

Leaving Egypt

Lesson Six

Exodus 1-15

The family of Jacob grows into the nation of Israel while they are in Egypt. About two hundred years have passed since the death of Joseph. The role of the Israelites has changed. The rulers of Egypt are afraid of the Israelites because of their numbers. And so they enslave them.

The name "Exodus" means "exit" or "departure." Many of the events of Exodus have been substantiated through archeology. Samples of bricks made without straw have been unearthed in the ruins of the cities that the Hebrew slaves built. This concurs with what is written in Exodus 5:6-8. There are paintings in Egyptian tombs that show the Israelites making brick and laying brick. And there are written accounts (other than the Bible) of the Hebrews entering into Canaan.



MOSES' BIRTH AND FLIGHT

Exodus 1,2

To begin this study of Exodus, read **Exodus 1:6-22**.

Does the new king know of Joseph? No

Are there many Israelites in Egypt at this time? Yes

What does the new king do with the Israelites? Makes them slaves

What cities do the Israelites build? 1.) Ramses 2.) Pithom

What does the king tell the midwives to do? Kill the boy babies

Why do they not obey him? They fear God

When confronted by the king, what excuse do the midwives use? The Hebrews

women give birth before we can get there

What reward does God give to the midwives? Families of their own

What order does Pharaoh now give to all of the Egyptians? Throw Israelite baby

boys in the river

And there went a man of the house of Levi named Amram, and he took for a wife a daughter of Levi named Jochebed. And the woman bore a son, and when she saw that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could no longer hide him,¹ she took an ark of bulrushes and daubed it with slime and with pitch and put the child in it and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. And his sister Miriam stood afar off to see what would be done to him. And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river. Her maids walked along by the river's side. And when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to fetch it.² When she opened it, she saw the child; and, behold, the babe wept. She had compassion on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." Then said Miriam to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call to you a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?" And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." And Miriam went and called her mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." And the woman took the child and nursed it. And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter. He became her son. She called his name Moses and she said, "Because I drew him out of the water."

Does Moses' family lose contact with him once they put him in the ark? No

God delivered Moses from the edict of the king. Moses will grow up in a privileged household. He will have a good education and a place in the royal family. However, God has delivered Moses in order to have him serve Him. Moses' place in the plans of God will take him far from the pampered life of the royal family. **Read Exodus 2:11-21. (Slides 3, 4)**

What is the first incident Moses witnesses? Egyptian beating a Hebrew man

What does he do? Kills the Egyptian

What is the second incident Moses witnesses? Two Hebrews fighting

What is Moses told when he asks about the fight? "Are you going to kill us, too?"

Is Moses appreciated by his people for sticking up for them? No

Why does Moses flee? Pharaoh wants to kill him

Where does Moses go? Midian

Whom does Moses marry? Zipporah

THE CALL OF MOSES

Exodus 3,4

*Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; **5** and, behold, the bush burned with fire but it was*

not consumed. And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." And He said, "Take your shoes off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face for he was afraid to look upon God. And the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people which are in Egypt. And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a land flowing with milk and honey. Now, therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth My people out of Egypt." And Moses said, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?" And He said, "Certainly I will be with you." And God said to Moses, "I AM THAT I AM: thus shall you say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Whom has God selected to deliver His people out of Egypt? Moses

Is Moses excited to perform this task? No

Moses has many excuses to present to God in order to try to get out of doing what God wants him to do. **Read Exodus 4:1-17** to see what arguments Moses uses and to see how God responds to these objections.

What is Moses' first objection? What if they don't believe me

What miraculous sign does God perform first? Staff to a snake

What is the second sign God performs? Turns his hand leprous

Will Moses be able to repeat these signs in Egypt? Yes

What is Moses' next objection? Cannot speak well

How does the Lord address this concern? Use his brother Aaron

Is Moses convinced? Yes

Whom does the Lord send to help Moses? Aaron

Moses finally gives up arguing with the Lord and decides to obey. Are there ever times when you argue with the Lord about what He wants you to do? Are there ever times when you do not trust Him to be there to help you to do the right thing?

And Moses went to Jethro and took his wife and sons and set them upon a donkey and returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand. And the Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." And he went and met him in the mount of God and kissed him. And Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had

sent him and all the signs which He had commanded him. And they went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. **6** Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed. And when they heard that the Lord had looked upon their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

It is interesting to note that Moses tried on his own to be the spokesman for the Israelites when he was forty years old. He tried to take matters into his own hands. And he was rejected. He spent forty additional years in exile being prepared by God for the task He will call Moses to do. When we try to do even good things without the Lord, we should not expect our efforts to be fruitful.

