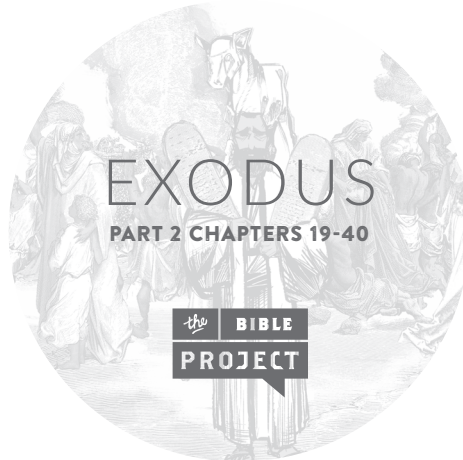
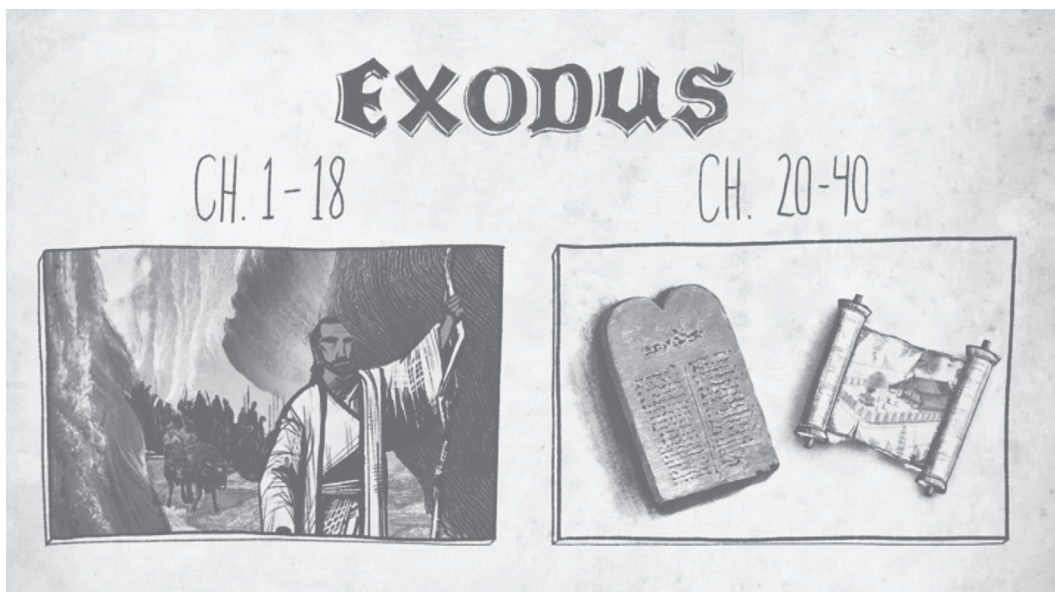


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## INTRODUCTION

This study guide will be most helpful if you work through it slowly with an open Bible, looking up all the references. Grab some friends and do it together!



1

After rescuing Israel from slavery, God initiates a covenant relationship with Israel for the sake of the nations. This is a crucial moment in the development of the entire biblical storyline

SEE EXODUS 19:1-6

A

God calls Israel to become a “kingdom of priests” who will mediate between God and all the nations:



B

This is a development of the promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. God will bring his blessing to all nations through Israel’s covenant obedience and priestly role.

C

Israel’s obedience to the terms of the covenant\* is crucial to the plan of God’s presence and character becoming accessible to the nations.

EXODUS 19:6 “IF YOU OBEY ME FULLY AND KEEP MY COVENANT”

2

God begins to give Israel the Torah, which makes clear the terms of the covenant which Israel is expected to keep

EXODUS 20-23

## תורה (torah) Instruction, teaching

It begins with the Ten Commandments...

EXODUS 20:1-17

...and is followed by a block of laws that will shape Israel's social, economic, and worship life together.

EXODUS 21-23

Living by these laws will make Israel a nation of justice and generosity that reflects God's own character.

SEE DEUTERONOMY 4:5-8 FOR AN EXPLANATION OF HOW ISRAEL'S OBEDIENCE IS RELATED TO THEIR MISSION TO THE NATIONS.



# 3

Israel agrees to the terms of the covenant, and so God promises to take up personal residence among his people in the tabernacle

EXODUS 24-31

A

Moses sacrifices animals that represent the “blood of the covenant” and the people agree to obey God as his covenant people.

