

DIVERGENT

**WHAT IN THE WORLD
DO WE DO NOW?**

Going Deeper: A Study in the Book of Exodus



Why *Study* the Exodus?

The number one reason to study the Bible is to fall more in love with God. The more that we know the Lord the more we will love Him. It is easy to quickly read through the Bible and not take the time to really consider and understand what has been written. To miss the truths that are taught is to miss opportunities to get to know God better. Everything in Scripture points to the nature and characteristics of God and how man can have a right relationship with Him. An in-depth knowledge of Scripture leads to an in-depth knowledge of God.

Jesus said, *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished"* (Matthew 5:17-18).

This Going Deeper Exodus study guide was an endeavor of love, desiring to see the church edified by God's Word producing more maturing followers of Christ!

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MAJOR THEMES AND EXPECTATIONS

Ultimately, Exodus will point us to Jesus. Jesus expresses the value of the Old Testament when he says that every single word of the Old Testament is from God and deserves our full attention and understanding. Taking the time to study and comprehend what you are reading gives you the chance to reflect on how Exodus should impact your daily life. Reading without understanding and application does not honor God or change your life. David understands the need for life change and prays, "Give me understanding that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart" (Psalm 119:34) – may this also be true of us.

The Law - this is a tricky and difficult part of Scripture to understand and apply. Biblical scholars have formed several interpretive camps. I would suggest categorizing the laws into Civic, Cultic, and Moral laws. Civic laws pertain to how Israel is supposed to function as a nation at a particular time in history (food, festivals, feasts, farming, land, cities of refuge...). Cultic laws dictate how man is to relate to God (priesthood, sacrifices, the temple, tithes...). Moral laws are based upon the character of God. God's character doesn't change and these laws continue to communicate God's expectations. The Law is written on the hearts of man, it is spiritual, and it is a tutor leading us to faith in Christ (Romans 2:15; 7:14; Galatians 3:24-26). The Law

was never designed to save, only to reveal the sinfulness of man and to point us to Christ and the New Covenant.

Expectations for this study. This is a very in-depth Going Deeper study guide for the book of Exodus. You can do this as a group or for your own personal study. Take your time, read each section and think through your answers to the questions. Enjoy, pray, and seek the Lord through His Word.

Introduction to Exodus

Exodus: to exit, departure, or going out

Author: Moses is named as the author in multiple locations (17:14; 24:3, 4; 34:27). Authors of the Old and New Testament also consider Moses the author of Exodus (Malachi 4:4; John 1:45; Romans 10:5). Finally, Jesus himself recognizes the Mosaic origin of the book (Mark 7:10; 12:26; Luke 20:37; John 5:46,47; 7:19-23).

It has been popular in theological circles to argue that Exodus (like the rest of the Pentateuch) is a compilation of 4 different documents combined together. Someone went back and collected these documents and put them together in the form we have today. In arriving at these conclusions many begin to question the validity and the inerrancy of these books of the Bible. The names of the authors of these supposed documents are unknown, the location, date and intention of these authors are also unknown. It seems to make more sense that Moses was the primary and potentially only author of Exodus. His words are reliable and trustworthy as God Himself would inspire and direct each and every word given and written.

Date: Around 1400 B.C. Most likely it was written while Moses was in the wilderness (17:14).

The Purposes of the Book of Exodus:

- Exodus is a historical narrative displaying God's redemptive work for His people by freeing them from slavery. This is a clear picture of what Christ has done for us in freeing us from slavery to sin and death.
- God is showing His faithfulness, fulfilling His promises made to Abraham (3:14-17). God is a covenant keeping God.
- Exodus shows God's reaffirmation of His covenant with Israel (6:2-8).
- Exodus was also written to record and proclaim God's power to us in the same way it was proclaimed to the whole world (9:14-16; 17:14-15).
- God gave the Law to govern Israel's relationship with God and one another, and to establish its religious duties and expectations.
- Exodus records the preparations and construction of the tabernacle.
- Exodus gives us examples of outsiders realizing the power of God (14:25; 15:14-15; 18:10-12).

Very Brief Outline to Exodus

REDEMPTION	1-18
THE LAW	19-40

Brief Outline of Exodus

REDEMPTION FROM EGYPT	1-18
Suffering of Israel	1
Moses Born	2
Moses Called	3
Plagues & Passover	5-15
In Wilderness	16-18
RECEIVING THE LAW	19-40
God comes Down	19
Ten Commandments	20
Social Laws	21-24:11
Religious Laws	24:12-31
Tabernacle	
Priests	
Institution of Covenant	
Golden Calf & Response	32-33
Renewal of Covenant	34
Israel Obeys Covenant	35-40

Introduction to Exodus

Exodus is part of the **Pentateuch**, which is the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). This section of the Bible is a cohesive unit, so it is wise to study with the other books in mind. With that said, let us look back at **Genesis** before we look forward.

Genesis can be outlined with four main events, followed by four main people. God weaves His plan through events and people as He is in control. First, briefly summarize each of the four main events.

Creation (Genesis 1) –

The Fall (Genesis 3) –

The Flood (Genesis 6) –

The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) –

A change takes place in Genesis 12 as Genesis goes from focusing on events that affect the world to one family in particular. This family is the beginning of the nation of Israel. Briefly describe how God worked through each individual.

Abraham (Genesis 12-23) –

Isaac (Genesis 24-28) –

Jacob (Genesis 29-36) –

Joseph (Genesis 37-50) –

At the end of Joseph's life, he looks to his brothers and says,

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today" **Genesis 50:20.**

How does this statement summarize much of what we learn from the 4 major events and the 4 major individuals found in Genesis?

How can Joseph's true observation still guide us today?

An important passage is Genesis 12:1-3 as God sets apart Abraham and makes a set of promises (a covenant) to him. These promises are repeated in Genesis 15 as Abraham struggled to trust God to keep His promises. There are three main promises given and they are important to our study Exodus. **First**, God promised Abraham a specific land. Jacob and his family were in the land but left for Egypt to be united with Joseph. As they are in Egypt they long to go back to the land God promised them. **Second**, God promised his Abraham that his family would turn into a great nation. We finish Genesis with a family around 70 and start Exodus with the Israelites multiplying greatly. God is fulfilling His promise. Also, as we get to the second half of Exodus we are going to see God give His chosen nation the law, which is also helping form this group of people into a unified nation. The **third** promise given is that God will bless all the nations through his family. This promise points directly to Jesus—who will bless the nations through the plan of redemption and His offer of salvation to all who will believe (John 3:16).

With these promises, what else did God tell Abraham that would happen (Genesis 15:13-16)?

How does the birth of Isaac show God's faithfulness to His covenant to Abraham?

How does the rise of Joseph in Egypt also show God's faithfulness to His covenant (Exodus 1:6-7)?

Remember these promises as we move through the Old Testament. They function as a basic outline of Biblical History. God is always working towards fulfilling His promises in order to display His faithfulness, power, and love. Exodus starts with the fulfillment of one aspect of God's promise—a great and numerous people. Exodus continues by showing the work of God to redeem His people from Egypt and to lead them towards the Promised Land (the land God had promised to Abraham).

Exodus 1 – Israel Enslaved

What were the names of the 12 tribes of Israel?

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 7. |
| 2. | 8. |
| 3. | 9. |
| 4. | 10. |
| 5. | 11. |
| 6. | 12. |

7 – What promise has God fulfilled in this verse? (Genesis 12:1-3)

8-10 – How did the Egyptians view the Israelites?

10-14 – How were the Israelites treated? How did God respond? (12)

15-16 – Slavery did not slow down their numerical growth. What was the king's new strategy of oppressing and controlling the Israelites? What was the king hoping to accomplish with this command?

How should we respond when our leaders call us to do something that directly goes against God's commands?

15-17 – How did the midwives respond to the command of the king?

Who deserves our fear more than any other? How do we display that holy fear?

20-21 – How did God respond? Would this be any different today?

22 – At first, the command was made simply to the midwives, now the command is made to everyone. Realize that disregarding a command of the king would mean severe punishment and perhaps death—especially the death of the child. What were they supposed to do with the male babies? What would you have done?

As we move forward, remember this level of wickedness that is clearly shown in the heart of the Pharaoh. The next Pharaoh is the one who will suffer the plagues of God, but throughout we see an incredible amount of wickedness and evil in this family. We will read later in Exodus how God will “harden” the heart of the Pharaoh, but notice even from here that it is the hardening of an already stone cold heart.

Exodus 2 – Introducing... Moses!

1 – Moses is a descendant of which tribe?

3 - What was the innovative idea of Moses's mother to save him?

3-10 – What would now be Moses' relationship to the Pharaoh?

Instead of a punishment of death, what blessing did Moses' mother receive? (9)

From what kind of family did Moses come?

How are Moses' and Pharaoh's backgrounds completely different?

11-12 – What does this teach us about Moses? How did he view the Hebrews?

