

Moses & The Exodus by Jason Reichert

The main emphases of Exodus are:

1. God's miraculous rescue of Israel from Egypt through Moses.
2. Covenant law given at Mount Sinai. (Ten Commandments)
3. The tabernacle as the place of God's presence and Israel's proper worship.
4. God's revelation of himself and his character.
5. Israel's tendency to complain and rebel against God.
6. God's judgment and mercy toward his people when they rebel.

Advice for reading Exodus:

Any sense of confusion or even sometimes boredom can be lessened greatly if you have a sense of why it was written. **Exodus narrates the very crucial matters that define Israel as a people in relationship to their God.** Remember they just left behind 430 years of slavery. They had to relearn how to live together as a people in relation to God and each other and also learn to set boundaries between them and the pagan nations around them.

Also something we tend to overlook is the foreshadowing of Jesus in the story of Moses and the Exodus.....As you read Exodus look at the incredible and purposeful similarities between Jesus and Moses lives!!!

A. Exodus Ch. 1-2:25 We have the growth of the Israelite nation and also the oppression of the Israelites by the Egyptians.

1. We also have Moses grown up as a privileged child in Pharaoh's own house. Then he later sides with his own people leaving the life of prosperity and comfort. Philippians 2:5-7 Like Moses Jesus left his high position in heaven to come to earth to serve his people.

2. Similarities with Jesus: Matthew 2 King Herod orders all the Hebrew boys under the age of two to be murdered. Just like Pharaoh does with the Hebrew boys in Exodus. Exodus 1:22 is the OT parallel.

B. Exodus Ch. 3-6:27 We have the call of Moses and the commission of Moses to deliver God's people from the oppression of Egypt.

1. An angel of the Lord speaks to Moses at Mt. Horeb through a burning bush. Most likely synonymous with Sinai. It was the scene of the giving of the Law, and also of Elijah's vision.

2. We learn that Moses feels like he is not adequate enough to handle such a task and wants God to send someone else instead. How often do we feel inadequate?

C. Exodus 6:28-15:21 The Miraculous deliverance from slavery!

Confrontation with Pharaoh followed by nine plagues and the announcement of the tenth; each one God is STRIKING at the very heart of Egypt's idolatry and arrogance!

1. THE PLAGUES AND THE DESTROYED EGYPTIAN GODS

1. BLOODY WATER HAPI or NILUS - sacred river god
2. FROGS HEKA, HEKT - goddess of reproduction
 OSIRIS - frogs held sacred as his emblem
3. LICE (gnats, fleas) SEB - the earth god
4. FLIES BEELZEBUB - god of flies
 BEETLES KHEPHERA - the sacred scarabacus
 RIS - queen of heaven
5. LIVESTOCK APIS - the sacred bull
 HATHOR - the sacred cow
6. BOILS AND BLAINS NEIT - mother queen of highest heaven
 SUTECH or TYPHON - the evil-eye god
7. HAIL SHU - god of the atmosphere
 IRIS and OSIRIS
8. LOCUSTS SERAPIS - protector of land from locusts
9. DARKNESS RA, AMEN-RA - supreme sun god
10. DEATH OF FIRSTBORN PHARAOH - a god in the flesh
PIAH - the god of life

2. Next we have the weaving together of the institution of the Passover and the narrative of the tenth plague.

The passover was a one day feast instituted by God in order that the Jews would remember the “passing over” of the destroying angel, when the firstborn in every household in Egypt was killed. NT ref. 1 Cor. 5:7

3. Then we have the rest of the story of the exodus in which the Jews finally escape slavery in Egypt. Which actually symbolized those of us under the New Covenant who have escaped slavery of sin!

The essence of the Passover is that of the Lord’s Supper! It is about remembering where we have come from and how we escaped the the enslavement of sin and the price of our freedom which was the blood of the Lamb. (Another prophecy fulfilled is that the Lamb’s bones were not to be broken.....remember none of Jesus bones were broken either when he was crucified...they broke the theives bones but not Jesus’) Jn 19:31-36

4. We have the parting of the Red Sea! Which continues in the tradition of God’s people being saved through water! Remember Noah and his family were saved through water and the Israelites as well. What do you think this symbolized for us under the New Covenant? 1 Cor. 10:2

D. Exodus 15:22-18:27 The Journey to Mount Sinai

1. Not to soon after all these miraculous things God does, the Israelites start to grumble and complain! NO WATER!!!

2. Then they grumble about not having enough food. These moments of grumbling and lack of faith are a foreshadow of what is to happen throughout Israelite history. What lessons can we learn from this?

E. Exodus 19:1-24:11 The Covenant given at Sinai!

1. The prelude is significant to the narrative. Note how it begins. God combines his deliverance of Israel “on eagles wings” with the call to obedience and his adoption of them as his own treasured possession. This language is picked up by NT writers describing the church. Where? 1 Peter 2!!!

2. Next we have a great theophany! God manifests himself to the people.

3. The Ten Commandments are given to show the fundamental responsibilities to both God and each other.

4. After being enslaved for 400 yrs they need to relearn the proper aspects of societal living.....how to treat one another....

5. Their way of life now is completely different than back in Egypt under Egyptian law.

6. Concludes with a promise of divine guidance and conquest of the land of Canaan, all predicated on people's obedience to the covenant.

7. The Covenant is ratified with the Israelites consent and the sprinkling of blood.

F. Exodus 24:12-31:18 Instructions regarding the Tabernacle

As you read these instructions, keep in mind the reason for their many and very precise details. That the tabernacle will be the place of God's presence among the Israelites. Many of the details for everything here is to bring honor to God and dignity to ourselves as we worship Him.

G. Exodus 32:1-34:35 Rebellion, Covenant Breaking, Covenant Renewal

1. So Moses goes up Sinai receiving more instructions for the place of God's dwelling among the Israelites and Moses's brother Aaron is below, leading the people in the constructing and worshiping of idols.

2. Moses intercedes for the Israelites saving them from destruction. How much does Jesus intercede for our lack of faith too? Hebrews 7:25

H. Exodus 35:1-39:43 The Construction of the Tabernacle and Its furnishings.

1. This further highlights the significance of the tabernacle as the place of God's presence among the Israelites.

I. Exodus 40:1-38 The Tabernacle is set up and the glory of God descends.

1. All this is set up so that the glory of God that amazed the Israelites when He rescued them from slavery in Egypt may be with them as a constant reminder of God's presence with His people.

References: How to Read the Bible Book by Book by Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart, From Shadow To Reality by John M. Oakes, PH.D

