

Bible Reading Notes
EXODUS

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Exodus 1

1:1 - The Hebrew text begins, “And these...” Moses intends Exodus to be the continuation of Genesis.

1:8 – This king’s reign was about 1550-1525 BC.

1:17 – This is an example of the principle that we are responsible to obey governing authorities, unless they command us to sin (Romans 13:1). The midwives feared God more than they feared Pharaoh.

Exodus 2

2:1 – **man** – Moses’ father’s name was Amram (Exodus 6:20).

2:2 – **woman** – Jochebed was Moses’ mother according to Numbers 26:59.

2:10ff – **Moses** is similar to the verb, “to draw out.”

2:11ff – Moses is now 40 years old and attempts to save Israel by his own power.

2:15 – **Midianites** were the descendants of Abraham through Keturah (Gen. 25:1ff).

2:16ff – Another episode at a well. In the Scriptures many important events take place at a well.

2:24 – **remembers** – For God to remember in Scripture is for God to begin to act.

Exodus 3

Moses is now 80 years old. He has been tending sheep for 40 years.

3:1 – **Horeb** is the same as Mt. Sinai.

3:10 – **Pharaoh** is probably Thutmose III (1479-1425 BC).

3:14 – **I AM WHO I AM**

This name reflects the self-existence of God.

He is who he is and will never change.

3:19-20 – Summary of what follows in Exodus 4-12

3:22 – **plunder the Egyptians** – This will be fulfilled in Exodus 12:36.

Exodus 4

4:4-9 – God gives Moses three signs to use to convince Israel and the Egyptians

4:10 – Similar to Jeremiah's response to God's call in Jeremiah 1:4

4:14 – anger of the Lord – We too kindle God's anger when he calls us to a task, and we claim we cannot do it. God always equips us when he calls us.

4:24-26 – Lord sought to put Moses to death for Moses' failure to circumcise his sons as required in the covenant (Genesis 17:9ff).

Exodus 5

5:1 – Afterward – Israel is now on board and it is time to go to Pharaoh.

5:2 – Pharaoh will discover who the Lord is through the ten plagues that will follow.

This account shows that Pharaoh responded just as the Lord said he would do in 3:19.

5:22-23 – We often have conflicts with the Lord's timing and plan. But his plan always is best and reveals his glory in the greatest way.

Exodus 6

Notice the repetition of "I am the LORD" in vv. 1-9. The covenant God will not forget his covenant people.

6:5 – remembered - When God remembers it is not a cognitive exercise but God acting in behalf of His people.

6:12 – uncircumcised lips – This either refers to Moses' sense of inability to do the job (4:10) or like Isaiah, Moses feels too unclean or sinful to do it (Isaiah 6:5).

6:14ff – This genealogy only deals with the three oldest sons of Jacob and serves to give the credentials of Moses and Aaron that God used.

Exodus 7

7:1-2 – Explains the role of a prophet. Aaron will be the prophet for Moses.

Each of the plagues will focus on an area under the control of one of the Egyptian gods over whom the Lord will show himself as sovereign.

7:11 – magicians – These men are identified in 2 Timothy 3:8 as Jannes and Jambres.

7:17 – Purpose of the plagues is to reveal that the Lord alone is God.

7:20 – The Nile River was thought of as a source of life in Egypt. This plague strikes at the heart of the nation and shows that the gods of the Nile are no match for the Lord.

Exodus 8

8:18 – The Egyptian magicians were unable from this point on to replicate or stop the plagues.

8:19 – The magicians already knew that Pharaoh was making a mistake, but Pharaoh's heart was too hard to recognize this.

8:20-22 – First clear distinction between Israel and Egypt. This was done to further reveal the glory of the Lord.

Exodus 9

9:8 – kiln - A furnace or oven to bake pottery

9:16 – The Lord's purpose through Pharaoh. Paul quotes this in Romans 9:17.

