

# Exodus Bible Study

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## The Exodus of Moses

### Part 1

**Genesis** means – “Beginning”

In Genesis God is revealing something to man

He reveals origins: Man, sin, the earth

This book is centered on a family

**Exodus** means – “Exit” “Departure” The way out

The title of the book of Exodus comes from the Hebrew translation (Septuagint)

It is taken from the first five words of the book “These are the names of”

Exodus is the book of redemption

God is redeeming something in Exodus

He is redeeming Israel

This book is centered in a nation

Exodus can be broken down into 3 basic sections

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1) Ch 1:-12:36

Israel reviled

Israel is under the bondage of the land

2) Ch:12:37-18:27

Israel redeemed

Israel is redeemed by the blood of the lamb

3) Ch19:-40:38

Israel regulated

Israel is regulated by the law

## A short history lesson

Exodus 1:1-12:36

Why was Joseph so honored by pharaoh?

Egyptians normally hated shepherds

Psalms 105:1-38

Pharaoh – Comes from the Egyptian word pr-o, which means “The great house”

Originally this word was not a designation for a King of Egypt but was a

reference to his palace. The ancient Egyptians believed that pharaoh was the living representation of their god Horus, which was identified with the cult of the sun god and symbolized by the falcon. The plagues against the Egyptians, prior to the exodus, were spiritual warfare between the Living God and the false gods of Egypt

Some scholars believe that the Hyksos reign of pharaohs began before Joseph came to Egypt. Some believe it came after Joseph and his brothers died

Others believe that the new king of Ex 1:8 was one of the Hyksos kings who descended

from foreign invaders (ethnically they were a minority in Egypt) This king would have seen the Hebrew people as a challenge to the control over Egypt. The new King probably did not reign immediately after the death of the pharaoh in Joseph's day

1876 B.C. – The XIII Dynasty

Jacob and his family settle in Egypt

1730-1570 B.C. – The Hyksos Period

The new king who did not know Joseph, enslaved the Israelites

1539-1447 B.C. – XVIII Dynasty

1526 or 1527 B.C.

Moses is born

There is a turnover in dynasties

1539-1514 or 1512 B.C. – Thutmose I

1514-1501 B.C. – Thutmose II

1501-1486 B.C. – Thutmose III

Although some believe he didn't actually start reigning until 1482

He was the pharaoh while Moses was being educated in the courts

Here is where some scholars differ:

1504-1482 B.C. – Queen Hatshepsut

She is believed to be the foster mother of Moses

She was the daughter of Thutmose I

Thutmose II did not reign very long and Thutmose III was very young when he came to power

So some scholars believe that Queen Hatshepsut designed a way for her to co-reign with Thutmose III because of his age

She made sure Moses had the best education and the best of everything

Over time Thutmose III grew to hate Hatshepsut and in the process, he also began to hate Moses

## God's gracious care

Exodus 1-2

Thutmose I decided that to control all the Hebrew people they would have to kill all the male children that were born during that time

Hatshepsut set aside her father's edict

We must remember that regardless of what our situation looks like or how we feel

God is in control – He loves us – we can be assured of it

Even then, during this time, if you were to ask a Hebrew person the question.

“Does God love you?”

They would know that He did even if it would have not felt like it

Times are hard in Ch 1-2

The Hebrew people didn't have anything at all, plus the edict of the time

was that all their male children were to be killed at birth. Imagine what they were feeling.

Placed into slavery, living in a foreign place, and now their children are being murdered.

How would I feel? Would I be able to have faith?

We must have faith. We must trust in God when these times come, even though I am sure that it felt otherwise, God was watching over them.

I wonder if they had heard from God. Did He speak to them?

Why does God allow things to happen to us?

We often become confused when things happen to us. When problems come into our lives

God is sovereign. He has decreed that we have freedom of will

He is also working in ways we don't know or see while all this is happening.

It must have seemed like He was so far away from His people. It must have felt like He had left them there. How could He be watching over them.