MOSES BEFORE PHARAOH. THE PLAGUES

Exodus 5-10

The showdown has come. Moses will approach the Pharaoh with all the power of the Lord behind him. Pharaoh does not want to lose all the slave labor that he has come to rely upon. Read **Exodus 5-6:1** to see how the first encounter between these men goes.

What is the first request Moses makes of Pharaoh? Let them go for three days to offer sacrifices to God

What is Pharaoh's response? No

Pharaoh is not content simply to refuse the request. What cruel order does he give?

No straw but make same number of bricks

What logic does Pharaoh give for this order? The people are lazy and have too much time to listen to Moses

Will Pharaoh listen to the appeals of the Israelite foremen? No

What is the reaction of the Israelite foremen toward Moses and Aaron? Angry with Moses and Aaron

Why? Because they caused the trouble with Pharaoh

What is Moses' attitude toward God when he speaks with Him? Angry and confused

Is God patient with Moses? Yes

What does God tell Moses? Pharaoh will drive the people out

Notice the incredible patience God has for Moses. When God first talked with Moses about this job, all Moses did was find one excuse after another concerning why he could not do this. Now, at the first rejection, Moses comes back to the Lord angry and complaining. He still does not want to do what the Lord wants him to do. He still does not trust in the Lord to help him and to deliver the people. The Lord listens to Moses and reassures him each time Moses raises an objection or a complaint. Have you ever acted this way toward God? It is good to know that God is so very patient and loving.

God is ready to deal with Pharaoh. The time has come. **Read Exodus 7:8-13. (Slides 7, 8, 9)**

What sign is Moses to perform first? Rod to snake

What surprise does Pharaoh use at this point? His magicians can do the same thing

What happens that shows the Lord to be in charge? Aaron's swallowed the others

Will Pharaoh now listen to the Lord? No

The Lord has said that by His might, He will force Pharaoh to let His people go. Pharaoh has just begun to see what the Lord is capable of doing. It will take ten increasingly bad plagues to convince Pharaoh that he had better let the Israelites leave. His "hardened heart" will not easily give in.

And Aaron lifted up the rod and struck the waters, and all the waters were turned to blood. The fish in the river died and the river stank. The Egyptians could not drink the water. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. But the Egyptian magicians did the same thing. And the Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he would not listen to Moses.

And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt and frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. And the frogs came into the houses, the bedchambers, the beds, the ovens, and into the kneading troughs. Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "Entreat the Lord that He may take away the frogs from us, and I will let the people go." And Moses cried to the Lord, and the frogs died. They gathered them together upon heaps and the land stank. But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them.

Aaron stretched out his rod and struck the dust of the earth and it became gnats upon man and beast. And the magicians could not do this but said, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he would not listen to them.

Then the Lord sent flies upon Pharaoh and his people. Pharaoh asked Moses to entreat the Lord so that they would go away. Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the Lord your God in the desert, but you must not go very far." Moses prayed to the Lord and the flies left, but Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

The Lord sent a plague on the livestock. The livestock of the Egyptians died but that of the Israelites did not perish. But Pharaoh would not let the people go.

After that the Lord sent boils on the people and on the animals. But Pharaoh would

not listen to Moses. His heart was hardened.

The next plague was that of hail. The hail was accompanied by thunder and lightning. It destroyed all men and animals that were in the fields and destroyed the crops. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "This time I have sinned. The Lord is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong. Pray to the Lord, for we have had enough thunder and hail. I will let you go; you don't have to stay any longer." So the hail stopped, but Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

Then the Lord sent locusts into the land. They ate up all that the hail had not destroyed. Pharaoh once again promised to let them go but went back on his word the moment the plague abated.

The ninth plague was that of darkness. For three days there was no light. No one could see anyone else or leave his place. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived. Again Pharaoh would not agree to the terms of Moses.

List the nine plagues that have happened so far.

1. water to blood
2. frogs
3. gnats
4. flies
5. plague on livestock
6. boils
7. hail
8. locusts
9. darkness

THE LAST PLAGUE AND THE PASSOVER

Exodus 11,12

It is thought that the series of plagues listed above all happened in a time frame of less than a year. There is still one more terrible plague for the Egyptians to endure before Pharaoh has had enough.

In **Exodus 11** the last plague is announced to Moses. Moses in turn relates it to Pharaoh. **Read this short chapter** to see what is about to happen.

