

Old Testament Survey
Lesson 3 – Exodus
Valley Bible Church Adult Sunday School
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Introduction

The first five books of the Bible, attributed to Moses, are called The Pentateuch and each of the last four begins with a conjunction (now, then) indicating that they are probably one single book, or at least, one story. This is valuable information to keep in mind as we review the material. This is probably one account of God's purpose, plan, and participation in fulfilling His desire to have a personal relationship with man. The title *Exodus* comes again from those Alexandrian Priests who translated *The Septuagint*. The Greek work translated Exodus means departure, going out, or literally "the way out."

Genesis ends with the death of Joseph. This spells bad news for the newly born nation of Israel. In the 400 plus years between the books of Genesis and Exodus, the patriarchal family of 70 became a people of between two and three million (Ex 1:7). The sojourn in Egypt fulfills a prophesy in Genesis 15 that there would be at least 400 years of affliction in a strange land. The crux of the entire problem is presented in Ex 1:7-10.

⁷But the sons of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly, and multiplied, and became exceedingly mighty, so that the land was filled with them. ⁸"Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal wisely with them, lest they multiply and in the event of war, they also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us, and depart from the land." Ex 1:7-10

Moses: A Man of Faith

The story of Moses and the children of Israel is a story of grace, mercy, and redemption through faith, through blood, and by the power of God. Moses is important – he is named 720 different times in the Bible including mentions by Jesus, Peter, Paul, Jude, and John. Moses' life is broken down into 40-year increments: 1) 40 years in Pharaoh's palace; 2) 40 years in the desert school in Midian; and 3) 40 years in wilderness leadership.

Outline of the Book of Exodus

God will prove repeatedly that man is receiving much better treatment than he deserves. Adam and Eve, the Nation of Israel, the church, man in the tribulation, and the Millennium all receive God's grace.

I. God's People Saved From Bondage

A. The nation in bondage (1:1-22)

The sons of Jacob have died and a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. This king was concerned that the Israelites would join with Egypt's enemies against them. The Egyptians made slaves of the Israelites to weaken and destroy them, but God allowed them to continue to grow in strength and number. Pharaoh's fear caused him to take violent, drastic action. He ordered the Hebrew mid-wives to kill all boy children born to Jewish women. The midwives feared God more than Pharaoh, so they refused the order. Pharaoh then ordered all the Egyptians to kill all the Hebrew baby boys. Of course, this is just another attempt of Satan to wipe out any hope of redemption by wiping out the line leading to Christ.

B. God's Man (Chapters 1-4)

1. Birth in Egypt (2:1-10) – Moses' mother hid him for three months, but then could no longer keep him hidden so she cast him into the river in a boat. His sister, Miriam, watches as Pharaoh's daughter finds, loves, names him and "He becomes her son" (2:10). Miriam suggests Pharaoh's daughter have a Hebrew wet nurse (his mom) raise him until he is weaned. He grows up Egyptian: he looks Egyptian, he talks Egyptian, he acts Egyptian, in fact he is so Egyptian that the Midianites think he is Egyptian. Stephen says in Acts 7, "Moses was learned in all the wisdom of Egypt."

2. Call in Midian (2:11-4:17) – Moses is forced to flee when he kills an Egyptian slave driver and Pharaoh wants to kill him. He happened on a well where a Midianite priest's daughters were being harassed by rival shepherds. He comes to their rescue, meets (Reuel) Jethro, and marries Zipporah.

God calls Moses from "the burning bush," introduces Himself, and teaches Moses some manners (protocol). God is different from Moses and should be treated thus. Moses tries to bail out, but God meets his weaknesses with provision:

- a. (3:11) "Who am I" ... (3:12-13) "I AM" will be with you
 - b. (4:1) What if they do not believe you sent me or listen to me? ... (4:2-9) staff to snake, hand to leprosy, Nile water to blood.
 - c. (4:10) I cannot speak ... (4:11) I will give you the words
 - d. (4:13) Send someone else ... (4:14-17) Take Aaron
3. Back in Egypt (4:18-4:31) – Moses took his family and went back. On the way the Lord was about to judge him because he failed to obey the Abrahamic covenant and circumcise his son. Moses met Aaron and appeared before the assembled elders of Israel. Sure enough, they did not believe him, so he performed signs and they bowed to the Lord.

