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Introduction To Exodus

The book of Exodus is merely the continuation of the book of Genesis, revealing the ongoing faithfulness of God to the promise He had made to Abram. Gen. 15:1-17

God would multiply the seed of Abram as the stars of the heavens, placing them in Egypt 430 years.

The ways of God and purposes of God would be worked through Joseph, for the glory of God.

The opening chapter ties them together by the genealogy of the number of people that went down to Egypt.

I. The book of Exodus.

- A. The book of Exodus is the second book of the first five books of the Old Testament.
 - 1. The first five books of the Bible are commonly known as the Pentateuch or the Torah, the Law.
 - a. Genesis.
 - b. Exodus.
 - c. Numbers.
 - d. Leviticus.
 - e. Deuteronomy.

- f. The Pentateuch comprises 1/7 of the entire Bible and is 2/3 as large as the New Testament.
- 2. The title "Exodus" comes from the LXX, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures at Alexandria, after the Babylonian captivity around the middle of the 2nd century.
 - a. The Hebrews called the book by the opening phrase "Now these are the names." Ex. 1:1a
 - b. Exodus means the going out, exit or departure.
 - * The same word is used for Jesus for his death as He talked with Moses and Elijah. Lk. 9:31
- 3. The relation of the book of Exodus to the Pentateuch.
 - a. Genesis is the beginning of creation, fall, redemption and God's people. Gen. 3:1-7, 15,12:13
 - b. Exodus is the redemption of God's people from the world in order to tabernacle among them as a chosen people. Ex. 19: 5
 - c. Leviticus is God's standard to walk and worship with God through sacrifice, obedience, a mediating priest and social order marked by holiness. Lev. 1-7

- d. Numbers is the record of a forty year death march due to disobedience and rebellion against God. 14:29-31
- e. Deuteronomy is the law and the instructions given to those born in the wilderness in preparation to pass the land. Deut. 4:1

B. The author of the book of Exodus is Moses.

1. Many have opposed the authorship of Moses, especially those of so called higher criticism, giving as its source, various sources, thereby saying Exodus is a compilation of them.
 - a. In their study of the five books of the Pentateuch, they have come up with the hypothesis of the J.E.P.D. theory.
 - b. These are the various authors, J is the Jehovah, E are the Elohim, P are the priest and D are the Deuteronomy source, called "The Documentary Hypothesis"
2. The evidence of Scripture is that the book of Exodus attests to the authorship of Moses. Ex. 17:14, 24:4, 25:9, 36:1
3. Jesus made constant reference to the books of Moses and his writings. Mk. 12:26, Lk. 16:31, 20:37. 24:44

C. The date of the exodus in the book of Exodus.

1. The date of the book has been dated from a late date of 1235-1220 B.C. or the earlier date of 1450-1420 B.C.
2. The exodus has two schools, the earlier date of 1445 B.C. and the later date of 1290 B.C.
3. The earlier date of 1445 B.C. fits better for the occupation of the land, in the late 15th century. Standly Ellisen, Knowing God's Word.
 - a. 1Kings 6:1 places the exodus 480 years before Solomon began to build the temple, establish at 997 B.C.
 - b. Judges 11:26 places the conquest of the Trans-Jordan at 300 years before the time of Jephthah, who lived 1100 B.C.
 - c. Acts 13:17-20 approximates the time from the exodus to Samuel as 450 years. Samuel died 1020 B.C.
 - d. Archeologist John Garstang's dating of the fall of Jericho is still the best supported, though doubted by Kathleen Kenyon (i. g. no burials in Jericho could be dated later than 1375 B.C.).
 - e. The late date reasoning would require the exodus to be no sooner than 1210, for the affliction and building of these cities began before Moses was born, eighty years before the exodus. This

would be an impossible date, even for the late daters.

f. The name “Rameses” derived from the sun god “Ra” and could have been used long before this strong and popular Pharaoh.

