

A WALK THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT
TIME FRAME #3– THE EXODUS
CLASS NOTES
1526 BC TO 1406 BC
SELECTED CHAPTERS IN EXODUS, LEVITICUS, NUMBERS AND DUETERONOMY

SUMMARY

The overarching theme of The Exodus is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham and the other Patriarchs to make their descendants a great nation. He accomplishes this by delivering them from the most powerful empire on earth at the time. Their entry into the Promise Land will be delayed by their lack of faith and sinful disobedience. The key leader for this Time Frame is Moses. We will see his prayerfulness, obedience and deep desire to know God. It is no surprise he will be known as "a friend of God'.

MAJOR EVENTS

EVENT #23 – BORN A SLAVE, RAISED A PRINCE (EXODUS 1:1-2:10)

Shortly after the death of Joseph at the end of Genesis, a new Pharaoh comes to power in Egypt that has no memory of how he had saved Egypt during the great famine. Seeing the Hebrews as possible threats on his border, this Pharaoh starts some 300+ years of slavery for them. In an effort take away their national identity, the next step Pharaoh takes is to have Hebrew males put to death. Moses is born into this time, but escapes death through the commitment and planning of his mother. Instead Moses is adopted by the daughter of Pharaoh. After 3-4 years with his birth mother for the purpose of nursing, Moses is raised as a prince in the palace.

EVENT #24 – MOSES FLEES TO MIDIAN (EXODUS 2:11-25)

At the age of 40 Moses decides to look in on his people the Hebrews, perhaps with the idea of trying to help them. After killing an abusive Egyptian task master he is forced to flee to Midian. Here he meets and marries his wife and starts his family. The prince has become a lowly shepherd, a task he would have learned to disdain as an Egyptian. God is doing a work in his life, beginning with humility.

EVENT #25 – MOSES IS CALLED BY GOD (EXODUS 3-4)

God calls out to Moses through a burning bush that is not consumed. Moses' response to being called to return to Egypt to confront Pharaoh and lead the Hebrews to freedom is a series of reasons it will not work. God answers each one; provide three signs for Moses to use to validate his call to the people and then gives him Aaron as a sidekick. In the end Moses leaves for Egypt.

EVENT #26 – MOSES CONFRONTS PHARAOH/FIRST 9 PLAGUES (EXODUS 5:1-6:13; 7:1-10:29)

Moses and Aaron meet the Hebrew Elders and tell them what God had said. Their response is positive. Then they go see Pharaoh, and his response is not. This sets up a series of confrontations that lead to 9 different plagues descending on Egypt. Each plague showed the impotence of an Egyptian god. Pharaoh refuses to let the people go, setting up the final plague.

EVENT #27 – TENTH PLAGUE AND EXODUS FROM EGYPT (EXODUS 11:1-14:31)

God warns the last plague will take the life of every first born in Egypt. The Hebrews are given a sign to use to be 'Passed Over' by the angel of death – the blood of a lamb was to be placed on the sides and top of their door frames. This Passover Meal becomes the Passover Feast, and is to be celebrated annually as a reminder of God's deliverance. After this last plague, the Egyptians demand they leave. God has one last act against Egypt. As Pharaoh's army closes in on the fleeing people, God first parts the Red Sea so the Hebrews can cross safely. Then the LORD closes the sea over the pursuing army, destroying it.

EVENT #28 – JOURNEY TO MT. SINAI AND THE GIVING OF THE LAW (EXODUS 19-20)

As the People of Israel reach Mt. Sinai, they are given specific instructions on being prepared to meet with God. Moses receives the 10 Commandments. Then God begins to give Moses additional points of The Law; plans for The Tabernacle and instructions regarding Aaron as the High Priest.

EVENT #29 – THE GOLDEN CALF AND GOD'S MERCY (EXODUS 32-34)

As Moses spends 40 days on Mt. Sinai meeting with God, the people grow impatient. Convinced Moses is dead, they demand that Aaron build them a new idol to worship. He quickly caves in to their demands, leading to a full day feast and orgy worshipping the Golden Calf he makes. After confronting the people, Moses then intercedes for them, asking God to not fully judge them, but to have mercy. Moses also asks God to keep His presence with the people, and to show him His glory. What follows is one of the most beautiful scenes in the Bible as Yahweh passes before Moses, declaring His character.