C. God's Might (Chapters 5-12)

1. Moses vs. Pharaoh = God vs. Satan (5:1-11:10)

Beginning in 5:1 Moses tells Pharaoh, "The Lord, the God of Israel says, 'Let My people go.'"
Pharaoh said "What God?" In fact he made the Jews work harder (no straw for bricks) Moses says, "See, God, I told you it would just get worse." God reaffirms His promise of deliverance and tells Moses what he will do to Pharaoh.

³"But I will harden Pharaoh's heart that I may multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. ⁴"When Pharaoh does not listen to you, then I will lay My hand on Egypt and bring out My hosts, My people the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt by great judgments. ⁵"The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst." Ex 7:3-5

¹⁶"But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth. ¹⁷"Still you exalt yourself against My people by not letting them go. Ex 9:16-17

Egypt was at the peak of its power and was totally immersed in idol worship. In fact, Pharaoh's wise men and sorcerers didn't just do magic tricks. They duplicated some of God's miracles because they had evil supernatural power. So this was a battle in the supernatural that invaded the natural. We know this because God said in 12:12 that He will bring judgment on the god's of Egypt." (Gordon believed that is why God hardened Pharaoh's heart. It was a battle beyond Pharaoh's level. He just happened to be in the way.)

Table 1: The Miracles and Plagues in Egypt

Plague	Result	Reference
Aaron's staff turned to serpent	Duplicated / Pharaoh's heart hardened	7:8-13
Nile turned to blood	Duplicated / Pharaoh's heart hardened	7:14-25
Frogs	Partially duplicated / Pharaoh lied then heart hardened	8:1-15
Gnats or Lice	"Finger of God" / Pharaoh's heart hardened	8:16-19
Flies (Goshen set apart)	Pharaoh lied then heart hardened	8:20-32
Livestock pestilence (Israel set apart)	Pharaoh's heart hardened	9:1-7
Boils (Israel set apart)	Pharaoh's heart hardened	9:8-12
Hail & fire (Israel set apart)	Pharaoh lied then heart hardened	9:13-35
Locusts (Israel set apart)	Pharaoh lied then heart hardened	10:1-20
Darkness (Israel set apart)	Pharaoh's heart hardened	10:21-39
Death of first born	Israel plunders / driven from Egypt	11:1-12:36

2. Passover(12:1-28)

Provision for the salvation of Israelite children is a picture of the sacrifice of Jesus to remove our curse and death. First, the provision is made. A lamb without blemish (12:5) is taken and slain before sundown (12:6). Then the provision is applied. The shed blood is applied to the exterior of the house, and this protected the occupants of the house from the judgment of the firstborn. The New Testament relates the sacrifice of Christ to the Passover sacrifice.

⁷Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. **For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.** 1 Cor 5:7

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the **Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!** John 1:29

¹⁸knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹but with **precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.** 1 Pet 1:18-19

3. Exodus (12:29-50)

The Lord struck down the firstborn in all of Egypt including cattle. Pharaoh then drove Moses and the Israelites out of the land. This occurred in 1446 BC after 430 years in bondage. The Israelites left filthy rich. On the way out of Egypt, God tells Moses when, how, and by whom the Passover is to be observed.

II. God's People Separated from Enemies

A. Separated From Enemies (Chapters 13-19)

1. Consecration of Firstborn (13:1-16)

God's separation of His people starts with the demand of the consecration of all first-born to God as a commemoration (reminder) of the day. The firstborn males the Israelites are to be redeemed with the sacrifice of a lamb. They are also to celebrate the festival of unleavened bread as a commemoration of God leading them out of Egypt.