Yet, all the while He is working to prepare the scene for the redemption of His people

God's gracious care and man's diversity

He has ordained that all The nations will do His will

Daniel 4:17

He puts together the little things, the things we don't notice. He puts them together and does wonders with them

There are times when our worlds are neatly regulated and we sometimes become comfortable in our walk.

Then everything falls apart

The problems come

The questions arise

We are affected by the same things that the Israelites were

Moses lived

But there were many male babies who didn't

What can we say to the ones who lost their babies

We must have faith that whatever happens, regardless of the circumstances

God is always in control and He always has our best in mind

### God's gracious care and the believer's security

God is silently working for the redemption of Israel

He gives us promises in His word

He is over our adversity and our adversary

He is in total control and He knows what is best for us

Moses' mother (Jachobed) hid him for 3 months but she soon found it impossible

So she places him in a small basket and puts him in the Nile in the hopes that someone would find him and save him

She sent his sister Miriam to see what would happen to him

Now in comes the daughter of pharaoh (Hatshepsut)

She is one of the only people in Egypt who could save the baby. She sees the small baby and she has compassion for him. She was not prepared to care for the Hebrew child so who better to care for it than a Hebrew woman

Miriam volunteers to find her someone to care for the baby so she promptly goes back to her mother. Not only did God protect the child from death in the river He also provided wages for Moses mother to take care of her own son through the pharaoh's treasury

The redemption of the people of Israel was set forth

We must remember to respond in faith, regardless of the circumstances

He will take the bad and make it good

**Here was a basket that saved a baby**

**Here was a bath that saved a leader**

**Here was a baby that saved a nation**

Moses was born in the midst of a troubled time. Now he was going back to his mother to be nursed until his time came to be presented to the courts of his foster mother

Hatshepsut named him Moses

Moses – Probably related to the Egyptian word meaning “born”

“Because I drew him out of the water”

In Hebrew “He Who draws out”

Doing a right thing in a wrong way

Exodus 2:11-15

1486 B.C.

Moses is 40 years old

Thutmose III is on the throne

Acts 7:20-22

The years of Moses experience in the pharaoh’s court are not detailed. Yet Stephen reports a long held and surely accurate tradition that Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and deed. The training he received would have been the best at that time. He would have learned 3 languages:

Egyptian, Akkadian, and Hebrew

Moses has now come to a place where he must make a decision in his life

What brought him to this particular point?

The point that produced a crisis experience in his life

The training of his parents

Miriam had followed the baby and she volunteered to take him to someone who would nurse the baby for Hatshepsut. So she took him back to their mother. He must have been trained in the ways of the Hebrew people in those first few years

His mother would have taught him about God, about their heritage, and his people

Now Jacobed has come to a place where she must release her son again. She had already released him to God when he was 3 months and now she has come to the point where she is releasing him to the Lord again

The tension of his profession

Acts 7:20-22

Moses foster mother had arranged for him to have the best education you could dream of having at the time because she co reigned with the young Thutmose III

As Thutmose III grew, his hatred grew for Hatshepsut

He probably had as much or more hatred for Moses. Moses was caught in the middle

Everything he knew was in Egypt

Everything also came from his Egyptian mother

He knew that one day she would be out of the picture and that Thutmose would try to erase her from existence. He knew Thutmose would come after him

The treatment of his people

He saw how his people were being treated

He would probably only remember his training in the royal court of Egypt. But in his heart at the same time he came to realize that he was truly a Hebrew

This tension finally came to a climax when he killed the Egyptian

His spiritual decision

Hebrew 11:24-28

God is at work in the life of Moses

He had lived a life of wealth and privilege but he chose to identify with his people. The decisions we make are not ones that begin in one minute. These things happen over time by the gentle nudging of God. Now the time had come where Moses realizes he is a Hebrew. He also realized that something had to be done for things to get better

There are 2 focal points in the spiritual decision he is called upon to make:

He wanted to honor his God

He lived in the midst of a pagan culture. He was searching, struggling with the same things we experience. He had made a decision that God was going to be first in his life

God would no longer be in competition with his mother or his education

Have we reached this point?

