

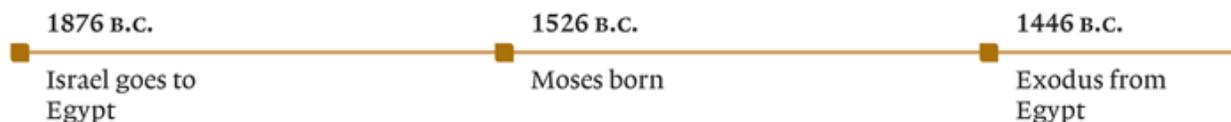
TRANSFORMATION

2020 → Year of Transformation

Exodus

Introduction to Exodus

Timeline



“Exodus” is a Latin word derived from Greek *Exodos*; the name given to the book by those who translated it into Greek. The word means “exit,” or “departure”. The book of Exodus is the account of the Jewish nation leaving Egypt after about 430 years of captivity and slavery. It is a written record of how the Jewish nation.

The book of Exodus opens with the children of Israel in bondage in Egypt. Pharaoh attempts to control the Israelite population by enslaving them (1:10ff), by having midwives kill all the baby boys at birth (1:16f), and finally, by throwing the baby boys into the Nile (1:22). Moses is born to a Levite family. His mother hides him before placing him in a basket in the Nile River where Pharaoh’s daughter finds Moses and adopts him (2:1-10). Moses grows up in Pharaoh’s household, but he flees from Egypt

after killing an Egyptian taskmaster who had been beating a Hebrew. He settles in Sinai with the Midianites and lives as a shepherd (2:11-16). While tending the flocks of his father-in-law Jethro, Moses sees a burning bush and receives his call from the Angel of the Lord to return to Egypt and deliver the Israelites from bondage

Theme & Purpose:

There are two basic themes in Exodus, and both tie together.

The First Theme is **Redemption**. Portrayed in the Passover.

The Second Theme is **Deliverance**. Portrayed in the Exodus from Egypt.

This Redemption & Deliverance was accomplished through the shedding of blood and by the power of God.

The overarching theme of Exodus is the fulfillment of God's promises to the patriarchs. The success of the exodus must be credited to the power and purpose of God, who remembers his promises, punishes sin, and forgives the repentant. The book highlights Moses' faithfulness and prayerfulness.

Key Themes

- I. *Covenant promises*. The events and instructions in Exodus are described as the Lord remembering his covenant promises to Abraham). The promises extend to both Abraham's descendants and all the nations of the world They include land (which Israel will inhabit), numerous offspring (which will secure their ongoing identity), and blessing (God cares for them and other nations). The fulfillment of these promises is rooted in Israel's covenant relationship with the Lord.

- II. *Covenant mediator*. Moses mediates between the Lord and his people. Through Moses the Lord reveals his purposes to Israel and sustains the covenant relationship.

- III. *Covenant presence*. God's presence with his people is highlighted throughout the book of

Outline

- I. Exodus of Israel from Egypt (1:1-18:27)
 - A. Setting: Israel in Egypt (1:1-2:25)
 - B. Call of Moses (3:1-4:31)
 - C. Moses and Aaron: initial request (5:1-7:7)
 - D. Plagues and exodus (7:8-15:21)
 - E. Journey (15:22-18:27)

- II. Covenant at Sinai (19:1-40:38)
 - A. Setting: Sinai (19:1-25)
 - B. Covenant words and rules (20:1-23:33)
 - C. Covenant confirmed (24:1-18)
 - D. Instructions for the tabernacle (25:1-37:17)
 - E. Moses receives the tablets (31:18)
 - F. Covenant breach, intercession, and renewal (32:1-34)
 - G. Tabernacle: preparation for the presence (35:1-40:38)

Christ in Exodus

We can see Jesus in the book of Exodus. He is the voice of the burning bush (3:1-6), He is the Passover lamb (12:1-28), He is the picture of Unleavened Bread (13:3-10), He is The Pillar of Cloud and the Fire by Night leading them (13:21-22), He is seen in the Red Sea crossing (14), He is Manna from heaven (16), and the Source of Living Water (17:1-7), He is the Perfect Redeemer through-out the whole book, and He is the one Greater (33:17).

