

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 10-16-11 PM NOTES
"EXODUS"
#4 in Series, "The Glory of God in the Old Testament"

"Exodus is pre-eminently the book of redemption in the Old Testament. It begins in darkness and gloom, yet ends in glory; it commences by telling how God came down in grace to deliver an enslaved people, and ends by declaring how God came down in glory to dwell in the midst of a redeemed people."
—Henrietta Mears

Psalms 130:7 (NKJV) "O Israel, hope in the Lord; for with the Lord *there is* mercy, and with Him *is* abundant redemption.

Hebrews 9:12 (NKJV) "Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption."

1 Peter 1:18-19 (HCSB) "¹⁸For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from the fathers, not with perishable things, like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish."

I. The Exodus (Chapter 1-18)

Exodus 1:12-14 (NKJV) "¹²But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. ¹³So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. ¹⁴And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve *was* with rigor."

Exodus 1:22 (NKJV) "So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, 'Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.'"

A. The Preparation of Moses (Chapter 2-6)

Hebrews 11:24-27 (NKJV) "²⁴By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. ²⁷By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible."

Exodus 3:9-10 (NKJV) "⁹Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

B. The Process of Deliverance (Chapter 7-12)

- Turning the Nile to blood (7:14-25) → against Nilus, the sacred river god
- Frogs (8:1-15) → against Hehgt, the goddess of reproduction represented by the frog
- Lice or gnats (Exodus 8:16-17) → against Seb, the god of the earth
- Flies (8:24) → against Uatchit, the fly god
- Murain or plague on the Egyptian cattle (9:3) → against Apis and Hathor, the sacred bull and cow gods
- Boils (9:10) → against Typhon, the evil-eye god
- Hail (9:23) → against Shu, the god of the atmosphere
- Locusts (10:14) → against Serapis, the protector from locusts
- Darkness (10:22) → against Ra, the sun god and chief of the gods
- The death of the first born (11:5) → against Meskhemit, the goddess of birth, and Hathor her companion who were supposed to watch over the firstborn of man and animals

Exodus 12:5a (NKJV) "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year."

Leviticus 17:11 (NKJV) "For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul."

Exodus 12:22 (NKJV) "And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip *it* in the blood that *is* in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that *is* in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning."

Hebrews 10:29 (ESV) “How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?”

Exodus 12:36 (NKJV) “And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them *what they requested*. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.”

Genesis 15:13-14 (NKJV) “¹³ Then He said to Abram: ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is not theirs*, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴ And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.’”

C. The Path of the Exodus (Chapter 13-18)

Exodus 13:21 (NKJV) “And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.”

II. The Law (Chapter 19-24)

Exodus 19:1 (NKJV) “In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai.”

A. The Parts of the Law

1. The Commandments—The Moral Law (Chapter 19-20)

Exodus 20:8 (NKJV) “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

Colossians 2:16-17 (NKJV) “¹⁶ So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, ¹⁷ which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”

2. The Judgments—The Civil Law (Chapter 21-23)

3. The Ordinances—The Ceremonial Law (Chapter 24)

Romans 12:1 (HCSB) “Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship.”

B. The Purpose of the Law

1. The Law Reveals God’s Glory and Holiness

2. The Law Reveals Man’s Sinfulness

3. The Law Was Given to the Jews to Separate Them From the Other Nations

4. The Law Was Given to Reveal God’s Standard of Righteousness

5. The Law Was Given to Prepare for the Coming of Christ

Galatians 3:24 (NKJV) “Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

III. The Tabernacle (Chapter 25-40)

A. The Outer Court

B. The Holy Place

C. The Holy of Holies

Hebrews 10:19-20 (NKJV) “¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh”.

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“EXODUS”

#4 in Series, “The Glory of God in the Old Testament”