2. Crossing of the Red Sea (13:17-14:31)

The Lord leads them by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Pharaoh again changes his mind and sets chase. The Israelites then grumble to Moses that he took them out to the wilderness to die. Moses tells the people to not fear and keep silent for they will see the salvation of the Lord. The pillar came between the two camps then Moses parted the Red Sea and all Israel passed through the sea on dry land by night. In the morning, Pharaoh took chase and was then drowned in the sea. The result was:

³¹When Israel saw the great power which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses. Ex 13:31

3. Contest of Wills (15:1-18:27)

Two million strong Israelites sing songs of praise to the Lord – Moses leads the men and his sister Miriam leads the women. Songs of deliverance soon become a dirge of grumbling. This may be the most practical part of the book.

- a. Bitter waters of Marah – Grumbling – Waters made sweet (15:21-25)
- b. Food – Grumbling - Manna and quail (Ex 16:1-36)
- c. Water shortage – Grumbling – Moses strikes rock and water comes out (Ex 17:1-7)
- d. Israel prevails over Amalek as Aaron and Hur hold up Moses' hands (Ex 17:8-16)
- e. Jethro gives logistical advice on judging. (Ex 18:1-27)

B. Separated Unto God (Chapters 19-24)

1. Mt. Sinai (19:1-25)

Three months after leaving Egypt the nation of Israel arrives at Sinai and camps in front of the mountains. God calls on the people to prepare themselves to receive the revelation from God.

2. Ten Commandments (20)

Moses receives the Law directly from God. He receives the Ten Commandments then God gives a prohibition against making idols (20:18-23) and instructions about building an altar (20:24-26).

1. You shall have no other gods before me (20:3).
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol (20:4).
3. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God (20:7).
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy (20:8).
5. Honor your father and your mother (20:12).
6. You shall not murder (20:13).
7. You shall not commit adultery (20:14).
8. You shall not steal (20:15).
9. You shall not give false testimony (20:16).
10. You shall not covet (20:17).

The Ten Commandments can be divided several ways. The most logical division is between the first four and the last six. The first four relate to our responsibility to God and the last six to our responsibility to man. This seems to be how Jesus looked at the Ten Commandments in Matt 22.

³⁷And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' ³⁸"This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹"The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' ⁴⁰"On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." Matt 22:37-40

3. Practical Law (21-24)

God then gives an application of the Ten Commandments in moral, civil, and ceremonial areas and then finishes this section with a confirmation of the covenant (24).

- a. Male Hebrew slaves (21:1-6)
- b. Female slaves (21:7-11)
- c. Murder and manslaughter (21:12-14)
- d. Treatment of parents (21:15, 17)
- e. Kidnappers (21:16)
- f. Civil law (21:18-22:15)
- g. Moral laws (22:16-23:9)
- h. Jewish Sabbath rules (23:10-13)
- i. Feasts and sacrifice (23:14-19)
 - Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of the Harvest, Feast of the Ingathering
- j. Angel and the promises (23:20-33)

Important points concerning the Mosaic Law:

1. The law was not designed to save man, but was designed to reveal sin.
²⁰because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. Rom 3:20
2. The law was not designed to be a rule of life for Christians today.
¹⁴For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Rom 6:14

²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Rom 8:2-4

III. God's People Sanctified Unto God

The people's response to the restating of the covenant is in 24:7, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!" Then Moses went back up the mountain for 40 days and nights.