3. The prophetic time recorded.

a. The exodus was 430 years from the day of their coming, Paul confirms this figure in Galatians. Ex. 12:40, Gal. 3:17

b. The promise by God to Abram was 400 years, rounded off and Stephen in Acts, as a round figure. Acts 7:6

D. The importance of the book of Exodus.

1. The book of Exodus gives witness to God’s faithfulness to fulfill the prophecy given to Abram regarding the 400 years in Egypt. Gen. 15:13-14

2. The book of Exodus is a book of the redemption story of Israel, which was to be acted out throughout their generations at Passover, this bring the main purpose! Ex. 12:14, 13:4-5

* Jesus became the fulfillment. Jn. 1:29

3. The book of Exodus is a record of God’s sovereignty to call, anoint and use who He wills, regardless of natural ability, clearly evident by Moses’ excuse about his speech impediment.

4. The book of Exodus is a witness to God’s total control and power over the situation or circumstance.

5. The book of Exodus is the record of God proving that the gods of the heathen are no gods. Ex. 12:12

6. The book of Exodus attests to man’s inability to do anything for God, out of God’s timing. Acts 7:25, Ex. 3:12

7. The book of Exodus is the historical account of God choosing a people as a peculiar treasure to Himself. Ex. 19:5-6
* In the New Testament, this identity is given also to the church but it does not replace Israel. 1Pet. 2:9

10. The book of Exodus witnesses to God’s concern for how people are to live before God, imparting the ten words and precepts, statutes and judgments.

11. The book of Exodus bears witness to God gifting individuals for their calling. Ex. 31:1-3

12. The book of Exodus is not only a record of redemption but of covenant. Ex. 24:8

13. The book of Exodus is also a witness of the tabernacle, Priesthood and sacrifice to worship God, all prefiguring the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ.

14. The tabernacle and all of its furniture are types of Christ. as well as all the sacrifices.

15. The book of Exodus is a record of murmuring and complaining against God in times of difficulty and the unknown.
- c. From 70 souls they multiplied to 600,000 men over 20 years of age.
Ex. 12:37
 - d. If we add 600,000 women and 4 children for 300,000 married couples, it would add up to 2,400,000.

This is the book of Exodus!

II. The Pharaohs in relation to the book of Exodus.

- A. The second intermediate kingdom, Dynasties XIII-XVII.
 - 1. The date is 1750-1570 B.C.
 - 2. Hyksos rule in dynasties XV-XVI (1720-1550).
 - 3. They constituted the rule in Egypt by foreign Asiatic shepherd kings.
 - 4. They ruled from Avaris in the Delta.
 - 5. They had to rule by force.
 - 6. They introduced the horse and chariot to Egyptian warfare.
- B. The New Kingdom, Dynasty XVIII-XX.
 - 1. The date is 1570-1150 B.C.

- 2. Amosis I of previous dynasty (1580-1550).
- 3. He Ruled from Thebes,.
- 4. He drove out the Hyksos.
- 5. The Hyksos probably began the oppression of the Hebrews and it was continued and increase by the new native rulers who feared foreign conquest.
- 6. Thutmose I, 1539-1514 B.C. enlarged Egypt's borders, he could have been the one who gave the order to throw the make babies in the Nile River.
- 7. Queen Hatshepsut (1504-1482) was Pharaoh Thutmose I's daughter.
 - a. She usurped the throne when her half-brother and husband, Thutmose II, died, and had a strong rule.
 - b. She is believed to have been the Pharaoh's daughter that adopted Moses.
- 8. Thutmose III (1504-1450), though not ruling till 1482, was perhaps Egypt's strongest ruler, conqueror, and builder.
 - a. Strongly resenting Hatshepsut's usurpation, he tried to obliterate her memory.
 - b. Defeating the Hittites in Megiddo in 1482, he ruled from the fourth cataract south to the Euphrates.
 - c. He was probably the Pharaoh from whom Moses fled in 1585 to the

wilderness of Median, though Queen Hatshepsut was still living.