Which did he love more, the riches of Egypt or his people?

Was God honored or dishonored in Moses' response?

14-15 – What do these verses teach us about Moses' view of the Pharaoh? Of the Pharaoh's view of Moses?

Hebrews 11:24-27 – Where was Moses' treasure?

What reward is worth your life? Could you live out verse 11:25?

What does it mean that the pleasures of sin were "fleeting?" What would our lives look like if we really believed this truth?

Do these verses get you excited to study the life of Moses? Why?

16-19 – How did Moses help the 7 daughters? 20-21 – How did the father respond?

19 – How did the women identify Moses? What does this tell us about his appearance and speech?

Did Moses marry a Hebrew woman?

16 - Reuel / Jethro (3:1) (It appears that Moses' father-in-law went by either name—it could have been a last name, his father's name, or a nickname) had what as a profession?

There is really no reason to believe that he knew anything about the true God before meeting Moses. How does God show His heart for the world and His intention to make His name known to all peoples through Moses' marriage to Zipporah?

What happens to Jethro in Exodus 18:8-12?

What happens when God shows His power and His people testify to His power?

Have you told your family members about the power of God in your life?

22 – Why did Moses name his child Gershom? What was the significance of this name?

Did Moses ever have a land to truly call home?

In what way will *you* always be a sojourner?

How should that affect your perspective on your life?

23-25 – The days of Joseph are long over. The Pharaoh who was almost a Grandfather to Moses had died. A new king was now in charge. He probably knew Moses, in fact he may have grown up with Moses. At this point the Hebrews had been in Egypt for 430 years – how were they probably feeling about their time in Egypt?

It is hard to say how well the Israelites knew God at this time, but what is clear about their knowledge of God?

How does God respond to their cries for help? What exactly is it that God "remembers?"

How do you think God felt seeing His people in slavery?

Which part of God's covenant to Abraham did He fulfill while they were in captivity?

How do you feel knowing God keeps His Word?

Exodus 3 – The Calling of Moses

God had bigger plans for Moses than just tending the sheep. Based upon what you already know about Moses, why would God want to use someone like Moses to lead his people out of Egypt?

2 - "the angel of the Lord" appeared to him. Who is the "angel of the Lord" according to 3:4?

Why do you suppose the Lord would have appeared to Moses in this manner?

3 – Can you imagine seeing such an amazing thing and then hearing the bush actually call out your name?

5-6 – What is the significance of how God describes himself?

How does this description attach Moses to his people? To the promises and covenants of God?

7-8 – How does God respond to the suffering of His people?

(Genesis 46:3-4) What does God promise Jacob He will do?

7-8 - Who is the one that is going to deliver Israel and bring them to the Promised Land?

What will happen if the people forget this and put their hope in Moses instead of the Lord?

How is the land described?

9-10 – What will be God’s chosen instrument to lead the people out of Egypt? Again, who ultimately will do all of the work and bring the people out of Egypt?

If Moses really understands God’s role and his own role, should this be enough to give him confidence?

11 - Moses responds in fear and a lack of confidence, why?

Matthew 28:18-20 – What role is Jesus going to play in making disciples of all nations?

If Jesus is ultimately responsible for making disciples and we are His instruments, should that be enough to give us confidence to share our faith and make disciples?

How would you say you are doing in this area of your life? How can you improve?

12 – What does God need to remind Moses?

14 – What is the significance of this name? How can God and God alone use this name?

15 – What is the significance of this second description for the Hebrew people?

Even today God is to be remembered by this name. What does this teach us about God? How does this increase our faith in Him?

16-17 – What does God promise the people? To what extent will God be involved in fulfilling His promise?

How would a people of faith respond to this promise?

Which promises of God do you struggle at believing? How can you build your faith in this area?

18-22 – What will happen and what can we expect?

How will God compel the king?

How will God also use this situation to provide riches for His people?

Does God still have a clear plan for His people today? Does that mean it will be easy?

Exodus 4 – The Preparation of Moses

Up to this point, what has God called Moses to do?

1 – What is Moses' response? What does this tell us about Moses?

Honestly, how do you think you would have responded?

2-5 – Why does God give this sign to Moses? How will it help him in Egypt?

What should Moses learn from this sign?

6-7 – Why would there need to be more than one sign?

8 – Do you think it will take more than two signs? What will it tell us about the Pharaoh if he does not accept the signs?

9 – After seeing these two signs and being told of the third sign do you think Moses is now ready to trust in God's power and ability to fulfill His promises?

10 – Why should Moses have trusted God? How should we view our inadequacies?

Matthew 26:14 – Why does Jesus tell the disciples to pray?

What should we do when we are tempted to doubt God's power and provision for us to live out His will in our lives?

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 – How should we view our weaknesses?

How does it glorify and bring honor to God when He uses the weak?

11-12 – Has the God of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob ever been shown to be unfaithful? How should these verses prepare Moses to accept the challenge?

Does God prepare His children for the ministry and service that He has called them to perform?

13 – If you could stop Moses right here and give him some advice, what would you say?

14-17 – How does God show His incredible patience and kindness to Moses?

How would you have handled the same situation?

MOSES RETURNS TO MEET WITH THE ELDERS – 18-31

21 – What is God's plan?

Why would God send Moses into a situation that He knows will not be successful? What do you think God is trying to accomplish?

22-23 – How is Israel described in these verses? How will this help the Pharaoh take this warning seriously?

What exactly is the warning given to Pharaoh?

How does this image of God as a Father fit in this story of saving Israel His son, from Egypt?

Exodus 11:4-5 – Notice that the reality of this plague was communicated from the beginning. The question was would Pharaoh believe the words of the Lord or would he show disbelief and dishonor God by publicly belittling His power?

24-26 – *Que pasa?* What did he just say? - This is one of those very difficult passages and it doesn't make it any easier knowing that it was originally written in Hebrew. The two times "him" is used in verse 24 the word is referring to Moses' son—most likely his firstborn son Gershom. The ESV and several other translations make verse 25 confusing by translating the Hebrew word "his" into "Moses" (therefore making an interpretive assumption). And "bridegroom of blood" can also be translated "blood relative." Most commentators agree that Moses is not found anywhere in this passage.

It is important to remember that circumcision was God's way of physically clarifying who His chosen people were (Genesis 17:10-14) and to remind them of His covenant. Moses was now representing God to His people and to all of the watching world. It appears that Moses had not had his son circumcised as God required and desired. Uncircumcision in the household of God's chosen leader was unacceptable. God must have given Zipporah enough warning to circumcise the child and to appease God before He would punish Moses and Zipporah for their negligence and sin.

How do we see both God's grace and holiness blended together?

29 – How were the people of Israel organized?

30-31 – How did the people respond to what they heard and saw from Moses?

Do you think they will continue with this attitude?

What would it take for them to forget Moses' words and signs – and fall into doubt and unbelief?

Exodus 5 – Moses meets with the Pharaoh

1 - How does Moses' background help him get an audience with the Pharaoh?

2 – Is this the response you expected?

Pharaoh's response shows us his starting point in this process of learning who the Lord is – both His power and character. Do you know what the Pharaoh's religious beliefs were?

During this time, most nations believed in many gods (polytheism). These gods would be in charge of aspects of their life such as fertility, rain, and prosperity. The gods were also viewed as territorial. They believed that certain gods lived in certain regions and when one nation would overtake and defeat another nation this would also show that their god was more powerful. At this point, is there any reason for the Pharaoh to believe that the God of these slaves was more powerful than his pantheon of gods in Egypt?

What would God need to do to show His power and dominance over these other "gods" of the region?

4-5 – The Pharaoh was using Israel for his construction projects. What would happen if a million of his slaves/workers just got up and left for several days? If they did leave, do you think the Pharaoh believed that they would really come back?

6-7 – What was the Pharaoh's response to the request?

8-9 – What did the Pharaoh believe was the reason for why they were talking about leaving to worship their God?

If the Pharaoh made them busy enough, what did he expect to happen (17)?

15-16 – Who did they blame for these new circumstances?

20-21 – How has their attitude changed from 4:30-31?

Are hardships a sign that we are outside of God's will?

Since we cannot see into the future and how our circumstances will work out, what should our attitude be towards the Lord whether we are doing well or we are struggling (Philippians 4:10-13)?

22-23 – What does Moses accuse God of doing? This is a pretty serious accusation!

4:21; 3:20-21 – Should Moses have expected the Pharaoh to let the people go at his first request?

Exodus 6 – God Makes Himself Known to His People

1 – Did God seem discouraged by the Pharaoh's response?

How was God going to use this response?

2 – God uses many different names in the Old Testament to describe Himself. A name would contain meaning that would teach the people about God's character, nature, and about His promises. The LORD stands for the name *Yahweh* (or Jehovah). This name is used over 3,000 times in the OT, and has already been used many times up to this point. But here, it takes on additional significance. Once the significance of this name is understood then all God would have to say to His people is "I am the LORD" and they would be given confidence and assurance of their future.