The word “Exodus” is from a Greek word and means “the way out” or “going out”. Henrietta Mears in her classic book, “What the Bible Is All About” said: “Exodus is pre-eminently the book of redemption in the Old Testament. It begins in darkness and gloom, yet ends in glory; it commences by telling how God came down in grace to deliver an enslaved people, and ends by declaring how God came down in glory to dwell in the midst of a redeemed people” [Page 33]. In both the introductory message and in both messages on Genesis we said that the theme of the Old Testament is the Redeemer to come. The Redeemer is the One who redeems. What does the word “redeem” or “redemption” mean? It is a common word in both the Old and New Testament. **Psalms 130:7 (NKJV)** “O Israel, hope in the Lord; for with the Lord *there is* mercy, and with Him *is* abundant redemption.” In the New Testament we read in **Hebrews 9:12 (NKJV)** “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.” A missionary in Ecuador was telling me week before last about a missionary of long ago in a West African country (I think) who was translating the Scriptures into the language of a people group that had no Bible in their language. When the missionary got to the word “redemption”, he was stymied because there was no word in that language that even came close to the meaning of the Biblical word “redemption”. The missionary was trying to communicate his frustration to one of the natives and explaining the concept of redemption in the Scriptures when the native said, “Oh, you mean ‘pull out the head’”. The missionary gave him a quizzical look and asked him to explain. He said “The slave traders often come to our village and capture our people to sell them as slaves. A rope is put around their neck and they are connected to others who have been captured with that same rope. When one’s family member is taken, the family will gather all the resources they can and give the goods or money to the slave traders and if it is enough they can pull out the head of their loved one and set him free.” That is a great picture of the word redemption. It means to pay a price for a slave with the intention of setting him free. The Redeemer is the one who pays the redemption price. Since sin came into the world in Genesis 3, mankind has been enslaved to sin. The Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ who paid the redemption price – His own life’s blood. **1 Peter 1:18-19 (HCSB)** ¹⁸ “For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from the fathers, not with perishable things, like silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.” All of the Old Testament is about the Redeemer who is coming to set the captives free. In Exodus, we see God taking the people through whom the Redeemer will come out of slavery. We are also given some of the clearest pictures in the Old Testament of the redeemer and what He will accomplish.

The book of Exodus begins with the word, “Now”. Exodus is simply the continuation of the book of Genesis. When we left the book of Genesis, we found Joseph as he was buried, being the most admired man in all of Egypt. Through his wisdom from God and his leadership, the nation had survived a seven year famine. All of Joseph’s family had been brought to Egypt and had been given some of the prime real estate in Egypt, called the land of Goshen. **Exodus 1:1-8 (NKJV)** ¹ “Now these *are* the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; ³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; ⁴ Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. ⁵ All those who were descendants of Jacob were seventy persons (for Joseph was in Egypt *already*). ⁶ And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. ⁷ But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them. ⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.” Between verses 6 and 8 about 350 years had passed. Those 70 Israelites had become 600,000 men plus women and children. A whole new dynasty had taken power in Egypt and Joseph and his work for the nation had been forgotten. The current dynasty saw the Israelites’ great numbers and location as a threat. If an enemy came into Egypt, it would be through the land of Goshen and if the Israelites joined them, the Egyptians would be in real trouble. The solution for the

Pharaoh in power was to make slaves out of the Israelites. When we come to the book of Exodus, we find a nation enslaved to the cruel Egyptian taskmasters.

We are going to divide the book up into three parts: the exodus, the law, and the tabernacle.

I. The Exodus (Chapter 1-18)

When the Pharaoh enslaved the Israelites, they were forced to build the supply cities of Pithom and Raamses (1:11). In spite of their hard labor, they continued to multiply. **Exodus 1:12-14 (NKJV)** “¹² But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. ¹³ So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. ¹⁴ And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage--in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve *was* with rigor.” When rigorous work did not slow down their population boom, the Pharaoh decided to have all the boy babies killed. Even that didn’t work because the midwives refused to kill the baby boys. When Pharaoh’s plan failed, he became even more evil. **Exodus 1:22 (NKJV)** “So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, ‘Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.’” This verse gives us the background of Moses birth.

A. The Preparation of Moses (Chapter 2-6)

Dwight L. Moody used to say this about Moses: “Moses spent 40 years thinking he was somebody. He then spent 40 years learning that he was nobody. Then he spent his last 40 years discovering what God can do with a nobody.” Let’s look at Moses entrance on the scene. Someone said, “When God wants to change history, He doesn’t start with a battle; He starts with a baby.” Most of us have heard of God’s providential care in the survival of Moses. Instead of throwing him in the river, Moses Mother made a little ark for him, covered it with pitch to make it waterproof, and set him afloat on the Nile River. She trusted God to protect her son. In the providential directing of God, the ark drifted to the place where Pharaoh’s daughter was bathing in the river. There was a pitiful cry from the baby at just the right time and the Pharaoh’s daughter’s heart was won by the baby. She took the baby to raise as her own. Moses’ sister Miriam had followed the drifting ark and stepped out and asked if the daughter of Pharaoh would like for her to find a Jewish woman who would nurse the baby. The daughter of Pharaoh said she would like that and Miriam got Moses’ own Mother to care for him in these important early years. God is amazing! He protected Moses and caused circumstances that resulted in Pharaoh paying the milk bill for the baby that he wanted to kill and the baby that ultimately would defeat Egypt. Moses was brought up as the grandson of Pharaoh. Someone said it like this: “All of the cream of Egypt was poured in Moses’ cup.” He would have received the finest education that the world had to offer. Perhaps (we can’t be sure) he was in line to be the next Pharaoh.

