

Bible Study Course

Exodus

Introduction

The Hebrew title is “these are the names of”, taken from the opening phrase of the book in Hebrew. “Exodus” comes from the Greek and means “departure” or “going out” – the same word as is used in Luke 9: 3, 2 Peter 1:15

In Genesis, all God’s workings were towards a people. Now from the beginning of Exodus we have a people. Note carefully the opening verse of Exodus 1. “These are the names... who came into Egypt” v1”...seventy souls” v5, “and the children of Israel were fruitful...multiplied... and the land was filled with them” v7. The Exodus was the departure from Egypt of this divinely redeemed and constituted people. It is interesting to note that the book ends with a description of “The Glory of the Lord” in relation to this people, the first time in the Bible that we find the Glory of God touching the Earth.

Authorship and Date

Exodus is the work of Moses - compare Exodus 17:14, 24:4, 34:27. He, at any rate, appears to have been the human instrument. In fact the history of Israel as a nation really begins with Moses. In later years, Israel looked back on the deliverance from Egypt, and the covenant at Sinai, as the basic events of the national history, and Moses as the supreme architect, humanly speaking, of the nation.

The book was written in the wilderness period about 1400BC and covers a duration of 81 years. Exodus 1 – 12 = 80 years; Exodus 12 - 40 = 1 year

Key to the Book

The key is a threefold one – Redemption, the Word of God and the House of God, and these three matters can never be divorced. The former two are the means and the latter is the end. Wherever we turn in this book we find this threefold theme. At the beginning we find a people delivered and born, who are to live by the Word of God. At the end we find the Tabernacle, which represents the desire of God for His redeemed People. This should be a means of great instruction to us, for our redemption is the means by which God saves and delivers us, and His Word is the means by which He forms and sustains us, both with the goal that we might become His dwelling place. Do we, in fact, ever find in the Bible redemption without the House of God in view?

Outline of the Book

In this book, we have three main events recorded. We have the redemption and deliverance of Israel (Passover and Exodus); the constitution of Israel at Sinai as the elect nation, through whom “the seed of the woman” (Gen 3:5) should ultimately come - the revelation of His eternal Purpose (the tabernacle representing the dwelling place of God)

<u>The deliverance from Egypt</u> (A people delivered)	1 - 4 The Preparation of Moses 5 - 12 The Judgment of Egypt & the Passover 13 - 15 The Exodus
<u>The covenant at Mt. Sinai</u> (A people in Covenant Relationship with God)	16 - 19 The journey to Mt Sinai 20 - 23 The giving of the Law 24 The ratification of the Covenant with blood
The House of God revealed and Built (A people built together as God’s dwelling place)	25 - 31 The pattern given 32 The failure of the people & faithfulness of the tribe of Levi 33 - 34 The renewal of the Covenant 35 - 40 The building of the House and the manifestation of the Glory of God.

Message of the Book

The message is that God has redeemed us with a tremendous goal in view. Nothing short of it can satisfy God, or inherit His glory.

In Exodus 6:6 – 8 God promises: “I will bring you out... I will bring you in”; out of the house of bondage into the House of God; out of the land of Egypt into the land of promise – out of self and into Christ.

Thus we see in Exodus:

1. The revelation of God’s redeeming Name - Jehovah – Exodus 3
2. The realisation and basis of our redemption- Exodus 5 – 24 – the judgment of Egypt, the Passover, the Exodus – a people redeemed and delivered.
3. A fulfilled law – perfect righteousness, found only in Christ.
4. The end of our redemption – Exodus 25 – 40. The House of God and the Promised Land

Summary of Contents

- I. The deliverance from Egypt 1:1 – 15:21
 1. The condition of the Israelites 1 – 2
 - a) Slaves of Pharaoh (xviii Dynasty, Thothmes I) 1
 - b) The cry for deliverance. 2
 2. The preparation of the deliverer Moses (meaning “Drawn Out”) 2 – 4
 - a) The natural preparation (40 years) 2:1 – 15
 - b) The spiritual preparation (40 years) 2:16 – 22
 - c) Revelation of Yahweh, and commission 3 – 4
 3. The conflict with Egypt 5 – 13
 - a) The command and promise of Yahweh 5:1 – 7:7
 - b) The power of Yahweh - Ten plagues 7:8 – 12:36
 - c) The provision of Yahweh – the Passover Lamb 12:37 – 13
 4. The victory over Egypt 14 – 15:21
 - a) The crossing of the Red Sea 14
 - b) Song of deliverance, led by Miriam 15:1 – 21
- II. The covenant at Sinai 15:22 – 24:18
 1. In the Wilderness of Shur 15:22 – 24
 - a) Marah – bitter water 15:22 – 27
 - b) Elim – twelve springs and seventy palm trees 15:27
 2. In the Wilderness of Sin 16:1 – 12
 - a) Murmuring – no bread 16: 1 -12
 - b) Quails and Manna 16: 13 – 36
 3. Rephidim 17 – 18
 - a) Murmuring – no water – the smitten rock 17:1 – 7
 - b) Amalek – victory of Joshua 17: 8 – 16
 - c) The visit of Jethro 18
 4. In the Wilderness of Sinai 19 – 24
 - a) The Covenant 19
 - b) The Ten Commandments 20
 - c) The Book of the Covenant 21 – 23
 - d) The Ratification of the Covenant 24 (Hebrew 9:18 – 20)
- III. The House of God revealed and built 25:1 – 40
 1. “Let them make Me a sanctuary” (25:8) 25 – 27
 - a) The furniture, the hangings, and the boards of the Tabernacle 25 – 26
 - b) The outer court 27
 2. Priesthood – the high priest and priests 28 – 30
 - a) Their garments 28
 - b) Their consecration – “That they minister unto Me” 29
 - c) Their ministry – of intercession – Altar of incense 30
 - d) Their ministry of life and holiness – laver
 3. Workmen – chosen and equipped 31
 4. The Failure of the People 32 – 34
 - a) Golden calf; “Who is on the Lord’s side?” – the tribe of Levi 32

- b) Moses' intercession on the mount 33 – 34
- 5. The Tabernacle "According to the Pattern" (25:40) 35 – 40
 - a) The hangings, boards, furniture and outer court 35 – 38
 - b) The priests' garments 39
- 6. "The glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle" 40

Recommended books

The Exodus and the Wanderings in the Wilderness (Bible History Vol. 2)

A. Edersheim

Notes on Exodus

C.H. McIntosh

An outline of Exodus

C.A. Coates

Christ in the Tabernacle

A.B. Simson

God's Dwelling Place

Bakht Singh

Halford House Tapes

CBS 3/1 – Exodus: Introduction, authorship & date, key, outline, messages

Questions

1. What are the key words in the book of Exodus?
2. Why are they three fold?
3. What New Testament Gospel does Exodus correlate with and why?
4. Draw a timeline of the journeying of the Israelites? Is there any significance in the places the Lord stops them?
5. What is the significance of each of the Ten Commandments in the light of Christ?
6. Explain the significance of the altar and the laver?
7. What do the fabrics and their colours used in the priestly garments signify?
8. Choose two other servants of God in Scripture who had natural preparation followed by spiritual preparation. What can we learn in comparing these men to Moses?
9. What do you learn about God from the following passages: -
 - a) Exodus 5:3, 6:2-4
 - b) Exodus 15:22-27
 - c) Exodus 25:8
 - d) Exodus 25:40
10. Using the Book of Exodus sum up God's eternal purpose?