3 – "God Almighty" is translated from the Hebrew name *El Shaddai*. *El Shaddai* signifies that God is an all-powerful provider for His people. The name *El Shaddai* was often used in the establishment of a covenant. The name "LORD" is used here with the fulfillment of a covenant promise.

4 – Which promise is the LORD about to fulfill?

How will the fulfillment of this promise strengthen the faith of Israel in *Yahweh*?

4 – In what capacity (with what status) did they dwell in Canaan during the days of Abraham?

How was this going to change in the future (8)?

5-6 – What other mighty act is now aligned with the name *Yahweh*?

6 – *Yahweh* is linked to the concept of redeemer. This is a powerful name that will remind Israel of God's redeeming power and His commitment to fulfilling His covenant promises. How does this verse answer the concerns of the people in 5:20-23?

How is God going to deliver them? What can they expect to happen?

Redeem – literally means to save from or to bring out of slavery. How does this Old Testament account point to the work of the coming Messiah?

Can you find a couple verses that actually use the word "redeem / redemption" in the New Testament?

Jesus must redeem us from what?

7 – What kind of relationship will God have with His people?

What will be made clear to the Israelites?

8 – They will not only live in the land, they will possess the land. God will give it to them to have and to hold as their own. How does God end these verses?

"I am the LORD" – introduces and concludes this entire section. Summarize what we have learned about this name of God from these verses?

How can remembering just the statement – "I am the LORD" – be enough to change our entire perspective when we are struggling with hard things in life?

9 – How can our life situation affect our ability to listen to the Word of God?

16, 18, 20 – Which tribe is the tribe of Moses and Aaron?

29 – How does the LORD motivate and prepare Moses to return to the Pharaoh (remember what we learned earlier in the chapter)?

12, 30 – “uncircumcised lips” is not literal, and it is not referring to his actual situation in regards to circumcision. The NIV translates this same section “faltering lips.” Moses was trying to convince God that he was not prepared for this public speaking. From where was Moses’ confidence for public speaking supposed to come?

From where is your confidence to do ministry supposed to come?

Exodus 7-8 – The Plagues Begin; Blood, Frogs, Gnats, & Flies

7:1 – How is Moses described in this verse? Do you think Moses felt like “God to Pharaoh?”

In Exodus 4:16, Moses is God to whom in that passage?

In your life who are some individuals that you are like God to? Who do you represent God to?

How important would Moses’ faith in God’s words be as he moved forward?

As Moses would enter into Pharaoh’s mighty palace, seeing all of his servants and power he would need to choose whom he would trust. His physical eyes tell him that the Pharaoh is in charge, but his spiritual faith must remind him that it is God who is in charge. When you are in the middle of a struggle or a tragedy you are put in the same position as Moses—whom will you trust? During the last major struggle in your life, were you able to focus on the Lord and His power or did you worry and experience anxiety?

3-4 – What can Moses expect to happen?

5 – What will need to happen for the Egyptians to know the Lord?

6-7 – Are you ever too old to serve the Lord? How do you view your retirement—an opportunity to relax or an opportunity to have more time to serve the Lord?

11 – How could this be—how did they have the ability to work these miracles?

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 – What is one of the ways that Satan tries to deceive people?

"angel of light" – Does Satan run around with horns and a pitch fork? How is our typical image of the devil such a strategic way to distract us from his real plan to deceive?

It is very possible that Satan is actually beautiful in appearance even though he is 100% wicked in every way. One of his strategies is to mimic God or to slightly twist God's words (examples: in the Garden of Eden and in the Temptation of Christ).

1 Corinthians 10:20-21 – How are these foreign gods described?

12 - Moses (like us) was engaged in spiritual battle, not just a physical battle. Demons do appear to have some ability to do miraculous things. How does God demonstrate His superiority over these demons (foreign gods)?

False miracles, false teaching, and false perceptions of morality are always weapons of the enemy. In the days of Moses (and even today in many countries like Brazil, Indonesia, Peru...) false miracles were one of the primary methods used to deceive people. What should be our response if we hear of something miraculous happening? (Check out 1 John 4:1-6.)

14-18 - What will be the first plague? What will be the devastation of this plague?

How did the Pharaoh respond?

Chapter 8 – What was the second plague?

Could they mimic this plague?

8:8 – Could they make the frogs return to the water?

10 – What does Moses do? Why?

15 – What was the Pharaoh's response?

Who hardened his heart in this verse? Who hardened his heart in 7:3?

Did God in any way push the Pharaoh's heart in a direction it didn't want to go?

Romans 1:21-25 – What does man do in verse 21? How does God respond in verse 24?

How does this sound like the Pharaoh?

16-19 – What is the next plague? 18 – Could the magicians do the same?

19 – What was the magicians' conclusion?

20 – What is it that Moses is asking of the Pharaoh? When the Pharaoh denies this request, what does that say about his view of the God of the Hebrews?

22 – What is God going to do differently with this plague? What is His goal for doing it this way (23)?

25 – What does the Pharaoh suggest? Why is this negotiation unacceptable?

What does this tell us about Pharaoh's heart seeing that he believes he is in a position to negotiate with God?

26 – Have you thought about how strange the Hebrew sacrifices would have looked to the

other nations? It would seem equally barbaric today. Why would God use such a brutal looking ritual?

27-32 – Have you ever had someone pull a fast one on you? How does it make you feel? What does it say about the person who took advantage of you?

What does this tell us about the Pharaoh's character?

Exodus 9-10 – Livestock, Boils, Hail, Locusts, & Darkness

9:1-7 – What would have been the extent of damage done to the Egyptian economy due to this plague?

How were the people of Israel distinguished from the Egyptians? What did this communicate to the Pharaoh and all of Egypt?

9:8-12 – Who watched Moses pick up the soot and throw it into the air (8)?

Who all was affected by the boils?

12 – Who hardens the heart of the Pharaoh? Why would God do this?

13-35 – HAIL

14 – How will the plagues intensify for the Pharaoh?

What is God's purpose in intensifying these plagues?

After these plagues, what will the Pharaoh have to conclude about God's power in comparison to the gods that he serves?

15 – Even though the plagues have been powerful and destructive, what does the Lord want the Pharaoh to understand from this statement?

16 – How will the Lord use the hardened Pharaoh?

How will the entire earth benefit from what is happening in Egypt?

17 – According to this verse, why has the Pharaoh not let the Hebrews go?

How do we see God using man's wickedness to still proclaim the holiness and power of His Name?

Is anything out of God's control? How can this truth help us believe the truth taught in Romans 8:28?

20 / 21 – Who is spared from death? Who will die?

How does this parallel to listening to God's Word today?

How do we see God's mercy even in the midst of judgment?

26 – Can you imagine a devastating storm crushing all of Charleston except for Virginia and Capitol streets downtown? How do you think the people of Egypt viewed what was happening?

27 – The Pharaoh repents, or does he? How will we know if his words are really communicating the intentions of his heart?

29 – The onset of the plagues are done for a purpose – to display God's power. How is the ceasing of the plague used for the same purpose?

30 – Does Moses trust the words of Pharaoh? Why?

How would Moses know this?

34-35 – Is this a repentant man? What does this teach you about verbal repentance?

How can we tell that a person has truly changed?

Who hardens the Pharaoh's heart in this verse?

10 – LOCUSTS & DARKNESS

1 – Who hardens the Pharaoh's heart? Why?

2 – How will generations of Hebrews remember these events? How will these events build and strengthen their faith in God?

3 – What will be the nature of the next plague?

7 – What have the servants of Pharaoh come to understand?

10-11 – What did the Pharaoh propose? Why does he still feel like he can negotiate with a God who can send such mighty plagues?

16 – We now hear some familiar words. The Pharaoh says he has sinned against "the Lord **your** God." What is the gigantic transition that the Pharaoh has not personally made?

21-22 – What was the next plague?

What would happen to a nation before the days of electricity if there was zero light for days?

23 – One of God's purposes was to display His power to Egypt, but Israel could see that all of Egypt was covered in darkness. How do you think these plagues affected the Hebrews?

24 – What is the newest negotiation presented by the Pharaoh?

28 – The Pharaoh has now changed the playing field. What does the Pharaoh hope to accomplish?

Exodus 11-13 – The Passover

1 – Is God in control of this situation? Has He ever lost control? Will He ever lose control?

Is God still sovereign and in control of situations today? What about natural disasters, death, wars...?

Will this last plague be effective?

2 – How was God going to provide for their financial needs?

3 – From what we have learned earlier, what was God's purpose for all of the plagues?

How do we see God's intentions being fulfilled in His servant Moses?

4-5 – What is God about to do?

4:21-23 – What had God warned the Pharaoh from the beginning?

How will this final plague visibly communicate judgment for what Egypt has done to the Hebrews?