9. Amenophis II (1450-1426) followed his father Thutmose II to the throne at age 18 and was a successful warrior ruler.
 - a. He was evidently the Pharaoh Moses confronted and upon whom the plagues fell, at the time of the exodus of Israel.
 - b. The next Pharaoh was not his heir, for God struck him dead, he was a later son. (Standly Ellisen, Knowing God's Word)

This is the Pharaoh's relation to the book of exodus!

III. The religion of Egypt.

- A. They were very religious worshipping a multitude of gods.
 1. They had national gods, local gods, and fetishes related to all parts of nature.
 2. Some of their chief deities were: Ra and Amun-Ra, their sun gods, Osiris the god of the Nile was worshipped as the god of fertility or life. Horus was also a sun god, represented by a hawk; Ptah was the god of Memphis and artists. Every object of nature was conceived to be indwelt by a spirit that had chosen that form to

express itself. this idea led to the worship of animals, as the bull, cow, cat, and crocodile.

3. The chief deities had immense temples built for them, and their priests wielded great power over the people and the politics of Egypt. Circumcision was one of their outstanding rites.
 4. A prominent feature of their religions was the belief in life after death. This inspired great concern and preparations for death and burial, and the rich and rulers built great tombs and monuments to preserve their material possessions to go with them into the afterlife.
- B. Ezekiel tells us that Israel was affected by all this idolatry. Ezk. 20:6-10
1. "On that day I raised My hand in an oath to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, 'flowing with milk and honey,' the glory of all lands. Then I said to them, 'Each of you, throw away the abominations which are before his eyes, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.' "But they rebelled against Me and would not obey Me. They did not all cast away the abominations which were before their eyes, nor did they forsake the

idols of Egypt. Then I said, 'I will pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.' "But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles among whom they were, in whose sight I had made Myself known to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt. "Therefore I made them go out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness."

2. God would pour out ten judgment plagues on Egypt.
 - a. The Nile would be turned to blood, the god Osiris.
 - b. The land would be filled with frogs, the goddess Heka or Heket.
 - c. The dust would be turned to lice, the earth god Geb.
 - d. The land would be filled with flies, sacred to Ra, the sun god.
 - e. The livestock would be struck with pestilence, the god Apis was the black bull.
 - f. The priest would be full of boils being unclean, unable to served their gods in the temples.
 - g. The land would be struck with hail, the goddess of the air.
 - h. The land would be filled with locust, divine judgment.

- i. The land would be overcome by darkness, against the sun god, Ra.
- j. The first born would die, they were dedicated to the service of the gods.
 - 1) God would judge the gods of Egypt. Ex. 12:12
 - * 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.
 - 2) God was going to deliver Israel from the house of bondage. Ex. 13:3
 - * "And Moses said to the people: "Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out of this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten."
3. Joseph without any doubt influenced the Hebrew to remain true to God during his life-time.
 - a. Having separated them to the land of Goshen.
 - b. He reminded them that God would deliver them and they were to take his bones with them, dying at 110. Gen. 50:25-26

- c. Moses did exactly that, he took the bones of Joseph with them at the exodus. Ex. 13:19
- d. Hebrews tells us, “By faith **Joseph**, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his **bones**.” Heb. 11:22

This is the religion of Egypt!

