

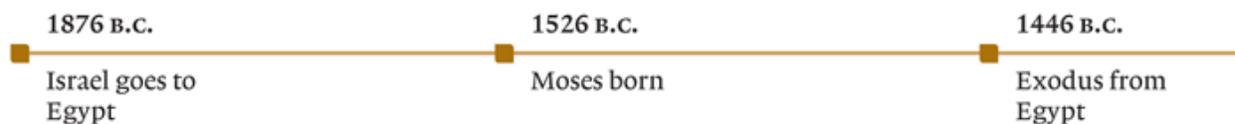
TRANSFORMATION

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 3: “But God”: Our Crisis of Belief

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:

Have you ever felt like God has asked you to do something that you knew you couldn't do on your own? Feelings of inadequacy, not good enough, or this is going to be too hard are common when we feel the task is too great. Often times we do have all the details of how everything will work out, which brings anxiety, fear, and stress. We feel inadequate and not equipped to carry out such tasks.

The Bible is full of stories where people were asked to do something that to them seemed impossible, “**BUT GOD**” stepped in and made a way. As we continue our Transformation series of studying through the entire Bible, we get to take a look at how God called his people to action and move through the impossible. Humanly speaking, some things are impossible, but with God all things are possible (Luke 1:37). This should help build our faith, knowing that God can do what man cannot do.

This week we will look at how we can see God move even when we have a crisis of belief. Trusting the promiser, and acting in obedience is all part of our faith journey. This week as you study together, my prayer for you is that you will be able to look back on parts of your life where you have seen God do the impossible.

Scripture: Exodus 3 & 4

Discussion Questions

Question 1: How much time has elapsed between the end of chapter 2 and beginning of chapter 3?

- What has Moses been doing this whole time?
- Describe why you feel God had him doing this for so long. What was he preparing him to do?

Question 2: In verse 2, Who is the Angel of the Lord?

- Why do you think God chose to appear this way to Moses? What was the significance of appearing in a burning bush?

- Describe a time when you knew you heard the voice of God? Was it easy or hard to know if it was God or something else? Explain!

(Leader Insight) Moses had been serving as a shepherd for Jethro for about 40 years at this point. Unlike men, God is very patient. He didn't save the Israelites immediately, but waited for the right time and the right person. God used these 40 years to teach Moses many valuable lessons about leadership and about Himself. In chapter 2, he was still a headstrong young (by those standards) man, that thought he was God's gift to the Hebrews. He easily lost his temper and behaved rashly. I guess forty years in the wilderness can create a calm, quiet, and careful spirit. God allowed him to spend 40 years in the desert tending the sheep of his father-in-law so that he was equipped to survive another 40 years with the Israelite people. The burning bush was a miracle, the first of many miracles witnessed by Moses. The Bible doesn't mention any specific reason why God chose this way to appear to Moses. Clearly, He knew it would attract Moses to go over there so they could have a conversation.

Question 3: In verses 5-6, why did God introduce himself to Moses and tell him to take off his sandals?

- Why was it important for Moses to know exactly who God was?
- In what ways does God show himself to you? Explain!
- How would you respond if God showed up to you like this?

Question 4: In verse 10, What did God tell Moses he was sending him to do?

- Why was Moses hesitant?
- According to v.11, what was Moses' first response? Compare and contrast Moses' response here to his attitude or perspective about himself some 40 years earlier as recorded in 2:11-14
- How does the enemy use doubt to keep us from doing what he asks?
 - Do you think people make excuses because they are afraid or they don't believe? Explain!
 - What evidence is there that God wanted to free his people?

Question 5: Why do you think God promised Moses a sign? Or, what purpose would that sign serve for Moses?

- What is a sign that God has given you about something?
- When we face difficulties, how do you know that God will be with you? Explain?

(Leader Insight) It's natural to question one's own ability to accomplish an immense task. Moses was a humble person and wondered why in the world God had chosen him. However, God looked at Moses differently. Moses was just the man for the job. He was the vessel God had been preparing his whole life for just this moment, just this time. 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 states, "But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are

not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.” Moses understood that he would need God to show up on his behalf. This is the reason that Moses didn’t need to fear. God would be with him. And if God was with him, he couldn’t fail.

Question 6: In chapter 4:1-9, what signs did God show Moses? How did this help build his faith?

- Why did Moses still need a sign?
- Does this show a lack of faith or trust?
- Does your faith need signs? Why or Why not?

Question 7: Why did God get angry at Moses in verse 14?

- Does God show us every step of the journey? Why or Why not?
- What do you think God meant by what he told Moses in verse 16 about his relationship to Aaron?

Question 8: Why did Moses ask Jethro’s blessing/permission to leave in verse 18?

- What do you think Moses would have done if Jethro said no?

(Leader Insight) Moses asked Jethro’s permission to leave as a sign of respect to the head of the household. If Jethro refused, Moses would have had to obey God first rather than man, but it doesn’t mean that Moses should disrespect earthly authorities. Sometimes, we think God is secondary to what man says, but we are to serve God before man. God, already went before Moses to his father-in-law, Jethro, so that he would let him leave. Jethro responded to where God was already leading Moses, and that is why he agreed for him to leave.

Next Steps:

1. Write down what is to you the most significant thing you’ve learned about God from this chapter.
2. Share with the group 1 place you feel like God is telling you to go.
3. Write down something about Moses that you relate to or want to learn from. Share with the group
4. Write down the excuses you that hold you back
5. Pray over the excuses and ask God to strengthen your faith.

Pray and Dismiss