Week 5: “Prone To Wander- Broken Saviors”

Exodus 32 & Acts 17:16-32

Teacher notes: This guide is meant to be used as a resource to help you go deeper in your small group discussion. While it is not exhaustive, it is a guide to help you. Think of it as a launching pad to help you facilitate discussion. Please feel free to go deeper, study on your own, pull in other scripture, share your personal story, or bring in other illustrations. It is just a resource to help you take your group on a journey with God.

Introduction:

Robert Robinson was born in 1735, and was a man who grew up with humble beginnings. His dad passed away when he was only 8 years old forcing him to help provide for his widowed mother. He found work as an apprentice to a barber in London, to help provide for his family as a teenager. Without a father to guide and steady him, Robert fell in with bad companions.

In 1755, he came under the influence of famed evangelist, George Whitfield, and was converted to Christianity by his preaching. He became a minister in a Baptist church. It was in this setting, as a Baptist pastor, that he penned the words to the old hymn “Come Thou Fount” which portrays his conversion. Here is the first verse of this song:

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand’ring from the face of God;
He, to save my soul from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

There is a line in 3rd verse of this hymn that describes our nature and some of our behavior toward God. It reads:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love:

This week we will look at Exodus 32 and Acts 17 to unpack how we can set our hearts on **Broken Saviors**, which ultimately take our focus off the one true God. Broken Saviors show up in many ways in our lives with the promise of fulfillment and satisfaction, only to leave us empty and searching for meaning.

This week, as we study, my prayer for you is that you will recognize the idols in your own life, have a plan to eliminate them, and focus our hearts on the one true God.

Scripture Reading : Exodus 32, & Acts 17:16-32

Discussion Questions

Question 1: What did the Children of Israel cry out for in Exodus 32:1?

- a. How long was Moses gone from the people (See exodus 25:15-8)
- b. Why would Aaron agree to this?

Question 2: In what ways are we like the children of Israel?

- a. What are idols that can creep into our lives?
- b. Why is it important for us to know what God said and to do what he says?

(Leader Insight) It has been 40 days since Moses departed the children of Israel to go up the mountain to get the law from God. God was very clear and detailed in his instruction to Moses about the people of Israel. The Israelites said they would comply with the law. Moses goes up the mountain on 2 separate occasions. First in Exodus 19 & 20, and then again in Exodus 25. God gives Moses the laws, one right after another (Exodus 20:19-23:19). Moses then descends down the mountain to relay the laws to the people and writes them down in Exodus 24. Moses is then told to ascend the mountain once more in Exodus 24:12 to get the stone tablets written by God's own finger. Moses arrives on the mountain and also learns of the specific instructions for the Tabernacle and the consecration of the priest. Aaron and his sons would be the priest acting on the people's behalf. It is interesting that as Moses is getting instruction from God, Aaron, the one whom God was saying would be the priest is leading the people in building a Golden calf to worship a false God.

Question 3: Why did the people want an idol to worship? Discuss

- a. Why did the people turn away from God so quickly?
- b. Have you ever experienced the power of God in your life, then soon after that felt distant from God? Explain!
- c. What caused your heart to wander?

Question 4: What did Moses do when he saw the people and the golden calf?

- a. How many people died as a result of the sin?
- b. Do you think this was a harsh punishment? Why or Why not?

Read Acts 17:16-32

Question 5: What did Paul see when he traveled around the city?

- a. What are the similarities between Moses and Paul in Acts 17:16-32?

Question 6: How were the people of Athens different than the Israelites?

- a. Why do you think people want to worship idols?
- b. Do you think we still worship idols today? Give examples!

Question 7: In this story, Paul had the opportunity to address their pagan worship? Did he do this correctly?

- a. How do you respond when you see something you don't like?
- b. Does it bring glory to God? Why or Why not?
- c. Is it life giving?

Question 8: Paul presented a great picture of God to the crowd. He proclaimed him Creator, Provider, Sustainer, Ruler, Judge and Father (17:24-31). How did those listening respond to these descriptions?

- a. How do you respond to these descriptions of God?
- b. Why did Paul use his reference of Greek poetry to explain God?

Next Steps:

1. Describe how you can relate to Exodus 32 & Acts 17. What is something you learned from these passages?
2. Write down the idols that take your heart away from God?
3. List out the ways you are prone to wander!
4. An idol is a god-substitute—any person or thing that occupies the rightful place of God. I need to turn over my idol of _____ to God.
5. Which part of Paul's message might you use to speak to someone who doesn't know about Jesus?
6. Share these with a person that will help pray for you.

Pray & Dismiss