



What is It?

This is the account of the descendants of Abraham, Jacob and Isaac, numerous enough to be called a “nation,” securing their freedom from Egypt, beginning their journey in the Sinai and receiving instructions from God.

Who, What, When, Where and WHY

Who - Exodus was written by Moses, who is also the main character. It was written to the tribes of Jews of his time and the nation of Israel going forward. It was also written for us.

What – The 40 chapters outlines the early history of the Jews while enslaved in Egypt, their deliverance, their trek toward the Promised Land, and their new covenant with God.

When – Moses wrote Exodus while he and the rest of the Jews were spending their 40 years in the desert of Sinai; probably around 1410 BC. The events covered start with Joseph’s family in Egypt and end with Moses delivering the 10 Commandments (and other divine instructions) at Sinai about 1446 BC.

Where – Exodus was written in the desert of Sinai (part of today’s Egypt). The events take place in ancient Egypt and the adjacent peninsula of Sinai.

Why – God is setting Israel up as his chosen nation, his nation of priests to the rest of the world. He must first deliver them from slavery, then teach them his ways (the Covenant).

Reading Advice

To get through Exodus in one week you will need to read about 6 to 7 chapters a day (40 chapters/6 days = 6.66 per day). That should be about 35 minutes a day, Monday through Saturday. If you include a Sunday reading, then you can reduce the chapters and minutes per day a little.

The first half of Exodus reads like a riveting novel (anybody remember Charlton Heston and the 10 Commandments?) The second half is much harder because it covers many of the details of God’s Covenant with his chosen people – from the 10 Commandments to details about the tabernacle. Again, there is prefiguring of Jesus throughout Exodus – watch for it.