11:9 – Again, God's purpose is communicated—how will these many wonders communicate God's Name?

12:2 – This event in the history of Israel is so significant that their calendar will be set according to this date. Why would God do this?

4-11 – How are they to get prepared for the final plague?

5 – What kind of lamb must they find?

8 – What kind of bread are they to eat?

Unleavened bread is bread that is made in haste—no time is available for the bread to rise. How is this related to verse 11?

11 – How will eating this meal with a belt fastened and shoes on your feet express your faith in God?

12 – What does God do to the gods of Egypt? How did He show His dominance and superiority?

Is there any excuse for the Egyptians to not believe in the Lord God?

14 – Why is this day so important?

What is the purpose of a memorial?

15-20 – What will this new tradition look like?

What will this feast help Israel remember? Why is this so important?

How does this remind you of Communion in the church?

23 – Who will carry out the plague?

25 – What is the promise given in this verse?

Has God been faithful to do all that He said He would throughout the plagues? Can the Israelites trust God to bring them to this land and give it to them?

27 – How do the people respond to God's plans?

30 – Can you imagine how the Pharaoh felt? Not only did he have to deal with the death of his own child, but do you think he felt responsible for the deaths of all the firstborn in Egypt?

31-32 – Is the Pharaoh still trying to negotiate?

33 – Did the people realize the power of God?

35-36 – How does God provide for His people?

39 – How will the Feast of Unleavened Bread always remind the people of this event?

40-42 – 430 years earlier, the people entered into a polytheistic Egypt with 70 people. Now they are leaving Egypt with over 1,000,000 people, the riches of Egypt, and the power of God

clearly displayed to Egypt and the world. What do we learn about God from this historical narrative?

Do years of slavery discredit God's mercy or love?

How does this help us continue to trust God even when life is just beating us up?

43-49 – What are some important rules and restrictions for celebrating the Passover?

13:1-2 – Why is this an appropriate response to the Passover?

3 – “Remember”—Why is this so important?

How quickly do we forget about the love, mercy, and faithfulness of God in our lives? Why?

5 – What does Moses speak about with confidence (notice “when,” not “if”)?

13-16 – What is significant about setting aside the firstborn to the Lord?

What does it mean “to redeem?” How will Israel remember God's redeeming work on their behalf?

15 – What happened to the firstborn in Egypt? What happens to the firstborn in Israel?

How does this continue to show a distinction between Egypt and God's people?

18 – Would the Israelites have been ready for battle? Where did they get these weapons?

21-22 – How did God show His presence among the people?

Why did God choose to reveal himself in this way? Would this have been a memorable experience?

19 – Who was Joseph?

Genesis 50:24-25 – Why is it appropriate for Genesis to end with these verses?

Joseph had everything in Egypt—he was second in command over all of Egypt. Where was Joseph's heart set upon?

What did Joseph know would happen one day? What does this tell us about his faith in God?

The bones of Joseph would proclaim the faithfulness of God to all generations of Israel! He believed and trusted in the promises of God. Beyond the treasures of Egypt, he saw something more wonderful—a land where God would dwell with His people, a land that he would call his own. I pray that that gives you goosebumps. Joseph's bones cry out for God, what song does your heart sing? Where and when will it be satisfied?

Joseph had every earthly pleasure and saw what was better—God's presence. How close are you to truly believing this same truth?

Where will you be 70 years from now? Will it have really mattered how much money you made, how many vacations you took, which cars you drove? What will be the most important thing remembered about you? Will your bones cry out—***"My God is faithful!"*** to your future generations?

Exodus 14-15 – Crossing the Red Sea

14:3-4 – Does God know the future?

What is God's plan? What will be the result?

9 – How many did the Pharaoh assemble?

10 – How did the Hebrews respond to the approaching army?

What had the people of Israel just experienced in the land of Egypt?

Whom should they fear, the Lord or the Pharaoh? How would they respond to the army if they truly feared God?

11-12 – How did they treat Moses?

13 – What were the 3 things that Moses called the people to do?

How could they "Fear not" with an approaching army?

What kind of salvation were they about to experience?

What will happen to the Egyptians?

14 – Who will be the greatest warrior on the battlefield?

What does it make you feel, knowing God fights for His people?

18 – What is about to happen?

19-20 – How did God separate Israel from the army?

If you were in the army, wouldn't this cause you to reconsider attacking these people?

21- How did God separate the waters? How do we see God using natural means to create supernatural results?

It is interesting to note that God will at times use natural things like rain (flood), wind (Red Sea), or thunder and lightning (Mt. Sinai) to accomplish His miracles. Many other miracles cannot be explained by natural means, for example: the "destroyer" on the day of Passover, water being turned into wine, the blind gaining their sight, the lame made to walk, and Jesus walking on water. Today, like always, God can work miracles by either method. Does God still fight for His people? Does God still protect and provide for His church? How?

22-25 – How did the Israelites cross through the Red Sea?

What was it like for the Egyptians to cross over? What did many assess (25)?

24 – Where was the Lord?

30-31 – Was God's purpose achieved?

How did people respond to what happened to the Egyptians?

Chapter 15 – The Song of Moses

2 – What has God become to these people?

What is the appropriate response to God's work of salvation?

3 – Do we ever think of the Lord like this – **"a man of war?"**

What have we learned about the name "the LORD" (6:2-8)?

6-7 – Who is God's enemy today?

11 – How has God demonstrated His superiority over all foreign gods?

How has God globally distinguished himself in the eyes of men?

13 – What has God accomplished for His people?

14-15 – What have the nations heard? What was their response (16)?

Was this God's goal?

16-17 – How does God take care of His people?

20 – How is Miriam described?

Exodus 16-17 – God’s Provision for His People

15:25-26 – What did God expect of the people?

What would be the result if they obeyed God's voice?

Yahweh - Rophe: Means the LORD our Healer—What is the significance of this name for Israel? Why is it important for them to remember this name?

16:2-3 – How would you describe the Israelites' attitude?

How are they dishonoring God?

4 – By providing food in this way, what is God demonstrating about His own character?

4-5 – What are God's stipulations about the food?

7-8 – Who are the people really grumbling against? When you are complaining about your situation or circumstance, who are you really grumbling against?

10 – What do you think was going on in the minds of the people when the cloud appeared?

12 – What should be the people's response to receiving the miraculous food?

What is this telling the people about God? His heart towards them? His commitment to them?

16-19 – What were the rules that God had given them concerning the food? Why did He want them to only collect enough for each day?

20 – What happened if they did not listen?

Two things result from God's command. First, the Lord used these commands to test the people (like He said in verse 4) and it would be obvious to Him and them when they were disobedient and greedy. Secondly, this would teach the people to be conscious every day of God's provision. They would learn to trust Him with their daily needs. The Israelites really were dependent upon the Lord every single day just for food and water. Do we remember that we are daily dependent upon the Lord? In a moment everything we have can be swept away. All of us are only one tragedy away from losing our health, financial stability, or even our life. How are you doing at remembering your dependence upon God? Are you thanking Him daily for all of His love, mercy, and provision?

23 – What is the significance of the Sabbath? For whom is it kept holy?

27-28 – What did this disobedience communicate about their view of God?

31 – A Christian artist wrote a song about Christ and penned the lyrics about the day "when manna became man"—what do you think he meant by these lyrics?

32 – Why would God do this?

What else has God given to Israel in Genesis and Exodus to remember His greatness and glory?

How important is it for us to remember the great things that God has done in our lives?

How are you making sure that you are remembering God's goodness in your life? Where is your jar of manna?

35 – For how long did Israel eat this manna? For how many days did God show His faithfulness? $365 \times 40 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ days.

How should this have affected their faith and trust in God?

17:2-3 – How has Israel's attitude changed since the last chapter? Why do they continue in unbelief?

Have they been given any reason to doubt God's provision or faithfulness?

They just were given a pillar of fire or cloud to follow God, and now complain that God is going to kill them. How absurd do our complaints get when we start to doubt God?

4 – How were they treating Moses? How much has Moses sacrificed for them?

What does this say about their gratitude and thankfulness towards their earthly leader?

How does this change how we think about and treat the leaders God has put in our lives?

7 – What was the manner in which they tested the Lord?

Who is the one who should be tested (16:4)? What does it say about the Israelites when they test God?

What does it say about us when we put God's faithfulness to the test?

8-13 – Why did Israel win the battle? Why did God use this method?

How should this battle build their faith?

14 – How will they remember this battle?

Who wrote in the book? How does this help build our confidence that Moses wrote Exodus?
How faithful and accurate would this first hand personal account be?

15 – What is the significance of Moses building an altar?

"The Lord is my Banner" – When someone flies a banner, what does it represent? What is the significance of the object on the banner?

Does God and His will act as a banner over your life? Is He your Lord and Ruler in every area of your life – is He represented in your actions, passions, and decisions?