EVENT #30 – THE SACRIFICES (LEVITICUS 1-5)

Greater detail is given by God regarding worship and the sacrifices associated with it. There are five basic offerings: Burnt, Grain, Peace, Sin and Guilt.

EVENT #31 – REBELLION AT KADESH-BARNIA (NUMBERS 13-14)

12 spies are sent into Canaan to scout out the land. What was intended as preparation for invasion turned into a rebellion against God and Moses as 10 of them say it is impossible for them to defeat the people living there. Despite the minority report given by Joshua and Caleb, the people not only refuse to invade, but threaten to kill Moses and Aaron and return to Egypt. God steps in, and because of their rebellion, states that every adult will die in the wilderness, with the exception of Caleb and Joshua. This will take place over 40 years, one year for each day spent spying out the Land.

EVENTS #32 AND 33 – 40 YEARS OF WANDERING AND THE DEATH OF MOSES (DEUT. 1-3; 34)

The people of Israel do indeed spend the next 40 years wandering and being buried in the Wilderness. Because of his own act of angry disobedience, Moses himself is allowed to view the Land from a distance but not enter it. At his death, Joshua is named successor and leader.

KEY CHARACTER – MOSES
SPIRITUAL LIFE LESSON – HAVING A LOVE FOR GOD AND GOD’S PEOPLE

MOSES MADE A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO CHOOSE TO FOLLOW GOD AND IDENTIFY WITH HIS PEOPLE.

1. This is a conscious decision Moses makes as an adult. Hebrews 11:23-26

2. However, relying on himself and reacting with anger reveals his need for growth and maturing. The prince becomes a shepherd, and his lessons on humility continue for 40 years. Exodus 2:11-25

NOTE: *Being a Follower of Christ begins with an intentional decision to choose Him. There then follows a season of nurture and growth. It is important that we not only learn how to follow God, but that we also allow God to reveal the parts of our lives He wants to transform.*

MOSES HAD TO WORK THROUGH HIS INSECURITIES AND DOUBTS TO TRUST GOD TO ENABLE HIM TO FULFILL HIS CALL ON MOSES’ LIFE. EXODUS 3:1-14

1. God reveals Himself (vs.6, 14)

2. God reveals His promise (vs.7-8)

3. God reveals His Purpose for Moses (vs.9-10)

4. Moses struggles to believe God can use him.

NOTE: *The path to overcoming insecurities and doubt begins by seeing God and hearing His voice. God is not bothered by our questions – and usually answers them by revealing more of Himself to us. After this encounter, Moses will never get enough of being in God’s Presence or hearing God’s voice.*

WHEN CONFRONTED WITH IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS, MOSES LEARNED TO QUICKLY TURN TO GOD.

1. Exodus 5:22-6:1

2. Exodus 6:9-13

3. Exodus 6:28-7:2

4. Exodus 14:13-14

5. Exodus 17:1-7

NOTE: *It is easy and even natural for most of us to turn to others to vent and gain sympathy when life gets hard. Or we lash out in frustration or anger. Moses learned a key lesson in Exodus 2 when he struck that Egyptian dead – when confronted with a difficult situation turn to God immediately.*

WHEN MOST DISAPPOINTED BY GOD'S PEOPLE, MOSES PRAYS FOR THEM

1. Exodus 32:7-14

2. Numbers 14:11-19

NOTE: *Twice Moses had the opportunity to change history, so God's People would be known as 'The Children of Moses'. However, instead of giving up on these difficult people, Moses showed his humility and his love for them by interceding for them. A foundational part of loving God's people is to pray for them.*

MOSES VALUED GOD'S PRESENCE IN HIS LIFE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE

1. God spoke to Moses as one speaks to a friend. Exodus 33:11

2. God had said He would send an angel ahead of the people to enable them to take the Land. Moses said if he could not have God's Presence, he did not want God's blessing. Exodus 33:12-16

3. Moses wanted still more. He wanted to see God in all His glory. Exodus 33:17-23; 34:5-9

NOTE: *It is easy for us to focus on the blessings of God and doing Christian things and lose sight of seeing God Himself. Loving God from the heart leads us to seek to know Him with deeper intimacy, and to nurture the flame of our 'first love' (Revelation 2:4). This will take us into His Word and into our Prayer Closets.*