9:18-21 – Lord's graciousness was a test to see who in Egypt would listen to the Lord.

9:27 – sinned – Pharaoh's "repentance" was not genuine as is evidenced in v. 34.

9:31-32 This period of time corresponds to our January or February

Exodus 10

The eighth plague of locusts now finish off what crop the hail had left.

10:7 – They have already experienced eight plagues, but Pharaoh will not relent.

10:22 – Elsewhere in Scripture darkness is a sign of the Day of the Lord – day of judgment.

Exodus 11

11:1-3 is an interlude in the narrative, setting the context for what will happen next.

11:1 – said – The Hebrew verb tense is better translated, “had said.”

11:4 – Story picks up from 10:29. Moses is still in Pharaoh’s presence.

11:8 - Hot anger – This was Moses’ angry response towards Pharaoh because of Pharaoh’s ongoing hardness of heart.

Exodus 12

12:2 – It is now March or April.

The New Testament reminds us that Christ is our Passover Lamb who was sacrificed in our place.

12:15 – Leaven is used in the Bible as a symbol of sin.

12:19 – Sojourner – A non-Jew living with Israel

12:27 – Time of instruction for the children. We ought to do the same with our children today in terms of the Lord’s Supper.

12:36 – Fulfillment of Exodus 3:21-22

12:38 – Mixed company – Egyptians and other non-Jews who wanted to associate with Israel.

12:46 – shall not break - Fulfilled in Christ according to John 19:36.

Exodus 13

God instituted three major reminders for Israel of their redemption from Egypt: Passover, consecration of the firstborn, and Feast of Unleavened Bread.

13:2 - This is the background to Joseph and Mary bringing Jesus to the temple in Luke 2:23.

Notice the repetition of the phrase “**strong hand of the Lord**” in vv. 9, 14, 16. Israel’s salvation was all the work of the Lord.

13:19 was in fulfillment of Joseph’s wish in Genesis 50:25.

Exodus 14

14:4 – The Red Sea will be Pharaoh’s final education in light of 5:2.

14:13-14 – This is similar to God’s instructions to Jehoshaphat (2 Chron. 20:15-17).

14:19 – **Angel of the Lord** – A reference to the Lord Himself as at the burning bush (3:2)

14:24 – **Morning watch** = 2 am-6 am. Israel passed through the Red Sea during the night.

14:31 – The second purpose of the Red Sea salvation – that Israel would believe.

Exodus 15

15:13 – **Steadfast love** - God’s continued care for Israel is in fulfillment of his covenant promises.

15:24 – It did not take long after praising God for the Israelites to grumble against Him. We will see this pattern in Israel repeated in the coming chapters.

Exodus 16

Note how often “**grumble**” is used in the chapter.

This is the background to Jesus’ claim to be the true bread that comes down from heaven (John 6).

16:13 – Quails were only given one other time (Num. 11) and were not a daily provision like the manna.

16:16 – Omer Is about two quarts.

16:22ff - Sabbath principle is already in place prior to Exodus 20 since it was a Creation Ordinance (Genesis 2:1-3).

16:32 – This jar of manna was put in the Ark of the Covenant (Hebrews 9:4).

Exodus 17

This episode is memorialized in Psalm 95.

17:6 – According to 1 Corinthians 10:4, the rock was Christ.

17:15 – It was Moses’ staff that served as the “banner” for Israel as a sign of the Lord’s presence and power.

Exodus 18

18:2-3 – Scripture does not give us the situation in which this occurred.

18:14ff – Jethro’s principles are seen in the US court system and in Presbyterian government.

18:21 – Moses was to look for men of character which would be the same requirement in the New Testament for elders (1 Tim. 3:1-7).

Exodus 19

19:6 – Same names are given to the New Testament church (1 Peter 2:9).

19:9 – See the purpose of the Lord’s awesome display on Mt. Sinai.

19:15 – Part of setting oneself apart to meet with the Lord.

