

2019 Through the Bible Reading: *Bible Study Support*

| The Book of Exodus | |
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| Background (Who, what, why, when) | <p>The title “Exodus” comes from the Septuagint, which derived it from the primary event found in the book, the deliverance from slavery and “exodus” or departure of the Israelite nation out of Egypt by the hand of Yahweh, the God of their forefathers.</p> <p>As with Genesis, early Jewish writings name Moses as the most likely and best qualified person to have authored Exodus. This theory is supported by a number of factors. Moses’ unique education in the royal courts of Egypt certainly provided him the opportunity and ability to pen these works (Acts 7:22). Internal evidence (material found within the text of Exodus) adds support for Moses’ authorship. Many conversations, events and geographical details could be known only by an eyewitness or participant. For example, the text reads: “Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said” (Exodus 24:4 NIV). Additionally, other Biblical books refer to “the law of Moses” (Joshua 1:7; 1 Kings 2:3), indicating that Exodus, which includes rules and regulations, was written by Moses. Jesus Himself introduced a quote from Exodus 20:12 and 21:17 with the words, “For Moses said” (Mark 7:10), confirming His own understanding of the book’s author.</p> |
| Interesting Facts in Exodus | <p>The book of Exodus is a record of the deliverance of Israel from Egypt and the development of a nation. God’s calling, and the people responding.</p> <p>Exodus begins in the Egyptian region called Goshen. The people then traveled out of Egypt and, it is traditionally believed, moved toward the southern end of the Sinai Peninsula. They camped at Mount Sinai, where Moses received God’s commandments.</p> <p>The book covers a period of approximately eighty years, from shortly before Moses’s birth (c. 1526 BC) to the events that occurred at Mount Sinai in 1446 BC.</p> |
| Reasonable Defense for Exodus | <p>Exodus relates more miracles than any other Old Testament book and contains the Ten Commandments. When the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt, God heard their cries and rescued them. We can be confident that God hears the cries of His people. Just as He delivered the Israelites from their captors, He delivers us from sin, death and evil.</p> |
| Memory Verse | <p>“And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.’” Exodus 3:14</p> |
| Practical Application to memory verse | <p>The overall theme of Exodus is redemption—how God delivered the Israelites and made them His special people. After He rescued them from slavery, God provided the Law, which gave instructions on how the people could be consecrated or made holy. He established a system of sacrifice, which guided them in appropriate worship behavior. Just as significantly, God provided detailed directions on the building of His tabernacle, or tent. He intended to live among the Israelites and manifest His <i>shekinah</i> glory (Exodus 40:34–35)—another proof that they were indeed His people.</p> |

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| | <p>The Mosaic Covenant, unveiled initially through the Decalogue (Ten Commandments), provides the foundation for the beliefs and practices of Judaism, from common eating practices to complex worship regulations. Through the Law, God says that all of life relates to God. Nothing is outside His jurisdiction.</p> |
| <p>Life Application from Biblical Themes in Exodus</p> | <p>Like the Israelites who left Egypt, all believers in Christ are redeemed and consecrated to God. Under the Mosaic Covenant, people annually sacrificed unblemished animals according to specific regulations in order to have their sins covered, or borne, by that animal. The author of the New Testament book of Hebrews tells us, “But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins” (Hebrews 10:3–4 NIV). Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross fulfilled the Law. As the perfect Lamb of God, He took away our sin permanently when He sacrificed Himself on our behalf. “We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (10:10 NIV).</p> <p>Have you accepted His sacrifice on your behalf? Are you truly “redeemed”? Jesus died in our place on the cross and was raised from the dead defeating death and sin. Do you believe this? God answered the Israelites prayer for deliverance from oppression and cruelty in slavery to Egypt. God delivers us from the slavery of sin. God rescued Israel through the leadership of Moses and through mighty miracles. God guided Israel out of Egypt and slavery through Moses brave, heroic courage, the parting of the Red Sea, and the Ten Commandments. God is a trustworthy Guide. His Word gives us the wisdom to make daily decision and to govern our lives.</p> |