When Moses was about 40, he made a momentous decision. He decided to leave the comfort and prestige of the palace to identify with his people – the enslaved Jews. **Hebrews 11:24-27 (NKJV)** “²⁴ By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.” One day Moses saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite and Moses killed him. That resulted in Moses fleeing into the wilderness away from the wrath of Pharaoh. This is where the second stage of his life began.

Moses married a woman named Zipporah and worked as a shepherd with her father, Jethro. One day as he was watching the flocks, he saw something that caught his attention. There was a bush burning. That in itself was not that unusual. Spontaneous combustion was common in the desert, but the amazing thing here is that the bush didn’t burn up! As Moses approached the bush, God spoke to him. **Exodus 3:9-10 (NKJV)** “⁹ Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

After many excuses, a strong rebuke from God, and the promise of God's strength and guidance and the use of Moses' brother Aaron to help him, Moses heads back to the land and the Pharaoh he fled from 40 years earlier.

B. The Process of Deliverance (Chapter 7-12)

In Egypt, Moses stood before the Pharaoh, who was, humanly speaking, the most powerful man in the world. After Pharaoh refuses to let the Israelites go and in anger makes their work harder, we see God unleashing 10 plagues on Egypt. These plagues were not arbitrary. Each plague was designed to show God's power over one of the Egyptian gods. Let me give you a summary of the plagues and the Egyptian god they were aimed at.

- Turning the Nile to blood (7:14-25) → against Nilus, the sacred river god
- Frogs (8:1-15) → against Hegt, the goddess of reproduction represented by the frog
- Lice or gnats (Exodus 8:16-17) → against Seb, the god of the earth
- Flies (8:24) → against Uatchit, the fly god
- Murain or plague on the Egyptian cattle (9:3) → against Apis and Hathor, the sacred bull and cow gods
- Boils (9:10) → against Typhon, the evil-eye god
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- Locusts (10:14) → against Serapis, the protector from locusts
- Darkness (10:22) → against Ra, the sun god and chief of the gods
- The death of the first born (11:5) → against Meskhemit, the goddess of birth, and Hathor her companion who were supposed to watch over the firstborn of man and animals

It was as if God declared war on the gods of Egypt.

Just before the final plague of the death of the firstborn, God gave the Israelites a way to escape this judgment. It was through the Passover Lamb. There is no clearer picture in all of the Old Testament of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ than the Passover Lamb. Each family was to choose a lamb. The lamb was described in **Exodus 12:5a (NKJV)** "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year." A living lamb could not save. In the same way, we are not saved by Jesus' example or His life; we are saved through His death. **Leviticus 17:11 (NKJV)** "For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul." We see instructions about what was to be done with the blood of the slain lamb in **Exodus 12:22 (NKJV)** "And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip *it* in the blood that *is* in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that *is* in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning." Anyone who walked out of the house before morning was disregarding the blood and treating it as something inconsequential. **Hebrews 10:29 (ESV)** "How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?" When Christ is refused, His blood has been profaned and the Spirit of grace has been outraged. That night, all of the Israelites who were under the blood were saved and the firstborn of every Egyptian was killed as the judgment of God was poured out.

Finally the hard hearted Pharaoh relented and allowed the people to leave. Before they left they asked for and the Egyptians gave them great riches. The Israelites had worked for many years for the Egyptians without pay and now they loaded up on the wealth of Egypt. **Exodus 12:36 (NKJV)** "And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them *what they requested*. Thus they plundered the Egyptians." This was the fulfillment of **Genesis 15:13-14 (NKJV)** "¹³ Then He said to Abram: 'Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is* not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴ And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.'" God used these possessions later in the construction of the tabernacle.

C. The Path of the Exodus (Chapter 13-18)

The people were led by God through the wilderness. **Exodus 13:21 (NKJV)** “And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.” God miraculously leads them through the Red Sea by parting it so they can walk across on dry land, and then God drowned the Egyptians as they chased after the Israelites after Pharaoh changed his mind about letting them go. There is an obvious picture here of salvation. 1 Corinthians 10:1-3 refers to this incident and says that the Israelites were identified with, were baptized into Moses in crossing the sea, and even so we are baptized into Christ as we leave the world and head for the promised land.

In the next chapters we see God miraculously providing for His people through giving them manna to eat and water to drink, and victory over their perpetual enemies, the Amalekites. That brings us to the next major section of Exodus.