He wanted to help his people

Hebrew 11:24-27

By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king. He had already decided to leave before (Exodus 2:11) where he fled from pharaoh. It had been a growing conviction in the heart

of Moses that he was going to put God first. The only reason he was alive was because of the protection of God and he knew it

He had already left Egypt in his heart. Now he had come to a place where he had left all that he knew and he was now going against all he had been taught

People would judge. No one would understand. He did not fear what was going to happen to him because he wanted to honor his God

Many times we think we can do no wrong when we speak these words.

Moses thought the same way. He thought that God would direct every step all the time

That God would be in every moment and he would not have to choose

What went wrong with Moses?

Acts 7:25

Moses thought that God would deliver the Israelites by his hand. We all want to have the right motives. So often we try to do the right things but in the end we go about it the wrong way

There are 4 problem areas Moses had in making the wrong decisions

Was he arrogant?

Acts 7:25

Moses could have had a Messiah complex when he went down to Goshen

He knew that God would deliver his people by his hand but actually God would deliver them by His hand

Do we have arrogance in our lives?

It has to be my way or no way at all with no care for the feelings of others

Do we think this way?

Was he anxious?

Hasty, compulsive

Our problems come, most of the time when we make rash impulsive decisions and we don't think about the consequences

Was he afraid?

Exodus 2:12

He looked around

Why?

Was his cause not just?

If we have to do something in the dark, in secret and we can't do it in the light, then something is wrong

Was he angry?

He killed the man and hid him in the sand

He was overcome with anger

Numbers 20:1-12

Exodus 2:12

Moses had somewhat of a temper

Exodus Part 2 – The Exodus of Moses

**The Exodus of Moses**

**Part 2**

**The school of discipline**

Exodus 2:14

From Memphis to Median

**Memphis** - The court of the King of Egypt

Moses thought everything was finished but God had not even begun to work in his life. He had not been aligned with God's time when he killed the Egyptian. He had to wait for God's time, the right time.

**God had to tuck him away in the desert to learn because there are some things we can only learn from experience**

**The ways of the desert**

Moses is 40 years old

God has to train him in the ways of the desert so that he will be able to eventually take care of the Israelites as they travel during their long period of wandering

**The work of the shepherd**

He had to learn to lead. He had to learn to have a shepherd's heart

**God had to do something with Moses's heart and it was going to take time**

God is teaching Moses to be patient. Scripture does not say whether or not he heard from God for 40 years

**Do we feel that way?**

We all have hurts and sometimes it feels like God is nowhere to be seen but we must make sure that He is where He needs to be in our hearts. Moses may not have heard from him or felt his presence in His life but we know that He was at work and that He never left Moses side

**Moses spent 40 years thinking he was somebody**

40 years in the palace of pharaoh

**Moses turns 40 and realizes he had been living a life of luxury**

while his people had been abused

**Moses spent 40 years finding out he was a nobody**

40 years in the desert

Acts 7:30-36

**Moses spent 40 years finding out what God could do with nobody**

40 years carrying out God's will to deliver His people

Acts 7:37-43

**We must be careful to do God's work in God's way in God's time for God's purpose and reason**

Exodus 2:15-3:1

After Moses had cut all ties to Egypt, his world began to spiral wildly out of control

(v23) 1447 B.C. – Thutmose III is dead

He is succeeded by Amenhotep II (1447-1421 B.C.)