A. Directions from God Concerning the Tabernacle (25-31)

1. An offering to be taken from "every man whose heart moves him." (25:1-9)
2. Revelation of the Tabernacle (25:8-31:18)
 - a. The Ark of the Covenant (25:10-22)
 - b. Table of Showbread (25:23-30)
 - c. The Golden Lamp stand (25:31-40)
 - d. Tabernacle (26:1-37)
 - e. The Alter (27:1:8)
 - f. The Court of the Tabernacle (27:9-21)
 - g. Garments for the Priests (28:1-43)
 - h. Consecration of the Priests (29:1-9)
 - i. Sacrifices (29:10-46)
 - j. Alter of Incense (30:1-21)
 - k. Anointing Oil (30:22-33)
 - l. Incense (30:34-38)
 - m. Spirit Anointing for skilled craftsman (31:1-11)
 - n. Detailed Sabbath law (31:12-18)

The Structure and Dimensions of the Tabernacle

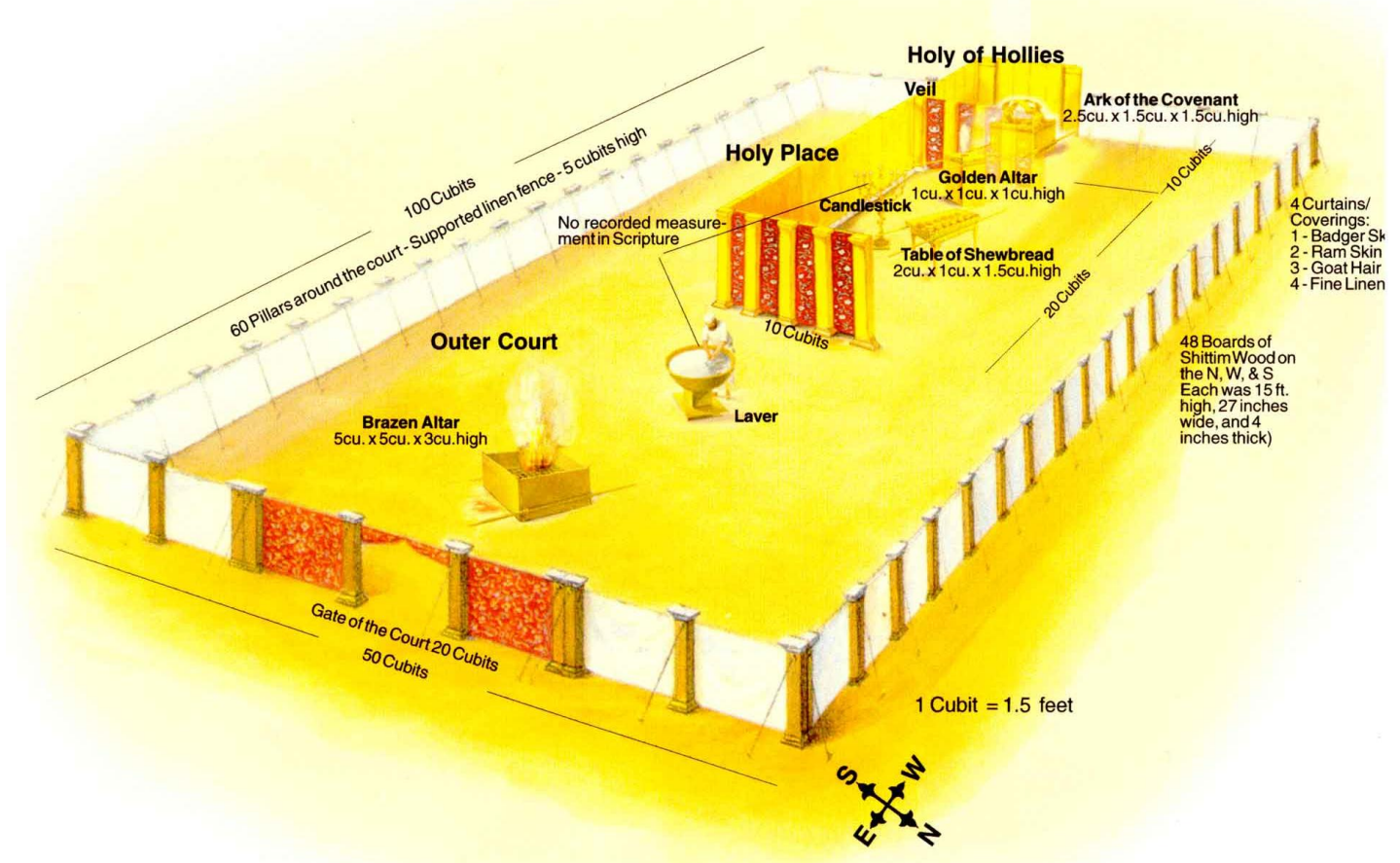


Table 2: Tabernacle Relationship to Christ (from *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament* by Norman Geisler)