EXODUS 24:4-8

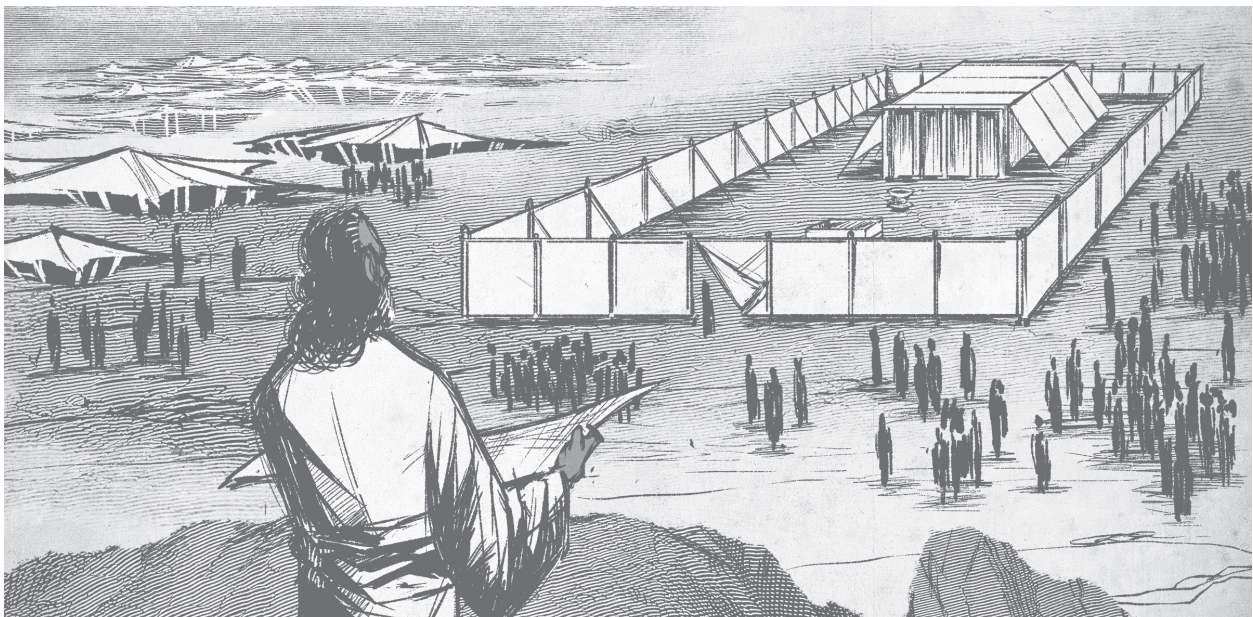
B

The tabernacle is the place where Yahweh will be present with his people and meet with them.

EXODUS 25:8; 25:22,  
29:42-46

C

The design and imagery of the tabernacle is meant to recall the garden of Eden, where God dwelt with humanity in perfect relationship: compare Eden in Genesis 2:8-14 with the tabernacle descriptions in Exodus 25-31



# 4

Israel immediately rebels and disobeys the first two laws of the covenant as they make and worship the golden calf.

EXODUS 32-34

A

The people of Israel forget God's redemption and offer their allegiance to an idol, and even compel their future high priest to make it.

EXODUS 32

B

God is angry and wants to abandon the covenant at first, but invites Moses to intercede on behalf of the people, which he successfully does.

EXODUS 32:11-14

C

God still brings severe justice on the idolaters, but does not abandon his partnership with the people as a whole because of his promises to Abraham.

EXODUS 32:25-29, 32:13

D

God ultimately forgives Israel and commits to guiding them into the promised land.

EXODUS 33-34



5

Moses oversees the construction of the tabernacle and sets everything up, only to face a final obstacle.

*EXODUS 35-40*

**A**

Moses has the tabernacle built “according to a plan” shown him by God.

*EXODUS 25:9, 40*

**B**

He employs a crew of divinely-inspired artisans to construct the tent and all its materials.

*EXODUS 31:1-11*

**PROBLEM**

At the end of the book, God’s presence comes to inhabit the tent, but Moses cannot enter the tabernacle.

*EXODUS 40:34-35*

This odd conclusion is highlighting that the covenant relationship is compromised in some way: How are Moses and the people going to be able to dwell in the presence of a holy God?

*HINT: KEEP READING INTO LEVITICUS*

**DISCUSSION  
QUESTIONS**

1

Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Exodus 19:16 closely. How are the themes of these two passages similar? What is God's ultimate goal in choose one person/group out of the many? How is Israel's obedience to the Torah part of God's purpose for reaching the nations?

*GENESIS 8-9*

2

Read the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17

*GENESIS 15*

3

Skim through the commands of the covenant in Exodus 20-23 and notice how much focus is dedicated to issues surrounding justice in family, business, and community relationships. What character traits of God are reflected in these laws? \*\*Note: some laws assume an ancient cultural context and may seem bizarre to you, but they made perfect sense at that time.

*EXODUS 20-23*

4

In the Golden Calf story what are the key factors that lead the people into idolatry? In Moses' intercessory prayer, what reasons does he offer as to why God should not abandon the covenant? How does the rest of the story present a balance between God's mercy and his justice?

5

In Exodus 34:6-7 God presents to Moses a description of his character that is the most re-quoted line in the rest of the Old Testament (see it repeated in Psalms 103:8; 145:8; Jeremiah 32:18-19; Nehemiah 9:17; Daniel 9:4). How are these character traits demonstrated in God's actions in the Exodus, Sinai, and golden calf stories?

*EXODUS 34:6-7*

6

Notice how abrupt the book concludes after Moses unable to enter the tent. Notice also that the next book of Leviticus begins with God speaking to Moses "from the tent" (Leviticus 1:1). Why is this unexpected? How is it connected to the golden calf story? What can be done about it?

*EXODUS 40:34-35*