Exodus 20

20:2 – The law was originally given to redeemed people to tell them how to live, not to give direction on how to be redeemed.

20:18-19 – See the response to the presence of the living God.

Exodus 21

Exodus 21-23 = “The Book of the Law” which gives application of the ten commandments to Israel.

Entering into a foreign culture and setting. Remember, it is wrong to prejudge Scripture by our 21st century mores.

The laws in this section are given to bring about justice and protect the oppressed in the covenant community.

A Jew could sell himself into slavery, usually due to poverty or to pay financial debts.

21:2 – See the Sabbath principle here – Jewish slave works for six years and is released on the seventh.

21:13 – Looks forward to the establishment of the Cities of Refuge.

21:22-25 – Proof text for valuing life in the womb. V. 23 – “Harm” refers to either the mother or the child in the womb.

Exodus 22

Old Testament law did not provide for jail terms. Typically, guilty people were either killed or, more often, forced to pay restitution. Our *Confession of Faith* tells us that these civil laws of Old Testament Israel are no longer binding on any today because we are not a theocracy as was Israel, but the “general equity” of the commandments ought to be observed by us.

22:16-17 – This does not seem to be a case of rape but of mutual consent.

Exodus 23

23:1-9 – Redeemed people are to love justice and practice it in their lives as a reflection of the just God we serve.

23:10ff – This is one application of the creation ordinance of rest (Genesis 2:1-3).

Exodus 24

24:3 – **Words** These are the ten commandments; **Rules** refers to the Book of the Law (Exodus 21-23)

24:3, 7 – Repetition of Israel's commitment to do all that the Lord has spoken. They will soon see their inability to do this in their own strength.

24:7 – **Book of the Covenant** is the same as Book of the Law.

24:8 – **Blood** – Hebrews 9 reminds us that blood is necessary in the covenant for purifying.

Exodus 25

Begins section outlining God's directions for the tabernacle and the priesthood.

Directions begin in the Most Holy Place and work outward.

25:9 – **Dwell** – Tabernacle means "dwelling place." It will be where God will dwell in the midst of his people.

25:17 – **The mercy seat** was put over the ark and symbolized the place where atonement would take place – where the blood would cover over the guilt of Israel's sin.

25:23-40 – Directions now move outward from the Most Holy Place to the Holy Place in the tabernacle.

25:30 - **Bread of the Presence** could only be eaten by the priests and would be changed out every Sabbath (Lev. 24:5-9).

Exodus 26

26:1 - Cherubim are incorporated in the curtains and the veil of the tabernacle. They may serve as a warning as they did in the Garden after the fall.

26:7-14 – There were four layers of material that covered the wooden frame of the tabernacle.

Exodus 27

27:1ff – The directions now move to the courtyard area.

27:1-8 – Bronze altar – Where the priests will offer sacrifices to the Lord.

27:21 – Tent of Meeting – It is where the Lord will meet with the priests who represent Israel.

Exodus 28

Today's reading shifts from the tabernacle to the priests.

Remember that the main role of the priest was to serve as a mediator who represented both God and Israel.

28:12 – Note the repetition of the phrase, “**And Aaron shall bear their names before the Lord**” (29, 30). This is the essence of the priestly duty.

28:5 – The materials for the priest's clothing were the same colors as the tabernacle.

28:6 - Ephod The linen garment with the names of the tribes engraved on onyx on the shoulders.

28:30 – Urim and Thummim – They were used to receive revelation from God. We have no information on how they operated.

Exodus 29

Directions are given in this chapter on how to ordain Aaron and his sons. The ordination will not take place until Leviticus 8. Remember, Moses is on Mt. Sinai alone with the Lord getting these instructions. Before Aaron and his sons can serve as priests, their sin must be dealt with. This will be done in the sin offering and burnt offering which will atone for their sins.

29:19-21 – Right side was understood to be side of honor and power of a man. Sorry lefties!