Tabernacle	Teaching	Relationship to Christ
Door (gate)	There is only one way to God	"I am the door." John 10:9
Brazen Altar	Substitution is necessary for atoning sins	"I give my life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45
Laver	Purification is needed for God's presence	"If I do not wash you, you have no part in me." John 13:8
Lamps	Illumination is needed to do God's work	"I am the light of the world." John 8:12
Bread	Sustenance is needed for God's people	"I am the bread of life." John 6:48
Incense	Intercession is needed for God's people	"I am praying for them." John 17:9
Veil	There is separation between God and His people	"Behind the curtain where Jesus has gone ... for us." Heb 6:19,20 cf 10:20
Mercy Seat	Only blood can make atonement for sin	"He is the expiation for our sins." 1 John 2:2
Priest	God must be approached through representation	1 Tim 2:5; Heb 4:14-16

B. Disobedience to God (32-35)

1. The Golden Calf (32:1-6) – No sooner had the people promised undying loyalty and God provided a place where He "would dwell among them" than the people blew it bigger than ever before. While Moses was receiving the proper way to worship the One True God, the nation falls into idolatry. How easily people can make an idol of their own choosing and turn away from God.

2. Moses Intercedes for the People (32:7-35) – God tells Moses of Israel’s idolatry at their encampment at the foot of the mountain and threatens to consume them with His wrath. Moses intercedes for the people even when God offers to continue the promise to Abraham through him. Moses shows his great love for the people by telling God that he wants to be separated from Him if He chooses not to forgive the people. God smote those who committed idolatry.
3. The Promise of God’s Presence (33) – Moses again intercedes for the people telling God that there is no reason to continue the journey if God’s presence does not go before them. God promises to go with the nation and Moses asks to see God’s glory.

¹⁸Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" ¹⁹And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion." Ex 33:18-19

⁶Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; ⁷who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations Ex 34:6-8

God says that He will proclaim His name before Moses. His name refers to all that He is, the sum of His attributes. God’s glory is essential to His being. It is the composite of His attributes and essence; the sum total of what He is. It is the beauty, power, wisdom, and splendor of His character. God is infinitely glorious in nature, so we cannot add anything to Him. His glory is never diminished, so it does not have to be replenished or bolstered.

4. New Tablets and Renewed Covenant (34) – God replaces the tablets, renews His covenant, and restates the laws which He had previously given. When Moses comes down from his 40 days and nights, his face shone.

C. Dedication to God (35-40)

God’s grace: He replaces the tablets and He allows them to build His tabernacle, and He does, in fact, dwell among them.

1. Gifts Received for Tabernacle (35:1-36:7) – “Everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him” brought a contribution to build the tent of meeting. The children of Israel were so generous that Moses had to order them to stop giving.
2. Tabernacle Built and Priest’s Garments Made (36:8-39:43) – The Spirit-skilled craftsmen made all the parts of the tabernacle “just as the Lord had commanded”. Moses was in charge of quality control (39:42-43).
3. Tabernacle Erected (40) – The tabernacle was erected almost one year after the exodus from Egypt (40:17). Then God’s glory filled the tabernacle. The last verse explains that the cloud that covered the tent guided them on all their journeys.

Homework

1. Read and outline Leviticus
2. Answer the following questions:
 - Describe the way to the Holy One and the way of holiness described in Leviticus.
 - Study the Messianic significance of the feasts.