



Exodus

Genesis 47:19 *“Why should we perish before your eyes—we and our land as well? Buy us and our land in exchange for food, and we with our land will be in bondage to Pharaoh. Give us seed so that we may live and not die, and that the land may not become desolate.”*

This is a study on the Book of Exodus. Why did I start with a quote from Genesis? It all starts here. Is the exodus of the Israelites about leaving Egypt or is it about slowly leaving God? The verse above has the people selling themselves for food. I had mentioned last week that Genesis has several people giving up their rights for worldly things. This book of Exodus is about a people slowly giving away their trust in God. They saw great plagues and massive pillars of smoke and fire. The Red Sea will split, yet time after time the people grumbled. I feel this book is a spiritual tug-o-war between God stepping up his love and His children’s yearning to live in the worldly wasteland.

Narrative

It’s interesting that Moses noticed the bondage of his people. How did he know that he was Hebrew? Moses was raised in the house of Pharaoh. Secondly, God too, noticed the groaning of His children the Hebrews. Egypt notices the groaning of the Hebrews as well and begin to push them harder. The stage is now set. Did you also notice that there was silence from God for over 400 years prior to this book? The New Testament also opens with a silence of about 400 years. Is

God silently waiting until He's had enough or is it that we've had enough? What causes God to break His silence?

Exodus then continues with an exchange of events that mirror the gods of Egypt. Exodus is all about which God is the real God. Is it the Hebrew, Egyptian, or the Golden calf God? The groaning Hebrews are eventually rescued by the one God. They see miracle after miracle as they witness the 10 plagues and crossing the Red Sea. On the other side is the desert place. A place that many of us find ourselves in. God loves to lead us into the desert. Just ask Jesus, John the Baptist, and the Hebrews. There, in the desert, we encounter the Hebrews giving a series of murmurings against God. Within all this is a series of miracles that God provides. Finally, God lays down the law (so to speak) with the introduction of the Ten Commandments. The rules and relationship between God and His people are established.

It's time! Since Adam and Eve there has been only one command. Now there are ten more, why? I suspect that the Egyptian lifestyle and culture was imbedded within these former slaves of 400 years. The rest of this book is a series of instructions on how to live within God's kingdom. God's word is established and His church is created by the introduction of the Tent of Meeting. Finally, we get a clear view of sin and sacrifice. The crucifixion of Jesus is set right here in Exodus with the command to require a sacrifice for sin.

Intent

I am sure there are hundreds of books describing one hundred different intents of this book of Exodus. For me, it's about the desert. These people sell themselves during a severe famine. It's time in the desert. Then they are slaves to the desert people for over 400 years. Finally, God leads them into and through the desert to this promised land. If you play any sim game you know

that building an empire takes time and planning. God purposely leads these people against an impassable Sea. Then he saves them. Then God leads them into a vast desert with plans to save them. The structure of the priests, tribes and laws were made distinctly to give them Godly order. They were to not be like the Egyptians. God was creating a people called to be His own in the desert. Finally, we can see an over arching story-line of “slavery to freedom; death to life; and from the wilderness to a land flowing with milk and honey.” It’s all the things Jesus promises us through His death and resurrection.

Characters

The main characters of Exodus are another Pharaoh, Moses, and Arron. Mixed in this group are the Israelites (Hebrews). God, of course plays a major role in this part of the Bible journey.

Who wrote this book?

Again, it appears that by tradition Moses wrote it. It makes more sense that it’s Moses because he is central in the story.

Famous verses

1. Ex 3:14 “I am who I am.”
2. Ex 20 “The Ten Commandments.”

Controversies, issues, and Questions

There are several controversies here in this book. The locations of the Red Sea might be the Sea of Reeds. Where exactly was this sea? The same can be said of the location of Mt Sinai. Which Pharaoh is in the Joseph story and in the Moses Story? Where is the Ark today? Some of these

laws are controversial by today's standards. This includes the sacrificing of animals for sin. It's interesting that neither Aaron or Moses is in the line of Jesus. What exactly is manna?

Connections

Killing of baby sons (Matthew 2:16, Exodus 1:16); Laws (Matthew 5-7, Exodus 20); Manna

Bread (John 6:30-35, Exodus 16); I am (John 8:58, Exodus 3:14)