



# EXODUS

Journey to Freedom

# MESSAGE

- The story of the Israelites' escape from bondage in Egypt
- It describes the nation of Israel's journey of slavery, emancipation and liberation
- God's love for His people is demonstrated
- It establishes that God is a moral being who demands that His human creation reflect His moral attributes

# KEY FACTS

<b>Author:</b>	<b>Moses</b>
<b>Recipients:</b>	<b>Israelites</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>1445 BC</b>
<b>Key Word:</b>	<b>Passover (Hb pesach)</b>
<b>Key Verse:</b>	<b>"God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you." (Exod 3:14)</b>

# FOCUS: MOSES' LIFE

- Birth – life as a prince of Egypt
- Life as a shepherd in Midian
- Life as leader of the people in the exodus journey
- Life as leader of the people in journey



# Practical Application

An open book with text on the pages, set against a dark background. The pages are slightly curved, and the text is dense and small. The book is the central focus of the image.

The book is foundational to  
Jewish and Christian  
theology.

# **GOD REVEALS HIMSELF**

I AM is the first-person form of the Hebrew verb hayah “to be”

It implies that God is the Self-Existent One

The name is written as YHWH and is generally vocalized as Yahweh (Jehovah)

WHO GOD IS NOT

WHO GOD IS

Aloof

He hears

Inactive

He observes

Functionless

He cares for his people

# Route of the Exodus

There are three theories set forth by scholars.





# REDEMPTION (1:1-12:30)

## SECTION 1

- Numerical growth as promised by the Abrahamic covenant (1:1-7)
- Rise of godless Pharaohs following Joseph's death (1:8-22)

## SECTION 2

- God uses Moses to accomplish Israel's redemption:
- By divine plan, Moses was raised and educated in Pharaoh's household (2:1-10)
- Moses' spiritual immaturity leads him to kill an Egyptian
- Moses flees to Midian

## SECTION 3

- - Moses encounters God at the burning bush (3:1-10)
- - God reveals Himself as "I AM WHO I AM" (3:14)
- - God redeems Israel by demonstrating his sovereignty over the Egyptian pantheon (collection of Egyptian Gods) through the 10 plagues.

# THE TEN PLAGUES OF EGYPT

- **Frogs:** Frogs came out of the Nile and into people's homes, food, and clothing.
- **Boils:** Boils broke out on Egyptians and their livestock after Moses and Aaron threw ashes into the air.
- **Gnats and flies:** Flies swarmed Egypt after Pharaoh refused to let God's people go free.
- **Hail:** A severe weather event that may have been caused by volcanic ash mixing with thunderstorms.
- **Darkness:** Days of darkness.
- **Cattle:** A plague that may have been similar to rinderpest, a viral disease that killed cattle in Europe and Africa in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- **Death of the firstborn:** The Angel of Death passed over Israelites who marked their doors with lamb's blood, but killed the firstborn sons of Egyptians.
- **Blood:** Blood flowed into the Nile.
- **Locusts:** Gnats plagued Egypt.

# The Tenth Plague: the Passover

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The “death angel” passed over Egypt

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The firstborn of every family was killed including Pharaoh’s son

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The Israelites were spared by smearing the blood of an unblemished lamb on their doorposts

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They eat the sacrifice along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs

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This is known as the Passover feast

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Their faith became the basis of the nation’s redemption

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Jesus shed His blood for our redemption at the time of Passover, fulfilling John the Baptist’s statement: “Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”.

# **LIBERATION**

(Exodus 12:31-15:21)

Pharaoh finally gave the Israelites permission to leave Egypt

- Israelites traveled from Rameses to Succoth (12:37-42)

This came after 430 years of bondage in Egypt

- Liberation was not easy as Pharaoh's army pursued

- Miracle of the parting of the Red Sea

- Pharaoh's army perished in the sea

- The nation of Israel celebrated its liberation by singing the Song of the Sea (15:1-21)

# **PRESERVATION** (15:22-18:27)

- The Israelites faced difficulties after liberation
- They were in the wilderness for decades and needed provision
- God provided miraculously to feed His chosen people
- The people still grumbled, doubted God and were disobedient
- They needed guidance on how to live the sanctified life
- This needed was met by the Mosaic covenant (Chap 19-40)

# Instruction for the Redeemed Nation (Exodus 19:1-40:38)



The Mosaic covenant - an agreement between God and the Israelites that established the laws that would govern the Israelites in the Promised Land.

- Offer of the Covenant (Exodus 19:1-25)
- Covenant Text (Exodus 20:1-23:33)



## Offer of the Covenant (Exodus 19:1-25)

- At Mount Sinai God revealed His plan that Israel would become a holy nation and a kingdom of priests if they accepted the covenant and kept the terms
- - Through the Mosaic covenant, Israel would be used by God to redeem the rest of mankind - After accepting the offer, the Israelites consecrated itself to God (19:9-15)
- - God manifested Himself to Moses on Mount Sinai before giving Him the covenant on the tablets of stone

# Covenant Text (Exodus 20:1-23:33)

- Clearly states the obligations of the Israelites
- It is called the Ten Commandments, the Decalogue, the book of the covenant
- The first four commandments dictate our responsibilities to God
- The remaining six commandments dictate our responsibilities to people





## Covenant Ratification Ceremony (Exodus 24:1-18)



This ceremony  
involved:



Duplicate copies of  
the covenant text



Israel's verbal  
commitment to the  
terms



Moses sprinkling  
blood on the altar  
and the people



Meal between God  
and the leaders of  
the people

# Tabernacle of Worship (Exodus 25:1-40:38)

- A tabernacle or “tent of meeting” was constructed
  - - Represents God’s presence among His people
  - - This is where God would fellowship with His people
  - - It was created to exact divine specifications from instructions given to Moses (35:1-39:31)
    - - God’s glory (a cloud) represented His personal presence with the people
  - - The instructions and construction explained to the redeemed nation how they were to worship God



# The Tabernacle Explained

- Ark of the covenant and mercy seat – His presence
- Table of bread – His provision
- Lamp stand – His guidance
- Veil – barrier between holy God and sinful man
- Bronze altar – atonement through sacrifice
- Single doorway – one way into God's presence
- Laver – need for physical and spiritual cleansing
- Altar of incense – importance of worship and prayer