Today, were you able to hold up a banner with His Name on it, able to make Him proud of your thoughts, words, and actions?

Exodus 18 - Jethro

What do you remember about Jethro from 2:16-21?

As far as we can tell up to this point, does Jethro believe in the LORD God?

1 – Had the word gotten out about God's great and miraculous deeds? Who receives the credit for bringing Israel out of Egypt?

5 – Where were the people of God?

7 – Jethro is not a Hebrew (a child of Abraham), yet how does Moses treat him? How should this influence how we treat others outside of the church?

8 – What happens between Moses and Jethro?

What do we learn about evangelism from Moses? Why is our personal testimony such a powerful way to share the Lord with others?

9-11 – How does Jethro respond? What shows us that Jethro now has an accurate understanding of the supremacy of God?

12 – How do these actions show that Jethro now most likely has a believing heart?

14-16 – What was Moses doing?

Why was this terrible for both Moses and the people?

17-23 - What is Jethro's advice?

The delegation of responsibilities is necessary for Moses to fulfill his proper role of leader and prophet. What happens in a church if the pastors are forced to take on too many responsibilities?

21 – What kind of men was Moses looking for to help him?

Acts 6:3 – What kind of men were the apostles looking for to help serve in the church?

1 Timothy 3:1-7 – What kind of men is God looking for to lead in the church?

How would leaders in the church assess if individuals possess these qualities?

Which of these qualities do you still need to work on?

What happens if individuals assume positions of service and leadership without possessing these qualities?

22 – This responsibility had become a "burden" for Moses. A "burden" is a weight or load heavier than one can bear alone. Galatians 6:2 – How are we to handle burdens in the lives of those around us?

If we do not help others with their burden, what may happen to us in our time of need?

Who in your life is getting overwhelmed by their life circumstances? How can you help them?

Exodus 19 – God meets with Israel at Mt. Sinai

1-2 – Where were they located?

3-6 – What is Israel called to do?

What will happen if they keep God's covenant?

What will be the effect upon the other nations when they see this "kingdom of priests / holy nation / treasured possession of God?"

7 – What is Moses' method of communicating with all the people of Israel (remember he does not have a radio or a microphone)?

8 – What is the response of the people?

9 – What is God's purpose for having the nation of Israel see Him talking to Moses?

10-15 – From the context, what did it mean to "consecrate" the people? Why was this important to do?

Why would God set strict rules about not going up to the mountain (24)?

16-19 – What was it like when God descended upon the mountain?

How did the people respond?

Do we recognize that on Sunday mornings that we approach this same mighty God? How would our attitudes change if we could comprehend and internalize this reality?

Exodus 20 – The Ten Commandments

2 – How does God introduce Himself?

How does He personalize His relationship with them?

What should pop into their minds when they read the second half of this verse?

The Ten Commandments are not the first written laws in history, but they are the first laws written by the finger of God himself. They summarize the whole body of the Law. The 8th commandment is to "not steal," and later on we get dozens of examples of how to handle different situations of burglary. The overriding principle is found here and detailed examples of possible situations are then given in the body of the Law. We can almost picture the Ten Commandments as the table of contents to the rest of the Law.

3-7 – COMMANDMENTS FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

3 – What does it communicate to God when we put anything in our lives before Him?

What does it communicate to the watching world when we place God as our highest priority and place the Lord over our actions and decisions?

4-5 – Idols as described in these verses are rarely seen in our culture today? Instead of carved images, what are things that we often worship (honor, respect, and pursue) instead of God?

How does the American Dream tempt us to break this commandment?

What will happen to our lives if we worship Benjamins (money) instead of God? Approval of others instead of God? An easy life instead of God? _____ instead of God?

What is most likely to cause you to break this commandment? How have you prepared yourself to fight against this sin? Who is helping you?

5 - How should God's jealousy motivate us to worship Him alone?

7 – What does it say about our view of God when we use His Name flippantly and without respect?

It seems like everyone uses God's name in vain. The names "Jesus," "Christ," and "God" are used throughout society as words spoken out of anger or frustration—often these names are combined with harsh language. What would be a just and proper response from God against those who take His great Name and drag it through the mud in disrespect and dishonor?

Has your mouth been pure? Does it make you cringe when you hear God's name used in vain? Are you offended by it? Why should you take it personally?

8-11 – THE SABBATH

What is the purpose for the Sabbath? Why did God institute the Sabbath?

What type of activities are we to do on the Sabbath? What does it mean to set apart a day as holy unto the Lord?

We will study this topic more as it comes up throughout the book. There are many hard questions, especially about how we apply this command to today.

12-17 – COMMANDMENTS FOR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

12 – Why would this make it as one of God's Ten Commandments?

This is the first commandment with a promise. Why would this be the result of honoring your parents?

Does God still expect us to honor our parents as we ourselves become adults? How do we continue to honor our parents as we get older and have our own families?

Matthew 5:17-20 – What is Christ's teaching on the Law?

13 – Matthew 5:21-26 – How does Jesus explain this commandment?

14 – Matthew 5:27-30 – How does Jesus explain this commandment?

Why does Jesus' teaching seem to be more difficult than the Old Testament teachings?

15 – What are some ways that our culture makes it seem okay to steal?

Is there anything in your house that does not belong to you?

16 – Matthew 5:33-37 – How does Jesus explain this commandment?

5:37 – How are you doing with living out this command? When was the last time that you did not live up to your word?

17 – What does it say about our view of God when we covet someone else's possessions?

How are you doing in this area? Is there anything that you are struggling with coveting?

18-21 – How did the people respond to God's presence?

Do we ever have this response today in church? Why or why not?

21 – The people backed away, yet Moses was bidden to draw near. What do you think it was like being Moses walking towards this thick darkness?

22-26 – What are God's rules about the altars?

Who causes God's name to be remembered?

What is the role of altars in reminding the people of the power and blessings of God?

Exodus 21-23:19 – The Law

ANCIENT LAW AND MODERN LAW

It must be understood that modern day law is very different than ancient law. Today it is normal to hear of people getting off because of some technicality or because the police do not correctly follow a procedure. If modern law does not specifically state that something is against the law then an action is considered permissible.

In ancient law, principles are given by which to make judgments, every detail is not stated. Having thousands of pages of law (like we do) is impractical and overwhelming for a culture that does not have typewriters or computers. Verse 21:18 gives consequences for hitting a man with a "stone" or "fist" – this does not therefore mean it is permissible to hit someone with a stick. It would be clear to everyone that the principle taught is that you should not intentionally hit or harm another human being. The judge can then determine the consequences when this law is broken.

As we have read excerpts from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reminds us of the heart of the law. The Pharisees and scribes had developed books of specific rules that outline how to follow the rules listed in the Law. Unfortunately, they became so focused on their own writings and the enforcing of these laws that they had forgotten the original intentions of the Law given by God. Jesus re-enlightens the Jews as He takes the written law and applies it to man's heart and intentions – as it was originally intended.

Over 600 laws are given, but Jesus summarizes all of them in two commands: Love God and Love Others (Mark 12:30-31). In essence, we must realize that obedience to these laws is the living out of these principles. The Ten Commandments again are a summary of these 600 commands. God did not expect them to memorize all of these commands, but it was more than reasonable for them to know the Ten Commandments and the overall principles given by the law and, therefore, be able to live out the Law even if they do not remember every detail.

LAWS ABOUT SLAVES – 21:1-11

Step one to properly understanding this section is to forget everything you know about modern day slavery. This is not what is being talked about in this section. "Slave" can also be translated as worker, employee, or servant. "Master" can also be translated as boss or employer. In verse 21:2, the word "buy" and the word "sell" (21:7-8) can be used to refer to any financial transaction related to a contract (Stuart, 474). The situation would be analogous to a player on a sports team or someone serving in the armed forces.

We should remember that the Hebrews truly know what slavery means. They were treated very harshly in Egypt and they had no say in the matter. They were beaten, harassed, and overworked with no consequence to their oppressors. They even had their first born children murdered. They knew slavery! This is not a situation of men and women being stolen from one land and sold against their will into slavery – in fact, this would have been punishable by death (21:16).

Every "business" in Israel was a family business—house work, working the land, and tending to flocks. A contract would be made between the head of the household and a worker that one

would perform certain duties for a set pay and provision. If everything went well, this contract could continue for as long as desired. Masters were required to treat their slaves/employees well and slaves were to treat their masters/employers with respect and dignity. If a slave married a family member, they must be treated like family (21:10).

What are the misconceptions that we would naturally have about the slavery being discussed here in Exodus 21?

If God were to use Israel to showcase His power, holiness, and love to the world, what would have to be true of the slave-master relationship?

21:3 – Does the master become permanent owner of the slave?

21:5-6 – How does this picture of lifelong willing service provide us with an example of Paul's reference to slavery in Romans 1:1? ("Servant" can also be translated "slave" from the Greek word *doulos*.)

Are you happy to be a slave like Paul?

