

## Introduction to Exodus

- I. Since we are beginning our new quarter of Bible studies this week, it seemed to me that an introductory lesson in the book would be fruitful in fostering our Bible class discussions.
- II. Our lesson tonight will briefly outline the history of the Exodus of the Jews, some major themes about the Exodus, and a few ways that the book of Exodus is implemented in the New Testament.
  - a. It is perhaps the central book of the Old Testament, springing from the Book of Genesis into a detailed account of the birth of God's chosen nation of Israel, fulfilling the first part of God's covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12.

### Discussion:

- I. History
  - a. Scholars argue about the date of the Exodus, but the Bible places it for us, for the most part.
    - i. I Kings 6:1 – Solomon begins to build the temple in the 480<sup>th</sup> year after the Israelites went out from Egypt.
      1. History has pegged Solomon's reign as beginning about 970 B.C., so his fourth year would begin around 967 B.C.
      2.  $967 + 480 = 1447$  B.C.
    - ii. The only reason to doubt the timeframe of the Exodus would be if you doubted the inspiration of the Bible, which cannot be wrong!
  - b. This is important, because there 430 years between Jacob's family entering Egypt and Moses leading Israel out of it. During Joseph's tenure as a distributor of food for Pharaoh, the country of Egypt began to expand to an empire.
    - i. In the time period between 1991 and 1803 B.C., the most successful dynasty (according to later Egyptian dynasties) was in power, and it was during this time that Egypt began TRADING WITH SURROUNDING NATIONS and GAINED POWER OVER THESE NATIONS!
      1. Much like Genesis 47:20 says!
- II. Major Themes
  - a. God's Providence – Moses' birth, being spared in the ark, "ending up" with Pharaoh's daughter, and being educated in Egypt's ways, customs, and knowledge (2:1-10).
  - b. God's Promises – God had promised Abraham that he would be with his descendents and that they would be in a strange land for 400 years, and that God would rescue them (Genesis 15:13-14, cf. Exodus 11:1-3 and 12:40).
  - c. God's Purchase – The Kingdom is born at the Red Sea when they pass through the sea and follow the cloud (Exodus 14:15-31).
  - d. God's Covenant – The 10 Commandments, the Book of the Covenant, Agreements on the clothing worn by priests, the Ark of the Covenant, the Tabernacle (Exodus 20:1-17; 20:22-23:33; 25:1-28:43).
- III. New Testament Applications
  - a. God's Providence –
    - i. Moses was God's lawgiver, and Jesus is ours (3:2-6).

- ii. Moses was spared at birth from a mass slaying of infants, as Jesus was (Mt. 2).
- b. God's Promises –
  - i. The New Testament is the REST of God's promise to Abraham being fulfilled (Gen. 12:1-2; cf. Galatians 3).
  - ii. Hebrews compares our lives to the wandering of the Israelites in the wilderness. We, like they, are waiting for our Promised Land.
- c. God's Purchase –
  - i. Our kingdom is born (one person at a time) by water, as Israel was (I Corinthians 10:1-5).
  - ii. They were "baptized" in water (the Red Sea) and the Spirit (which went before them as a fire and cloud).
  - iii. They had a spiritual meal (manna and the water from Meribah), the manna being the bread from heaven (cf. John 6) and the water flowing from the Rock, which is Christ
    - 1. This water is his blood.
- d. God's Covenant –
  - i. We were never required to keep the Law, including the Ten Commandments. However, we have been given a new law that applies "To the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 3:21-22).
    - 1. This new covenant was also sanctified by blood (Mt. 26:28 – As was the Book of the Covenant in Exodus 24:7-8).
  - ii. As for the fittings and the tabernacle, they have been internalized!
    - 1. The Tabernacle (Where God meets with his people) is now the body of Christ (I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19).
    - 2. The altar of sacrifice is now the mouth (Hebrews 13:15).
      - a. The sacrifice itself is the body (Romans 12:1).
    - 3. The instruments of worship that once were used are now the heart (Ephesians 5:19).
    - 4. The ark of the covenant was to be the footstool of God on earth, and it was where God would meet with his people Israel (25:22) and where Moses kept the Law that was written with the finger of God (25:16).
      - a. Jeremiah 31:31-33 – The new law is written in our hearts!
  - iii. The important thing to remember about the Law of Moses is this:
    - 1. It was basically a foster parent to take care of Israel until God could adopt us as his own children (Galatians 3:23-26)
      - a. Only three times does the Old Testament refer to God as a father. One of those is in reference to his care for the fatherless. One is a prophecy about Jesus being God's son, and the other is referring to God as our Father by way of creation.
        - i. However, only in the New Testament can we find the boldness to call God "Abba."
        - ii. Galatians 4:1-7; cf. 3:26-29
        - iii. Is he your father?