As the borders of Egypt faded into his history and now Moses faced the barren wilderness. **How unprepared he must have been. How unimportant he must have felt. He must have felt like a failure .**

Moses had just made an important decision in his life. He had already severed ties to his old life and decided to follow his God and deliver his people **but they rejected him**

Now his world had fallen apart

Hebrew 11:25

He had done all this through faith. He had the right intentions but he carried them out the wrong way

He had trusted God

**Now his world has come down around him.** It seemed that everything after that was a wrong decision

**His destiny was slowly going to change**

He had been trained in Egypt and everything he knew was in Egypt but now he finds himself facing a bleak future that seems to have no end. No real rhyme or reason

**What would we do?**

Would we say “God where are you?”

Where are you in all this?

I put my faith, my whole trust in You. Now look where I am

He had expected that God would deliver the Israelites by his hand and that is what he was prepared to do, or so he thought. Sometimes we have a faulty view of God’s will. God could have delivered the Israelites then and there if He wanted to but the children of Israel would have died quickly in the wilderness without someone who knew the desert

**All Moses knew was privilege** but Moses can do now is commit every day to God

He doesn’t realize it but he has entered God’s school of discipline

**What are some of our reactions to God’s school of discipline?**

We never like it, but it is always for our good. He allows us to experience things so we will be prepared for the future

Philippians 1:3-7

God wants to make us His way – perfect – like Christ **and He uses His school of discipline to nudge us toward His perfection** but it takes His time and it goes His way.

The only thing we can do is control our reaction to our circumstances

**We either become bitter or better**

For 40 years – scripture does not say whether Moses heard anything from God. From this time till the burning bush

**But God was still there**

He never left Moses' side

### **What can we learn from Moses first 40 years?**

There are 4 different descriptions in this passage that explain how God is there for Moses. In each episode God is ministering to Moses in a wonderful way but in such a way that Moses as well as ourselves sometimes don't see

Remember: The will of God involves 1,001 little decisions

#### By a well

Exodus 2:15

Moses and his failure

He has just trekked across the desert and now he has come to a well. We come to a two fold view of Moses here

#### **A) A sense of failure**

**It is difficult to think good of oneself when we feel we are a failure.** Moses had been willing to follow and trust God and now he was in the middle of the desert

Did I make the right decision in serving God?

He has now found himself totally stripped of everything he knew. All that made him feel safe and secure. How could one single act of anger hurt him and change the rest of his life?

Why are You picking on me God?

Others do much much more and You don't seem to be punishing them

Why are You chastising me so much?

Ever asked any of these questions?

I have

#### **B) A sense of fatigue**

He is tired and when we become tired we seldom make good decisions

#### **Elijah -**

1 Kings 17

He had stood in triumph over the 450 prophets of Baal. God had listened to his prayers and sent fire down from heaven to consume the alter he had made from Elijah's word. His trust in God had paid off. He was riding high until he gets home and finds out Jezebel wants to kill him so he flees for his life. He tells God "I quit, I've had it" when he realizes that the people were not going to change from their evil ways. He wanted to die

What Moses doesn't realize is that He is by this well through God's divine appointment

#### In a tent

Exodus 2:21

#### **Moses and his family**

God has brought a new horizon into the life of Moses. He is surrounded by new people and he has now become something he never thought he would have become. **A shepherd.** He has a new home and he is now surrounded by people who love and accept him. He is settling into a normal life

The most bitter experience for Moses had to be the rejection of his people. **He must have been deeply hurt**

When we get hurt, as Christians, we either change churches or we leave church all together and take ourselves away from the fellowship we need but If we could all see through the eyes of Jesus we would not have so many problems with others

### **In the desert**

Exodus 3:1

#### **Moses and his flock**

He has now become what he despised. The Egyptians hated shepherds. God was preparing Moses to understand the ways of the desert. Something he never could have learned in Egypt and little by little He is preparing and teaching Moses

Moses was learning new principles as well as leaving the past behind

### **At the mountain**

Exodus 3:1

#### **Moses and his future**

God has a mountain for all of us. A plan of divine appointment and here is where God brings Moses full circle

Remember: God has our whole being. Everything, what we own, us in totality, He has our future in His hands