EXODUS 21:12-32

What is the difference between the man in verse 13 and the man in verse 14?

Even though the result is the same (death), why are the punishments different?

15, 17 – How important does God consider the way you treat your parents?

18 – Do you think it is okay for us to strike someone intentionally with a big stick? Why not (it doesn't say "stick")?

22 – Who will determine what shall be paid in recompense?

What does this tell us about God's method for maintaining justice in Israel?

"harm" here may refer to the woman and/or to the child. It appears that if the child were to come early and there was harm done to the child, then the one who struck her would be responsible.

22-23 – If there is harm done to the unborn child then what is the consequence?

Does it appear that God considers the unborn valuable? As valuable as the man who causes the harm ("a life for a life")?

23-25 – What do you think of this form of penalty and justice?

Would it curb crime?

What is the principle that we should be living by in order to avoid any of these consequences?

Matthew 5:38-42 – How does Jesus take this principle to the next step?

When is it hardest for you to live like this?

EXODUS 21:32-22:17 – LAWS ABOUT RESTITUTION

33-34 – What is the basic common sense principle that we should live out even today based upon these laws?

22:1-4 – How should these laws curb burglary? If people were living out Matthew 5:5:38-42, would there ever be a need for burglary?

In societies with incredibly high theft rates, what does this tell us about the thieves and about the society?

5-15 – What do these laws teach us about the importance of the intention of the heart?

Does God make a distinction between an accident and an intentional action?

What does this tell us about God's purpose of the Law?

Are we still responsible for our accidental actions? Should we ever condemn anyone for an accident or an unintentional misspoken word?

How quickly do you judge someone's deed before you learn the intentions of their heart?

How can understanding these principles benefit and bless the body of Christ?

16-17 – What is the proper context for sexual relations?

What is the consequence of sexual union without marital union?

There is a real consequence for both the woman and her family if she has sex before marriage. In Israel the man would give a negotiated financial gift to the family of the bride. This was not considered a "purchase," but an opportunity to show the seriousness of intent on the part of the man. Families would go into negotiations and a formal arrangement would be determined—this would prevent bad or rushed decisions from taking place. A woman who was

not a virgin would be less desirable and the family would actually suffer financially because of this "seduction," therefore it is proper for the man in this situation to financially pay for his sin.

EXODUS 22:18-23:9 – LAWS ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE

18-20 – Three sins worthy of death. Can you see any relationship between these three laws? Why would they be put together?

All three of these laws protect the people from breaking their covenant with God—their Protector, Redeemer, and Salvation.

Sorcery tempts man to place his faith in what instead of God?

Bestiality shows a level of sin and perversion that can not be excused in the people of God. It must be eradicated. What would happen to the people of Israel if they permitted this kind of sin to persist among them?

What happened to Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19)?

Why is the sin in verse 19 a sin worthy of death?

21 – How should you treat people who are not like you (ethnically, racially, even gender)?

What lessons should the people of Israel have learned from their slavery?

22-27 – How does the Lord want His people to treat people who are suffering and struggling?

25 – Should we ever set up systems to take money from the poor? How is our society doing at protecting the poor?

29-31 – Do you ever “delay” in offering from the fullness of your harvest?

How are you doing at giving God your best? How is our ability to give to God connected to our level of faith in God?

23:1-2 – What kind of company should you keep? What happens when we are the one who is being influenced (rather than the one who is influencing others)?

What kind of actions and words at work can distinguish you from everyone else and bring honor to Christ?

When was the last time you spread a rumor or said something harsh against someone else?

4-5 – What do we learn about humility, sacrifice, and others-centeredness from this command?

How can we live this out today? In what way does this remind you of Mark 12:31?

6-9 – How does God protect justice and fairness in these laws?

EXODUS 23:10-19 – LAWS ABOUT THE SABBATH AND FESTIVALS

10-11 – How would Israel use their fields in the seventh year?

How do we see God’s heart for the poor in this command?

Leviticus 25:1-7 – What is the purpose of the seventh year in this passage? Why would God want the land to “rest?”

12 – According to *this* verse, what is the purpose of the Sabbath?

Why does God value our rest?

13 – Why would God remind them of this command in between a discussion of the Sabbath and Festivals?

Before they were commanded not to worship other gods, how does God take this command even further?

THE 3 FEASTS:

FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD • FEAST OF HARVEST • FEAST OF INGATHERING

From Exodus 13, what did you learn about the Feast of Unleavened Bread?

What does God want them to remember from this celebration?

The Feast of Harvest and the Feast of Ingathering center around Israel's harvest cycle. Why would it be important to acknowledge and worship God during planting and harvesting season? How would those principles be played out today?

What does it tell you about yourself if you do not acknowledge and thank God for all that you have?

19 – What would it say to God if we brought less than our best (first fruits) to God?

What is an example of a time when you did not bring God your first fruits?

Why does God require feasts? Is it important, as God's people, to celebrate God together?

EXODUS 23:20-24:18 – CANAAN & COVENANT CONFIRMED

Here is a huge transition from the law back to a confirmation of God's promise. In the Old Testament law God's promise is often attached to the covenant. Remember, their obedience is required by the Sovereign covenant maker who holds their future in their hands. Lack of obedience will lead to a decrease in blessings.

20-23 – What are all of the descriptions given of the angel?

Who is this angel (look at your notes from Exodus 3:2-4)?

How does Jesus do these same things for His people now?

20-23 – So Jesus Himself will make sure that they make it to the Promised Land. Will Jesus ignore their sin? Is He willing to destroy their enemies?

24 – Why must they break their pillars into pieces?

25-27 – What will the Lord do if they are obedient?

28-30 – What is God's plan for giving them the land?

Why will He not give it to them all at once?

When was there a time in your own life that God answered your prayers over time?

30 / 32 – Why will this process in verse 30 make obedience to verse 32 more difficult?

32-33 – This command is absolutely central to the future of Israel! What will be the consequence of not obeying the command in verse 32?

If they serve false gods, what will then happen to Israel? How do you think God would respond?

CHAPTER 24 – WHERE ARE THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL?

1-2 – Why does God only want Moses to approach Him?

3 – What is the role that Moses is playing for God?

4,7 – Who wrote down the Law? Who kept and read the “Book of the Covenant?”

Why would someone be motivated to try to dissuade us of the Mosaic authorship of the book of Exodus?

5-6, 8 – How do these actions point towards Christ (Matthew 26:28)?

Hebrews 9:18-28 – How is blood connected to sin? Why is it necessary?

How is Jesus' sacrifice (and shedding of blood) superior to what Moses had done?

9-11 – This incredible meal that is recorded here in Exodus represents a show of approval

between the two parties. This meal expressed God's acceptance of His people and the people's acceptance of both God and God's covenantal law.

Notice that there is very little description of God Himself, the area under His feet is the major content of the description. Most likely, they were in the presence of God and saw God—but not clearly or perfectly (Exodus 33:20) (rather as behind a veil).

How does this meal remind you of Communion?

12-14 – They have verbally heard the law and they have the Book of the Covenant. Now it was going to be written in stone by the hand of God. Why would God do this?

Who was Moses' assistant?

15-17 – Describe the glory of the Lord:

18 – How long was Moses up there?

EXODUS 25-31 / 35-39 – THE TABERNACLE & THE PRIESTS

Instruction / Construction

To tabernacle - means "to dwell." The Tabernacle will be the place where God dwells with His people. Is there anything more important for Israel than this reality? God performed miraculous signs and wonders and decimated the Egyptian army in order to bring the people to this point and to make His dwelling with them.

Notice, God always meets with His people on His terms. Man never dictates the situation or the occasion—God is clearly in charge. Here in these chapters God is creating a situation that will display His character to His people. It will display His holiness and it will also communicate man's need for forgiveness and mercy—ultimately it points to Christ!

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE TABERNACLE – 25:1-9 & 35:4-29

25:1-9 – Where do the materials come from to make the tabernacle?

Why is it appropriate for the people to sacrificially give to this cause? What is worthy of our sacrifice today?

8 – What will be the result of giving materials and making the sanctuary?

9 – How important will it be for the people to follow *all* of God's instruction in the construction of the tabernacle?

What would be the result if the people did not follow all of God's instructions "exactly?"

How do you sometimes struggle to follow God's instructions exactly as He gave them?

MATERIALS FOR THE TABERNACLE – 35:4-29

5 – Would this verse describe your heart? How can you improve in your generosity?

10 – Who came to help? How does this remind you of Ephesians 4:15-16 and 1 Corinthians 12:14-20?

What are the skills that God has given you to help serve the body of Christ?

21 – Does God ever move your heart to do something and then you never do it? When was the last time this happened?

What would have happened if the people of Israel did not give or use their skills? Is this any different than when we don't give and use our skills?

22-29 – What would the church today look like if everyone united around a goal like we see here in Exodus?