29:38ff – Moves to directions for the daily offerings the priests are to offer.

Exodus 30

30: 7 – Incense - Leviticus 16:13 says that this was done to protect the priests from the Lord's presence.

30:9 – This will be the sin of Aaron's sons in Lev. 10. Also note vv. 34-38.

30:11ff – Danger of a census is seen in the warning of a plague if done apart from God's commands (v. 12) and in the ransom price (v. 11) or atonement price (vv. 15, 16).

30:18-21 – Ceremonial cleansing is done to be ready to serve the holy God.

Exodus 31

31:1-11 - The Lord has told Moses what to make. Now he provides the craftsmen to do the work.

31:13 – The Sabbath command held a special place in the covenant as it served as a sign of the covenant as God's people rested from their labors on a weekly basis.

31:18 – two tablets - These were identical copies – one for the Lord and one for Israel, both would be put into the Ark of the Covenant.

Exodus 32

Meanwhile, back in the camp...

32:6 – To play – pagan worship usually involved drunkenness and immorality.

32:19 – Breaking of the tablets was a sign of the broken covenant.

32:27 – It seems likely that the ones killed by the Levites were the ones persisting in the sins of vv. 5-6.

32:32 – Moses' request to be blotted out of God's book is similar to Paul's wish in Romans 9:3.

Exodus 33

33:4 – disastrous word – It was disastrous because the Lord's presence was what made Israel distinct and was the essence of the covenant.

33:7ff – Tent of Meeting – was distinct from the tabernacle and was used by Moses until the tabernacle was completed.

33:14 – You – is singular in the Hebrew. The Lord is saying he will be with Moses.

33:17 – The Lord promises to go with all of Israel.

33:17-18 – Moses' request is for the Lord to reveal his glory as he had done when the covenant with Israel was confirmed (Exodus 24) now that the covenant relationship is being reconfirmed.

Exodus 34

Exodus 34 records the renewal of the covenant between the Lord and Israel.

34:1-4 – New tablets will be required since the first ones were broken when Israel broke covenant with the Lord.

34:5-9 – The Lord reveals himself as the Lord of the covenant.

34:10-11 – What the Lord promises to do for his covenant people.

34:12-26 – What Israel is to do as the covenant people. This is a summary of what was revealed in Exodus 21-23.

34:29-25 – The glory of the Lord reflected on the face of Moses. Paul refers to this in 2 Corinthians 3:7ff and mentions that the glory faded over time.

Exodus 35-36

35:1-29 – Now that the covenant has been renewed the work on the tabernacle must begin.

35:5 – generous heart – The offerings for the tabernacle were not coerced but were to come from generous hearts. This concept is repeated in vv. 21, 22, 26, and 29.

35:31 – This is an example of the filling of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. He was given to certain people for a period of time to do a particular work.

The Lord provides craftsmen and then the materials to build the tabernacle.

The building of the tabernacle frame and coverings were done just as the Lord had commanded Moses on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 26).

Exodus 37-38

The work of building the furniture for the tabernacle proceeds from the Most Holy Place (Ark) to the outer courtyard (Bronze Basin).

Cubit – a cubit is around 18 inches in length. The items in the tabernacle were not large nor grand in size which was appropriate for a tabernacle that had to be carried in the desert.

Exodus 39

Exodus 39 will focus on the preparing of the priestly garments (vv. 1-31) and conclude with a summary of all the work for the tabernacle (vv. 32-43).

Notice the repetition of statements indicating that they did it as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Exodus 40

The culmination of their work has arrived – it is time to erect the tabernacle.

40:17 – It has been two years since they left Egypt.

40:34-38 – The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle as the Lord took up residence in the tent of meeting.

The Lord has truly reestablished his covenant with Israel.

Every day the Lord's presence with his people will be visible.

Will be seen later in the temple (1 Kings 8:10-11) and especially in Christ (John 1:14).