IV. The book of Exodus and Moses.

- A. The parents of Moses were godly people. Ex. 2
 - 1. They had been married for a while and Moses was conceived. vs. 1-2a
 - 2. The names of his parents were Amram and Jochebed. Num. 26:59
 - a. They were both of the tribe of Levi. vs. 59a-b
 - b. They had two other children born to them, an older brother named Aaron and a sister, Miriam. vs. 59c
 - 3. The birth parents of Moses are declared to be people of faith according to the New Testament commentary. Heb 11:23
 - * By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful

child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

- B. The raising up of Moses is enriched by the New Testament commentary, which is quite illuminating in view of the limited Old Testament record.
 - 1. Stephen tells us about the education and age of Moses when this occurred, “And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds. Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.” Acts 7:22-23
 - 2. Stephen gives us the reason for his actions, “For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand.” Acts 7:25
 - * God’s will and God’s timing are two different things, God’s will is according to God’s timing, always!
 - 3. The choice that Moses made is revealed to us in the book of Hebrews, “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater

riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.” Heb. 11:24-27

- a. Note that it took place when he became of age, the appointed time for God to call him out of Egypt, certainly it can not mean adulthood, for he was forty years old.
- b. Note also that his choice was between the temporal affliction in contrast to the temporal pleasures of sin.
- c. Note he valued the reproaches of Christ, as greater riches than the riches of Egypt, for he looked for a reward that could not be lost.
- d. Note that by faith he forsook Egypt, in other words God revealed this to him.
- e. Note his source of endurance was that he had seen God, in the person of Christ who is invisible until the incarnation.
 - 1) Moses spent forty years in Egypt being raised up to be somebody!
 - 2) Moses spent forty years learning he was nobody.
 - 3) Moses spent forty years leading the people of God.

- 4) Our endurance will be in direct proportion to our vision of Jesus, a daily walk and fellowship. Matt. 11:28

C. The key words, phrases and verses.

1. The key words.

- a. Hard. Ex. 7:13, 14, 22, 8:19, 9:7, 35
- b. Hardened. Ex. 8:15, 32, 9:12, 34, 10:1, 20, 27, 11:10, 14:8
- c. Heart, 36 times.

2. The key phrases.

- a. Let my people go. Ex. 5:17:16, 8:1, 20, 21, 9:1, 13, 10:3, 4
- b. Thus says the LORD. Ex. 4:22, 5:1, 7:17, 8:1, 20, 9:1, 13, 10:3, 11:4, 32:27
- c. That you may know. Ex. 8:10, 22, 9:14, 29, 10:2, 11:7, 14:4, 31:13, 13

3. The key verses.

- * Ex. 2:5, 3:21-22, 4:11, 8:18, 12:12-14, 20:2

This is the book of Exodus and Moses!

V. The outline for the book of exodus.

- A. The calling out of Israel: Deliverer and retaliation. Ex. 1-11
 1. The bondage of Israel and birth of the Moses. Ex. 1-2

2. The call and commission of Moses to Egypt. Ex. 3-4
 3. The Pharaoh and the ten judgment plagues. Ex. 5-11
- B.** The exodus of Israel: Deliverance and redemption. Ex. 12-18
1. The deliverance of Israel from Egypt. Ex. 12-13
 2. The experience of Israel through the Red Sea. Ex. 14-15
 3. The journey of Israel to Sinai. Ex. 16-18
- C.** The wilderness journey of Israel: Law and life. Ex. 19-24
1. The covenant of the Lord with Israel. Ex. 19
 2. The ten commandment. Ex. 20
 3. The social and civil ordinances. Ex. 21-23
 4. The covenant entered into by Israel. Ex. 24
- D.** The Sinai experience of Israel: Glory and worship. Ex. 25-40
1. The plans of God for the Tabernacle. Ex. 25-31
 2. The punishment by God of the idolaters. Ex. 32-34

3. The preparations, building and erecting of the Tabernacle for the presence of God. Ex. 35-40

Conclusion

1. Egypt speaks of the world. Ex. 1-11
* Revealing the power of God!
2. The exodus speaks of redemption. Ex. 12-18
* Revealing the love of God!
3. The covenant speaks of relationship. Ex. 19-24
* Revealing the principles of God!
4. The tabernacle speaks of worship. Ex. 25-40
* Revealing the presence of God!

This is the outline for the book of exodus!