31:1-11 – OHOLIAB AND BEZALEL

3 – What was Bezalel filled with?

“Filled with the Spirit of God” is not a common occurrence in the Old Testament. On several occasions we see individuals have the Spirit of God come upon them (Zechariah, Saul, Azariah, and Amasai).

4-5 – Why did the Lord fill Bezalel?

6-11 – What had God prepared Oholiab and the other skilled men to do?

Do you think God gives skills and abilities for our sake alone?

Does God ever call us as a church to reach for a goal, fulfill a mission, or build a building that He Himself has not given us the skills and abilities to accomplish?

What happens when everyone does not fulfill their role or use their skills?

THE ARK – 25:10-22 & 37:1-9

As God begins the process of describing the set up of the Tabernacle, He moves from the inside out. He starts with what will be in the Most Holy Place—the place where God would meet with the high priest. Every detail is clarified and it must be done exactly as God instructs. Those who are filled with God’s Spirit would be the ones who will construct these objects that would be in the place that God would dwell.

16 – What is placed in the ark? What is the significance of this?

17 – “mercy seat” / “cover” / “atonement cover” – God would meet with His people here in the Most Holy Place, His feet resting on this cover on top of the ark. Why would God want this cover placed upon the ark?

“The atonement cover was not merely the lid of the ark. It was a special, solid gold appurtenance that fitted on top of the lid and represented a paramount happy and sacred fact of Israel's existence: their God, the only true God, had in his eternal kindness and love arranged for them to enjoy reconciliation with him as the key provision of his covenant” (Stuart, 570). How has God already shown His incredible mercy to His people?

18 – Genesis 3:24 – What was the role of the cherubim?

The cherub seemed to have had a human face and perhaps a body of a lion with wings (2 Samuel 22:11 and Ezekiel 10:1-15). They may have also had a body combining elements of an ox, a lion, or an eagle (Kaiser, 455).

The cherubim seemed to play the role of protectors or ones who guard or act upon God's request. Why do you think God may have put statues of them on either side of the ark?

What would it have reminded the people if they were to see the cherubim statues?

22 – How was God going to use the ark, the cover, and the cherubim?

Why would the ark be central to Israel's worship?

TABLE FOR THE BREAD OF PRESENCE – 25:23-30 & 37:10-16

Bread would sit within the Holy place on the table. It was not like the other food presented on the altar or sacrificed. It sat closer in, closer to the presence of God—i.e.: the Bread of “Presence.” Any thoughts on why God would have this bread sat upon the table?

Leviticus 24:5-9 – According to verse 8, it is from the people as a c_____ forever.

As long as the priests place the bread on the table it is a symbol of their commitment to the covenant.

9 – The priests themselves would eat of the table. We see God's people again eating in His presence like in Exodus 24:9-11. This appears to be a time when the covenant would be remembered and God's people would be kept in check. A day came, several generations later, when Israel lost the ark and no longer kept the bread on the table – How would this have impacted their relationship with God?

Ex 25:26 – How would the table be carried? What does this tell us about the holiness of the furniture in the tabernacle?

29 – What were the plates made out of?

30 – Before whom would the bread set?

37:10 – Who made the table?

THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND – 25:31-40 & 37:17-24 AND OIL 27:20-21

37:17 – Who made the lampstand?

27:20-21 – How often will the lamp be lit? If it is not lit, what does it say about the people's commitment to the covenant?

37:23 - It was a single piece of gold with 3 "branches" to one side and 3 "branches" to the other with a light also in the middle, making how many lights?

Seven is a significant number in prophecy. It seems to represent perfection and therefore reflects on God's character. Revelation 1:12-13; 20 – What do the lampstands represent in Revelation?

Who is standing among the lampstands (Revelation 1:14-18)?

Everything about the tabernacle is proclaiming God's character, reconfirming the covenant (and its stipulations), and pointing to the coming Christ. We are not given a clear explanation of the purpose of the lampstand. What might have been the significance of the lampstand?

It is interesting to remember that it was in a burning bush that the Lord first called Moses in Exodus 3.

THE TABERNACLE 26 & 35:30-36:38

26:1-2 – What was worked into the curtains?

36:1-2 – Who all was charged with the duty of constructing the sanctuary?

Why is the state of the man's heart important to God, aren't these just construction workers?

Who gave them the skill to complete this important task?

36:5-6 – When was the last time you heard of a church having this problem during a building project?

There are curtains that line the outside of the tabernacle and then there are those that separate the Holy Place and Most Holy Place – 26:33 – What is the purpose of these curtains?

What happens to this veil in Matthew 27:50-51? What was the significance?

How does the need for the curtain in Exodus and the tearing of the curtain in Matthew show

the superiority of the New Covenant we have in Christ versus the Old Covenant and the Law?

Read Hebrews 9.

9:7 – What was the ritual of the high priest?

12 & 24 – The high priest would enter into the Most Holy Place once a year, purified by the blood of sacrifices. Jesus entered by His own blood, not into a place made by man but into where?

Heaven itself is the ultimate Most Holy Place. There we do not have a high priest who enters once a year on our behalf. We have Jesus the Son of God forever sitting at the right hand of God on our behalf. We do not rely upon the shedding of animal blood—His blood speaks for us! He Himself played the role of both the sacrifice and the high priest who intercedes upon our behalf to the Father.

How great is His love for us—beyond understanding and human knowledge. In every aspect of our deficiency Jesus has intervened for us. We were unable to sacrifice for ourselves—so He did it himself. We were unable to intercede to God on our own—so He does it for us. A life of praise and thankfulness is only the beginning of our eternal duty and delight to this great Savior!

28 – He is coming again, this time not to deal with sin, but to take us home. Do you wait for this day? Is their excitement and eagerness in your heart?

THE BRONZE ALTAR – 27:1-8 & 38:1-7

What would happen at the altar? Leviticus 1:5 –

Leviticus 2:2 –

Leviticus 2:9 –

Leviticus 2:12 –

This is a pretty big object, it is 7½ feet long and wide and is 4½ feet tall. Its size alone would bring it a lot of attention. What would take place on this altar? Why would this be so important in the life of Israel?

How many altars were there in the tabernacle? How many ways were there to make an atoning sacrifice for sin?

Did that change in the New Testament (John 14:6)?

THE BRONZE BASIN – 30:17-21 & 38:8

20 - The Basin was a place for priests to clean their hands before they entered to use the altar. What would be the consequence of not using the basin?

Why would God consider this so important? How does this ritual honor God's character and keep man's heart in the right place?

Bronze may simply hold up better than gold for burnt offerings or it may have some symbolic significance with cleansing. Revelation 1:15 – How are the feet of Jesus described?

Revelation 1:15 - This description may again point to Jesus' holiness, being symbolic of the fact that Jesus' feet are completely clean / holy. It may also point to Jesus' atoning work on the cross associating it with the bronze altar in the Holy Place or it could point to something else.

ALTAR OF INCENSE 30:1-10 & 37:25-29

30:6 – Where was this located?

7-8 – What were the priest called to do?

10 – What will happen once a year?

Luke 1:11 – Where did the angel appear?

Revelation 8:3 – How is this altar before the Lord used?

CENSUS TAX – 30:11-16

Who is to give? How much?

Why are they called to give?

16 – What is the offering used for?

PRIESTS' GARMENTS – 28 & 39

28:3 – Who is going to make the garments? Why would God want to provide people with skill for this task?

9 / 12 – Why would God want their names to be remembered? The existence and blessings of Israel ultimately reflect upon whom?

29 – Again, the names of the priests are recorded.

33-35 – What did it probably mean if you could no longer hear the bells while the priest was in the Holy Place?

36 – What did the priest wear on his head? How would wearing this sign help curb and control his behavior? If you wore a sign on your chest that said, "I am a Christian," would it help you control your words and actions?

The priest would be wholly and fully devoted to the work of the Lord. He was "set apart" (holy) unto the Lord and His service. Is this any different than your role as a Christian? – 1 Peter 2:9

41 – What must happen to the priests?

43 – What would be the result of not following the Lord's prescription before entering the Holy Place?

CONSECRATION OF THE PRIEST 29

Why would it be important for the priests to be consecrated?

11 – Why must the bull be killed and the blood be shed?

What is the main difference between these human priests and Jesus our High Priest?

19-21 – Why is the blood so important and such a central part of this ritual?

25 – Why would this offering be "a pleasing aroma before the Lord?"

36 – How many sacrifices will be made? Why isn't one enough?

42-46 – Ultimately, all of these rituals and rules are for what purpose?

Why does God have so many rules and requirements?

How will this affect the way the people view God and His character?

Exodus 31:12-34:35 – The Golden Calf

Where was Moses? How long was he gone?

Moses has been their leader from the moment he arrived back in Egypt. The people took all of their instruction and guidance from him. What do you think it felt like for them now living in the wilderness wondering where their leader had gone?

1 – Whose idea was it to make the idol?