Job 1:6-12, 42:12-17

God has been taking care of Moses even when he didn't see it or feel it. I heard someone say that when we don't feel that God is there, when we don't feel Him working in our lives, it is because He is right beside us working **ON us.**

If we receive a failing grade in the test that God is putting us through or if we don't learn from it then we have to go through it again until it reaches home to us

All the while God is loving and leading Moses as He learns in the desert all those years He has gone through God's school of discipline

And now he is slowly aligning himself to God's time

#### **In God's school of discipline**

Exodus Part 3 – The Exodus of Moses

## **The Exodus of Moses**

### **Part 3**

Acts 7:17-36

40 years have transpired from Moses' flight into the wilderness to where he is now

### **God is revealing Himself to Moses through the bush**

Exodus 3:1-4

Now Moses has come to the mountain of God

Deuteronomy 33:16

**Horeb** - another name for Mount Sinai

It means "desolate place" yet, because of the presence of God, it became holy

Usually the site is identified as Jebel el-musa, a mountain in the southern Sinai peninsula.

Moses had turned his back on Egypt to follow God. He had become a shepherd and settled into a normal life and the deliverance for his people had probably long since disappeared from his mind

Now he is 80 years old

We all come to those mountains in our lives where we see the work of God when we look back but we don't or can't see them while they are happening sometimes

God had heard His people's agony and now He is approaching Moses

God always deals with us personally when He approaches us

### **Where is Moses in his life?**

#### **He is alone**

We usually think we can in a way hide from God, either in a group at church or elsewhere. What we have to realize is that God is more interested in you or I instead of what we are doing. He is interested in a relationship and not a religion

For God so loved the world (me, you)

Ephesians 5:1-2

I am a part of the church

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ

Moses is alone in the backside of the desert but God is preparing to start things in progress

#### **A bush burning**

#### **A man learning**

#### **A people yearning**

There are 3 problems God must overcome in Moses life so he could do God's will. These are also things He must overcome in our lives In order for us to be who He wants us to be. In order to serve where He wants us to

### **Getting Moses interested**

#### **He must capture the interest of Moses**

The angel appeared in a flaming bush and Moses stopped to see it (Notice it says that God spoke only after Moses decided to look at the bush, a burning bush was an all too common thing in the desert but not one that was not consumed)

The difficulty here is that Moses had spent so much time in the desert (40 years) that he probably would have lost his enthusiasm for what he had started out to do

He had gone from a city dweller to a nomad who lived in tents and his burning desire for God could have dwindled

2 Timothy 1:6

We need to fan the fire

The biggest difficulty for God is to get us to see with our spiritual eyes because most of us are like the church in Rev 3:17-18 and we are blind to the things of God

#### **How does God get our interest?**

He begins by stirring the heart of one person and what an unlikely person it must seem to be. He had been out there for 40 years. He was old and probably forgotten his old life

#### **Giving Moses instruction**

So we can understand who God is

#### **Getting Moses involved**

To actually put our feet in motion and do His will for our lives

our business is to be available for God to work in our lives and not sweat the small stuff.

#### **Moses business**

Moses was now rearing a family and we all experience the same things in our lives

income

small children

He is busy, happy with his simple life, content and what God had to do was shake him from his busy life

#### **Moses bareness**

It had been a long time since he had heard from or spoken with God

He spent 40 years learning to be something

He spent 40 years learning he was nothing

He spent 40 years proving that God is everything

He must have had some bitter scars left from his first experience with the idea of deliverance for his people

**He chose such an unlike unlikely person**

He chose an 80 year old man

Jesus spent 30 years of His life on this earth before He began His ministry

**He chose such an unexpected place**

Moses did not expect to have a meeting with God in the desert

**We** are sometimes found on the backside of the desert in our lives

**In a most unusual process**

God used a burning bush to revealing Himself to Moses

Are we ablaze for God?

Can people see it?

