

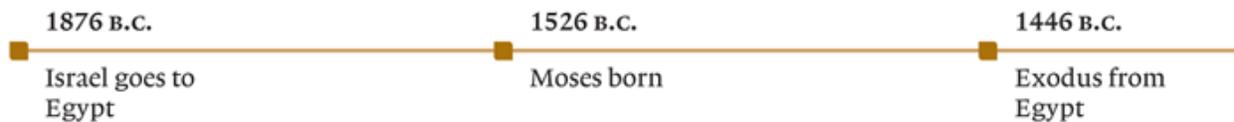
TRANSFORMATION

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 4: “Sing a Song”

Exodus 15 & Acts 16:16-40

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:

What do you do when you are down and out? Have you ever wondered how singing can change your mood? **The Exodus** tells the story of the enslavement of the Israelites in ancient Egypt, their liberation through the hand Yahweh, the revelations given at Mt Sinai, and their wanderings in the wilderness up to the borders of Canaan, the land their god has given them.

The lyrics of Christian spirituals reference symbolic aspects of Biblical images such as Moses and Israel's Exodus from Egypt in songs such as "Michael Row the Boat Ashore". There is also a duality in the lyrics of spirituals. They communicated many Christian ideals while also communicating the hardship that was a result of being in captivity. The spiritual was often directly tied to the composer's life. It was a way of sharing religious, emotional, and physical experience through song.

Singing can lift your spirits, and change our attitude, and help you reflect on hope. There are many examples in the Bible of people singing. In Nehemiah, the whole city praises God after Ezra reads God's word over the people, In the Psalms, David reflected on the goodness of God, His mercy, protection, and deliverance. Mary sang a song of praise when she knew she was pregnant with Jesus, and exclaimed, "*how her soul praises the Lord*" in Luke 1:46-55.

Today, we are going to look at the one of the first songs preserved in the Bible, found in Exodus 15. My prayer for you today is that no matter what you are going through that you can see that our hope is in God, and that he cares deeply about you. Also, that you will help the people in your group see that worshipping God helps us reflect on him and not our circumstances.

Scripture Reading : Exodus 15, & Acts 16:16-40

Discussion Questions

Question 1: What did the Children of Israel do when they got to the other side of the

Red Sea in Exodus 15?

- How should we respond, when we see God move? Discuss how difficult or easy this is for you!

Question 2: What elements do you notice from this song of praise?

- Describe a time when God did something great in your life! Did you respond the same way? Why or why not?
- What are some ways we can express thanks to God?

(Leader Insight) In their song of praise they profess their allegiance to God (15:2). They confess God's nature of loving kindness and faithfulness (15:13). They express their confidence in God (15:17) and finally, the song of praise ends with a shout of adoration for the Lord (15:18). They expressed with grateful hearts how God delivered them, spoke back to him what he has done, and how they could trust him. This is exactly how our lips should sing when we see God move on our behalf.

Question 3: Describe what is happening in Exodus 15:24. How does this contrast what is happening in the first 20 verses of chapter 15?

- What happened their attitudes? Why was the event that caused their hearts o change from gratitude to grumbling?
- How does this compare to **James 3:10-11**?
- How does one go from worshipping to complaining in such a short time?
- What happened to cause them to forget what God has done?

(Leader Insight) In James, we see how people with their tongue praise God in one moment, and curse man in another moment. When the waters at Marah proved to be so bitter that it is undrinkable, the people spit it out of their mouths in disgust, and raised their voices in protest to Moses. The people in a matter of days went from praising God to cursing Moses because they had lost focus on God to their circumstances. They didn't think that God would provide for them again. The lord shows up and sweetens the waters or purifies it so they can drink it. We as God's people need to develop a trust and confidence in God that He will lead us no matter what our circumstances are? God is faithful when we are faithless.

Question 4: What are some ways you need to trust God will provide? Explain! Have someone in the group share how they are expecting God to show up.

- Explain why people praise God on Sunday and forget about him throughout the week.
- What do you think is the cause of this? What is the cure?

Read Acts 16:16-40

Question 5: Describe the scene that is taking place?

- How did Paul & Silas respond (verses 22-25)
- How would you have responded?

Question 6: How were Paul & Silas able to sing praises to God when they were beaten with rods?

- Compare how they responded to how the children of Israel responded in the last part of Exodus 15.
- Who do you relate most too? Paul and Silas, or the Israelites?
- What was the difference between the 2 groups of people? Discuss!

Question 7: In this story, Paul had the opportunity to flee his circumstances, but chose not to. Why is that decision so remarkable?

- What do you think you would have done if you were Paul?
- What did Paul do to his jailer?

Question 8: One of the things Paul does while chained in prison is pray and worship. How do you think this affected the jailer?

- What was the jailer's response to Paul & Silas?
- How did singing and praying affect their outcome?
- Discuss how worshipping God can change your perspective! Why do think this is the case?

Next Steps:

1. Write down what you have learned from today's study?
2. Spend some time with your group praising God for what he has done.
3. Share with the group one thing God convicted you of today.
4. Write down an action step you will take this week?
5. Read Psalm 145 this week, to learn how to praise God.

Pray & Dismiss