Why do you think Aaron agreed?

2 – Do you remember where Israel had gotten all of their gold (Exodus 12:35)?

What were they just commanded to make out of gold in Exodus 25?

4 – Who was given recognition and honor for bringing them up out of Egypt?

What could have been an appropriate response from God to this incredible display of sin, ungratefulness, and disrespect to His Great Name?

2-6 – How involved is Aaron in this process? Can the calf only be blamed upon the people?

7 – Who brought Israel up from Egypt?

What have they done to themselves?

7-9 – How does God describe the people?

10 – What does God desire to do?

How would this have turned out for Moses if God had destroyed the people?

11-13 – How did Moses try to persuade the Lord to not destroy the people?

What would the watching world say if Israel was destroyed?

What would happen to all of God's promises and covenants to Abraham if He destroyed Israel?

14 – What was the Lord's response?

Did God ever "really" plan to destroy Israel and break His promises?

If not, for whose benefit did God speak these words?

God does not change (Hebrews 13:8, Malachi 3:6), but this does not mean that God does not feel. When God sees sin, what is His holy response (Romans 6:23)?

Do you think this response is judicial, emotional, or both?

God is eternally offended by sin and the wrongdoer deserves death. God, because of His holiness, must judge this sin and condemn it (a judicial act). God is also personally offended and hurt by the sins of His people (a correct emotional response). How do we get to know God

better from this interaction with Moses?

What then was the purpose of God having this conversation recorded?

Philosophical Question: Can an all-knowing (knowing the past, present, future, and all would haves and could haves) and all-powerful God ever change His mind? Explain your answer.

15-16 – Who recorded the words on the tablets? What would the people always remember when they looked at the tablets?

17-18 – What were the people of Israel doing? How did this show further disregard towards God?

What were they singing about in Exodus 15? What does this show about their new gods they worship?

19 – How would you have responded? Does it anger you to see God's people living in sin?

Throwing the tablets is an interesting action. Moses knew what he was throwing—he wasn't being hasty. The breaking of the tablets communicated to all the people that *they* had broken their end of the covenant. Most likely Moses was standing in a position that was elevated where most could see him.

20 – Was this an appropriate response?

The gold that had been used to make the idol has now become refuse (literally), never to be used again. How will this help Israel make better decisions in the future?

21-24 – How is Aaron exaggerating the truth?

25 – What were the people doing? How was this dishonoring to God?

26 – Who stands with Moses? Would you have stood up?

27 – 28 – What were the Levites called to do? Was this appropriate? Why?

This action is actually less severe than what it could have been (verse 10). The individuals who were slain were those who were either angered at the destruction of the idol or were still somehow celebrating false gods and in addition to that, they did not stand up when Moses asked, "Who is on the Lord's side?" Why is the average American Christian afraid of judging and condemning sin in our society?

28-29 – The Levites would function as the workers in the Tabernacle and future Temple. They run all of the religious activities of the people. The sacrifices and offerings given to the Lord were used to supply these men with all their needs. Does this seem like an unusual first act for God's first set of "pastors?"

Why would God have done this? How would the people have responded to what happened?

Does God seem concerned with pleasing people or upholding His holiness no matter what? How about you?

Why is it important for Christian leaders to take holiness seriously?

32 – Basically, what is Moses saying to the Lord?

How much do you love the people of God?

33 – How does the Lord reply?

34 – Who will go before the people?

What will happen the next time God visits them?

Leaving Sinai

33:1-3 – What was the good news they received? What was the bad news that they received?

Outward dress would often represent the inward state of the man. Ornaments would represent cheer, joy, and a right relationship with God. Why do you think they took off their ornaments?

4 – Why was this “disastrous?”

Would you mourn if you knew God’s presence would no longer be with you?

7-11 – Describe what would happen at the Tent of Meeting:

11 / 33:20 – “face to face,” but God did it in such a way that Moses did not see His face in all His glory (as behind a veil). It appears that God would conceal Himself in the cloud or else Moses and the people would die.

12-13 – What is the basis for Moses’ request?

13 – “your people” – Moses has a correct understanding of Israel, what happens when church leaders begin to view the members as *their* people?

14 – What is God’s response?

15-16 – How do we see Moses’ heart aligned with God’s heart and purpose?

Do you have this passion to see God’s Name proclaimed?

17 – How do you think Moses felt when he heard that response?

John 10:14 – How does this make *you* feel?

18 – Moses has seen the Lord in a burning bush, a cloud, and a pillar of fire. He has spoken with God on many occasions including on Mt. Sinai and at the Tent of Meeting. Moses has watched God do incredible acts of power. Yet, Moses is not content—he wants more! Moses wants to see more of God, to know more about God, and he is terrified at the idea of God's presence not being with His people.

As we get to know God more we want Him more. How has your desire for God grown over the last year?

What happens when a Christian becomes content with their knowledge of God?

Do you ever pray to God like Moses does here in verse 18?

19-23 – How does God respond to Moses' request?

Do you think God enjoys answering this request? Why?

34:1-3 – What is it time to do?

Who will write on the tablets?

5-7 – List all of the descriptions that God gives Himself:

Why do you think these are the descriptions that God chose to communicate?

Which of these qualities of God have you seen in your life?

8 – How often is this your response to God after time with Him?

9 – How important is the LORD's presence to Moses?

Do you see the Lord at work "in your midst" as you go through your day? Have you asked God to do this in your life?

The Covenant Renewed

10 – Think of all the amazing things that God has already done. There are going to be even more amazing things to come. How would this make the people feel?

11 – What are the people called to do?

12-16 – What will happen if they befriend the inhabitants of the Promised Land?

Obedience to this command is absolutely necessary to the survival of Israel. Do you think Israel will be obedient to this command?

Why should they destroy every idol and representation of another god? What may happen if they allow the idols to remain?

What can happen in your life if you allow things that tempt you to remain in your life?

17 – Isn't it a shame that God has to say this again? How often do we need to hear the same commands in our life?

18 – What did the people learn from the Feast of Unleavened Bread (13:3-16)?

19-20 – All the first born of any kind were God's. God spared Israel's first born in the Pass-over, therefore they are His. The first born was to be given as a sacrifice. First born could be redeemed (paid for) by providing a substitute. Donkeys would often be more useful than the lambs, so some may choose to provide a lamb substitute. And the children would always be substituted. What comes to mind as you look at this substitution and redemption?

21 - Now the Lord draws out His expectations for His people. Why is it important for them to remember the Sabbath?

22 – Why is it important for them to remember these festivals?

23 – How would it impact the Israelites (and you) knowing that you were going to be meeting with God?

24 – What will God do for the people?

27 – Why do you think God had these words written down? Who is the one who wrote these words?

Numbers 33:2; Deuteronomy 31:9 – Who wrote the first five books of the Bible?

28 – This is a “miracle fast.” Moses is 100% dependent upon the Lord for sustaining his body. God, not water and food, sustains Moses, and Moses is focused only upon the Lord Himself. Have you ever been so entranced with God and excited about being in His presence that you forget to eat?

The meeting with the Lord and the writing of these stipulations shows that the covenant has been renewed. Israel has broken God's laws, but God has forgiven them and reinstates His merciful covenant. How do we see God's mercy in the same way in our lives?

What happened the last time Moses was gone for 40 days? Do you think the Israelites have learned their lesson?

29-35 – What was the result of Moses spending all of this time with God?

In what ways are we changed by spending time with God?

When was the last time someone noticed that there was something "different" about you?

Exodus 40

GOD'S GLORY ENTERS THE TABERNACLE

The Israelites were a travelling people. The Tabernacle would need to be set up, taken down, and transported. The chapter therefore begins by giving them instructions on how to set up the Tabernacle.

9-15 – What needs to be anointed?

Oil – “In its typical meaning, as illustrated in both the Old and New Testaments, oil is used to represent the concepts of holiness, sanctification, revelation, illumination, dedication, healing, and sustaining. As the type is the shadow of the reality, it serves to reveal the abundant ministry of the Holy Spirit to the believer.” (Walvoord, 21).

The Holy Spirit is then symbolically involved in the purification and consecration of all the aspects of the Tabernacle and the Priests. Has the role of the Holy Spirit changed today?

16 – Moses and the people do everything in accordance with God's rules.

34 – This is the moment all of Israel had been waiting for. God is now going to dwell with His people. Israel was led out of Egypt for this purpose. God has been faithful in every way and now He has been faithful by now dwelling with His people.

For 430 years the people wondered if God heard their cries and now God is dwelling with them, protecting them, leading them, and fighting for them.

1 Corinthians 6:19 – What does the Christian experience everyday?

Why is it so easy to forget that God is actually living inside of us?

What would happen if Christians began living out the reality of God's presence in their lives?

If you feel distant from God, who has moved? What is our first step when we feel distant from God (1 John 1:9)?

Are you ready to begin living in an intimate relationship with God? What is your next step?



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