh's hands and then waited to see what the Lord would do with them. Mary the mother of Christ and Jochebed, the mother of Moses had a lot in common as faithful Jewish women. Zipporah gave up Moses so he could lead Israel. Such faithful women!

The Ten Commandments mark a significant event in faith the way we understand it. The Lord made it clear that we are to be holy above everything else. Happiness is good, if possible, but holiness is the big thing. We are set apart and sanctified just as Moses and the Israelites were in the desert.

A Favorite Verse of mine in Exodus



- Exodus 19:5-6 (God to Moses)
- ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."



Questions and points for discussion:

- What do you think is the central theme of Exodus?
- What is a Covenant? Why is it important? Is the Covenant different in Exodus from Genesis?
- How many ways was the Lord's power manifested in Exodus?
- How does God's dealings with the wandering Israelites make you feel about how we should adhere to the law?