God usually uses the ordinary things in life to awaken us to spiritual things

He speaks to us in many different ways

**For such an unforgettable purpose**

430 years had transpired from the time of Joseph until now (Genesis 15:13)

Exodus 12:41

**We usually wait until the last minute to call out to God for help**

God had heard the call of His people and now He was going to deliver them and He was going to use this man. Moses had been going through the training of God and like him we find that the training ground of God is lengthy and very obscure

We don't always see what God is doing until after we see the need that He has called us for and we never really know how each experience is being used by God for our training  
Acts 7:22

Moses was an extremely educated man. A man of power in speech and deeds

Acts 7:25

Moses thought the children of Israel would understand that he was to be their deliverer. He knew what God had called him to do but not when God called for it. God's calling may not be for the immediate. He had called Moses 40 years ago and he had thought that he was supposed to deliver his people right then and there

We should always remember that just because God has called us now does not mean that our character is ready

Now Moses is giving God reasons why he isn't the right man for the job

He is now offering excusesto God.

We sometimes give excuses in the same way because we don't think that we can do something or we really don't want to do it.

### **I'm not good enough**

Exodus 3:11

#### **Who am I?**

I'm a nobody

He must have been second guessing himself and his calling because he had not known failure in Egypt and now he thinks he can do nothing

#### **Is God powerful enough to use Moses (us)?**

Exodus 3:12

God's promise "I will be with you"

"If I send you – I will sustain you and help you"

He is telling Moses "You will have a successful ministry"

#### **We need to be careful how we measure success**

Success in God's terms is not the same as the worlds

Revelation 5:9-10

Always remember that if I want to know my value I don't look at my reflection or at my brother

Look at the cross!!!!

John 3:16

#### **I don't know enough**

Exodus 3:13

#### **Who are You?**

Here God unveils a very special name to Moses

"I AM that I AM"

Here we are introduced to His name – Jehovah – Yahweh – YHWH

When the people want to know who sent you tell them I AM sent you

I will direct your steps

I have filled your mouth with My words

When we speak of God we say "He is"

He is the only true God

"I AM" is an incomplete statement

I AM your sufficiency

I AM your strength

#### **I'm not confident enough**

Exodus 4:1

I am not confident enough

40 years before Moses had thought that he was ready to deliver his people

He was ready to be used by God but now he did not know if he was ready to fail again  
He is saying "I went to them and they rejected me!"

"Will they reject me again?"

Now he doesn't have confidence and he is afraid of failure

### **I'm not gifted enough**

Exodus 4:10

### **They won't believe me!**

God says "What do you have in your hand?"

The first 2 signs given to Moses came in response to his faulty faith

A) The rod

### **An indication of the presence of God**

God will not leave you if He has called you and he will not leave you empty handed

### **The rod became the authority of God to Moses**

He took the rod with him everywhere he went and through the rod God lets Moses know that He will be with him everywhere no matter what people said

B) The leprous hand

### **The power of God**

This was the same hand that had put down the rod

God is letting Moses know that He can change our circumstances no matter what the situation

C) Water to blood

### **The purpose of God**

His purpose was to bring judgment on Egypt and deliver His people

The blood of the firstborn (Egypt)

The blood of redemption (Israel)

I AM with you

My Presence will enable My power for you and I will bring My purpose to Israel

The serpent was a profound figure of worship in Egypt

The Nile River was a central point of Egypt

God is going to overthrow and overcome all of the difficulties of Israel  
and bring judgment to Egypt

### **I'm not interested enough**

Exodus 4:13

Exodus 5:22

The heat is on after Moses and Aaron had gone back to Egypt and now Pharaoh had put more pressure on Israel

Moses is saying “I told You so, God”

Notice that God did not speak to Moses until he turned aside to look at the bush

**How many burning bushes have we walked past or ignored?**

Because we are too worried with this world or our own problems

**What would have happened if Moses didn't stop to look?**

God spoke when He saw Moses take the effort