II. The Law (Chapter 19-24)

Exodus 19:1 (NKJV) “In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai.” It was at Sinai that God gave the law to Moses.

A. The Parts of the Law

The law can be put in three categories and understanding these categories or parts is vital if we “rightly divide the word of truth”.

1. The Commandments – The Moral Law (Chapter 19-20)

The moral law of God is summarized in the Ten Commandments. Nine of these Ten Commandments are repeated for the church in the New Testament. The only exception is the fourth commandment in **Exodus 20:8 (NKJV)** “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” That commandment is not repeated anywhere in the New Testament for the church to obey. This commandment is mentioned several times in the New Testament, but these all refer to the people of Israel and not the church. Colossians 2 and Romans 14, 15 tell us not to judge one another with regard to Sabbaths. **Colossians 2:16-17 (NKJV)** “¹⁶ So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, ¹⁷ which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.” We are told in Hebrews 4 that Christ is our Sabbath rest. We set aside the first day of the week to especially focus on Him and worship Him because that is the day that He rose from the dead.

Keeping the moral law of God doesn’t save us, but it gives us God’s standards of righteousness. In that sense it is still applicable to today – for the lost to reveal that they have come short of God’s standards and for the saved in that what the law requires is still God’s righteous standard.

2. The Judgments – The Civil Law (Chapter 21-23)

Since Israel was a “Theocracy” (God was their King), this section of the law was their government. We are not under the civil law because we are not under a Theocracy. Our instructions are to obey the governing authorities we are under (Romans 13:1-7). We can learn much about how civil law ought to work and what pleases and displeases God from examining the civil law of God. Many of the laws of our country were based on these laws of God. The civil law deals with such practical matters as compensating for injuries that were caused by neglect, protecting personal property, and dispensing justice.

3. The Ordinances – The Ceremonial Law (Chapter 24)

In this chapter we see the beginnings of the sacrifices and offerings. Much more detail is given in Leviticus. The ceremonies and the sacrifices were fulfilled in Christ and so we don’t bring an animal offering when we worship. Our offering on this side of the cross is in **Romans 12:1 (HCSB)** “Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship.”

B. The Purpose of the Law

Why did God give the law to Israel? There are several reasons.

1. The Law Reveals God’s Glory and Holiness

When we see the moral law of God and the ceremonies, we recognize that God is holy. We do not come into the presence of this glorious One in a flippant manner. Two of Aaron's Son did that in Leviticus and God killed them!

2. The Law reveals Man's Sinfulness

The moral law of God was never intended to save us, but to show us how desperately we need a Savior.

3. The Law Was Given to the Jews to Separate Them from the Other Nations (for example the dietary laws, mixed fabric in garments, etc)

4. The Law Was Given to Reveal God's Standards of Righteousness

5. the Law Was Given to Prepare for the Coming of Christ

Galatians 3:24 (NKJV) "Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

III. The Tabernacle (Chapter 25-40)

In the remaining chapters of Exodus, God gives directions for the building and the worship in the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was sort of a mobile temple of worship. There were three parts of the Tabernacle.

A. The Outer Court

In the outer court was the brazen altar where the sacrifices were offered and the laver for the ceremonial cleansing of the Priests before they could enter into the Holy Place to do their service of worship.

B. The Holy Place

Only the priests could go into the Holy Place. In it was the golden candlestick which pictures Christ who is the light of the world, the table of showbread which pictures Christ who is the bread of life, and the golden altar of incense. Incense pictures prayers in the Bible (Revelation 8:3-4). This speaks of Christ's intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25).

C. The Holy of Holies

Separating the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies was a veil that no man could tear apart. Inside the Holy of Holies was the Ark of the Covenant which was the symbol of the presence of God. Inside the Ark was the Ten Commandments. The lid on the Ark of the Covenant was called "The Mercy Seat". In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the word that was used to translate "mercy seat" is the same word that is translated "propitiation" in the New Testament. Once a year on the Day of Atonement the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies and sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat which is a picture of Christ's sacrifice to pay for our sins – the breaking of the law of God.

Oh with what light we can see the Old Testament when we hold it up to the New Testament. We know that when Christ was crucified the Tabernacle which was temporary was gone but the same design was in the temple planned by David and built by Solomon. At Christ's death, that veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the holy place was torn in two from top to bottom giving believer priests access to God's presence. We are told in the book of **Hebrews 10:19-20 (NKJV)** "¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh". The veil was torn in two and now Christ is the veil and all in Him have access to the presence of God – Hallelujah.

CONCLUSION

Are you beginning to see that the whole Bible – even the Old Testament is about Jesus? He is the true Redeemer. From Exodus we have much material to enable us to worship Him. (3767)