In what manner will the Israelites be allowed to leave? Driven out

For what are the Israelites to ask their neighbors? Silver and gold

By whom was Moses highly regarded? The Egyptian people

What will the last plague be? Death to the first-born

And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron saying, "Speak to all the congregation of Israel and tell them that in the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb without blemish, a male of the first year. And they shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the month and shall kill it in the evening. Then they are to take the blood and strike it on

the two side posts **10** and on the upper door post of the house wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in the night and unleavened bread. And they shall let nothing of it



remain until the morning. Eat it with your cloak tucked into your belt, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste for it is the Lord's passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night and will kill all the first born, both man and beast. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. And this day shall be to you a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. And when you come to the land which the Lord will give you, and your

children say unto you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' you shall say, 'It is the Lord's passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our homes.'" Then the people bowed down and worshiped. The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

For how many days are they to keep the lamb? Four

What will protect the firstborn of the Israelites? Blood of the lamb

It is no coincidence that Jesus was crucified during the week of the Passover celebration. Jesus is often called the Lamb of God. He offered himself as a sacrifice for us. Only because of Jesus' death and resurrection can we have hope for our eternal salvation. We, too, need the blood of the Lamb in order to be spared.

And it came to pass that at midnight **11** the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon and all the firstborn of the cattle. **12** And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants, and all the Egyptians and there was a great cry **13** in Egypt for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

THE EXODUS

Exodus 12-15

Pharaoh had finally had enough. The Israelites would be allowed to leave. **Read Exodus 12:31-42** to find out how the departure came about.

For whom does Pharaoh send? Moses and Aaron

What two requests does he have? 1) Lets them go

2) Wants a blessing

What do the Egyptians believe will happen if the Israelites stay? All will die

For what do the Israelites ask the Egyptians? Silver and gold and clothing

Do the Egyptians give these things to the Israelites? Yes

How many Israelite men leave Egypt? Six-hundred-thousand

For how long had the Israelites lived in Egypt? Four-hundred and thirty

Read also Exodus 13:19-22.

What does Moses take with him? Bones of Joseph

How does God show His presence during the day? Pillar of cloud

How does God show His presence at night? Pillar of fire

Joseph believed in the promise of God. He did not know how long it would take, but he knew it would come to pass that God would return his people to Canaan. What patient faith the patriarchs had.

And when it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled, he said, "Why have we let Israel go from serving us?" And he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. He took six hundred chosen chariots and all the chariots of Egypt and pursued after the children of Israel and overtook them encamping by the sea. And the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them. And they were sore afraid and cried out to the Lord. And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord which He will show to you. The Lord shall fight for you and you shall hold your peace." And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward. But lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on the dry ground through the midst of the sea."

Has Pharaoh learned that God is in charge of the Israelites? No

Why does Pharaoh want the Israelites back? Slaves

Read Exodus 14:19-31 to see what happens to the Israelites and to the Egyptians. (Slides 14, 15)

Where does the pillar of cloud move? Behind them

At what time of day do the Israelites cross the sea? Night

What does the Lord do so that the Israelites can see? Provides light

What means does the Lord use to divide the sea? East wind

What happens to the chariots of the Egyptians? Wheels broke and became stuck

What happens the second time Moses stretches out his hand over the sea? _____

Crashes together

Do any Egyptians survive? No

And Israel saw that great work which the Lord did. Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song to the Lord, and spoke:

*I will sing unto the Lord,
For He has triumphed gloriously:
The horse and his rider
Has He thrown into the sea.*

*And Miriam, the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, and the women answered them: **16***

*Sing unto the Lord,
For He has triumphed gloriously:
The horse and his rider
Has He thrown into the sea.*

REVIEW

1. What happens to the family of Joseph about 200 years after his death? slaves
2. Why does Pharaoh order the male children killed? Afraid of them, reduce population
3. Who hides her son in the reeds (proper name)? Jochebed
4. Who takes care of baby Moses for Pharaoh's daughter? Jochebed
5. Why does Moses flee Egypt? Pharaoh wants to kill him
6. What does God use the first time He speaks to Moses? Burning bush
7. Does Moses want to do what God asks of him? No
8. Whom does the Lord appoint as Moses' spokesman? Aaron
9. For how long does Moses live in Midian in exile? Forty years
10. How do things get worse for the Israelites after Moses first approaches Pharaoh? Without straw, more work
11. How many plagues does the Lord send on Egypt? Ten
12. What protects the Israelites from the tenth plague? Blood of the lamb
13. Who is our Passover Lamb? Jesus
14. Whose blood saves us? Jesus'
15. After the ten plagues, do the Egyptians want the Israelites to leave? Yes
16. How does God guide His people by night and by day? Pillar of cloud and fire
17. Who is upset over Israel's departure? Pharaoh
18. What event does the song of Moses depict? Drowning of the Egyptians