

PREPARATION FOR LESSON: read *Exodus 1:1-2:15; chapters 3, 12, 14:8-31; 16:1-16; 17:1-7; 20:1-20; 25:1-9*

BACKGROUND

Author and Date: written by Moses during his lifetime c. 1400 – 1300 BC; it covers a period of 428 years.

chapter 1 reviews 71 years from Genesis and then a summary of 275 additional years in Egypt.

The reason for the last 75 years are explained in Ezekiel 20:6-8

chapters 2-40 cover another 82 years

Theme: exit or departure from Egypt

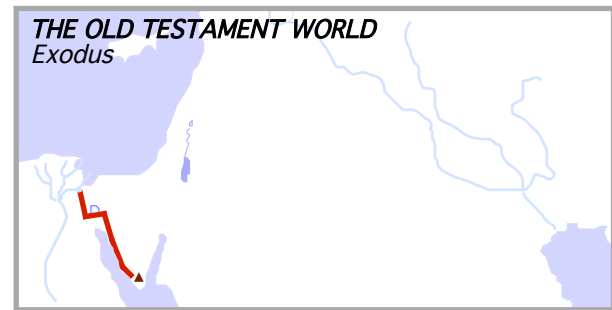
Purpose: to explain the beginning of the nation Israel and their freedom from Egypt

Main Personages: God, Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Pharaoh

OUTLINE

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| I. Israel in Egypt | 1 - 12 |
| II. Israel en route | 13-19 |
| III. Israel at Mt. Sinai | 20-40 |
| They receive national laws | 20-24 |
| They receive the tabernacle | 25-40 |

note: Mt. Horeb is a mountain range; Mt Sinai is 1 peak



DEFINITION

Faith in God is coming to God in God's way - the way He says

KEY IDEAS

God's Names

- ♦ **I AM** 3:14 God's name when He is talking about Himself
meaning: God is a person with personality; He does not depend on anyone or anything for His existence
- ♦ **I WILL BE** 3:14
meaning: *I will be to you and the people all that you will ever need Me to be*
- ♦ **HE IS** God's name when others are talking about Him
The Hebrew word for **HE IS** is **YHWH**
In our English Bibles, the name **YHWH** is translated *Yahweh, Jehovah, LORD*
When this name is used, it emphasizes God's relationship and salvation for His people

Moses' Life

- ♦ Raised by his parents until about 5 years old; trained in the knowledge of Yahweh God
- ♦ Raised in the palace
Receives university education, leadership and military training, teaching in the Egyptian religion
- ♦ Faced with a decision at 40: to identify himself with Egyptian royalty or his own people who are slaves
By faith he chooses to identify with Yahweh God and his own people, the Jews. Hebrews 11:24-26
Because of his first 5 years of training, he is able to make a decision to follow God at 40.
- ♦ Failed to wait for God: kills an Egyptian; thinks the Jews know he is to be their leader. Acts 7:25
- ♦ Forced to leave Egypt; lives with the Midianites, descendants of Abraham; marries one of them; has 2 sons.
- ♦ Learned patience and the geography of the Sinai peninsula during his 40 years as a shepherd.

EXPLANATIONS

Reason for the Plagues: a battle of the gods

- ♦ To convince the Jews that Yahweh alone is God Ex. 6:7
75 years earlier God wanted to take them out of Egypt but they were in love with the gods of Egypt Ezek 20:6-8
The plagues will discredit all the Egyptian gods Ex. 12:12
- ♦ To convince the Egyptians that Yahweh alone is God Ex. 7:5

Information about the Plagues

- ♦ Based on natural disasters common to area, but supernatural as God increases or intensifies them
They are briefer than usual; start/stop at the word of Moses; some affect only the Egyptians
- ♦ Started around June and ended by March/April of the following year



EXPLANATIONS *(continued)*

Description of the Plagues

1. **Nile River** turned to blood: Egyptians worshipped the Nile god Hapi, which gave life; it now gives death; June
2. **Frogs**: goddess of creation and birth; that which they worship now becomes a torment to them; Sept.
3. **Lice, gnats**: (Hebrew word is uncertain) plague comes from dust of earth, the father of all gods; Oct.
It was a sacrilege to worship in any Egyptian temple if a person had lice on them
4. **Flies**: when flies are sent by Lord Yahweh, Baalzebub, lord of the flies can do nothing;
5. **Livestock** die: bull, cow, calf and ram were all worshipped as gods, but they cannot save themselves; Dec.
6. **Boils** from ashes: the ashes are probably taken from a furnace where Pharaoh offered human sacrifices
to seek relief from the plagues
7. **Hail and lightning** (fire): gods of water and fire can't protect Egyptians from Yahweh's water and fire; Jan. - Feb.
All livestock in the **field** died in plague number 5 9:3, 6;
Now, recently born livestock that had been in shelters were in the fields and in danger of dying in the hail 9:19
8. **Locust**: the Egyptian god could not control them nor remove them; Mar.
9. **Darkness**: against the sun god Ra and the sky-god Horus; caused by sandstorms in March
The sky god Horus developed into the Horoscope. **Whatever controls our life is our god!**
10. **Death of first-born**: none of their gods could give them protection; March – April

Description of the Passover

- Each family must kill a lamb, place the blood of the lamb on the doorpost, roast the lamb and eat it.
At midnight, Yahweh will kill the first-born son and animals in each home.
Blood on the doorpost proves a lamb died in place of the oldest son; it was personal, applied to his house.
This means Yahweh will **PASS OVER** the house and the oldest son will not die.
A lamb died to save the oldest son from physical death.
- Jesus was God's Lamb; He came to save people from spiritual death, meaning separation from God the Father.
My unholiness separates me from a holy God; I cannot enjoy Him now and I cannot live with Him in eternity.
When Jesus was on the cross, my unholiness was dumped on Jesus; He was separated from the Father in my place.
If I accept His payment I never have to be separated from God.
All I have to do is to tell Jesus, *I accept Your payment; I apply it to the door of my life.*

Moses experienced God as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

- The **God of Abraham** did the impossible: when the Jews were trapped, He rescued them from the Egyptian army.
- The **God of Isaac** provided: bread in the form of manna; meat in the form of quail; water from a rock.
- The **God of Jacob** changed Moses: from arrogant to humble; from impatient to patient.

APPLICATION: Freedom of choice

◆ Pharaoh:

Hardened his heart after the first 6 plagues.
During the 7th plague Pharaoh admits, *I have sinned against Yahweh God; He is right; I am wrong.*
He had full understanding, but after the plague stopped, he hardened his heart once again.

There is nothing more God can do for him. There is no more understanding to give him. Since he wants to say *no* to God, God now continues to harden his heart. It is the consequence of **Pharaoh's** choices.

◆ God's Plan

To get His people out of Egypt, God chose to work thru 2 people, Pharaoh and Moses. Each had free will to say *yes* or *no* to God. Moses said *yes* and his life was enriched. He was used in the lives of others. Pharaoh said *no* and his life was impoverished. His choices messed up **his** life and the lives of those around him. But his choices did not mess up God's plan. Even without his co-operation, God still used Pharaoh to get His people out.

Today God continues to use people in His plans. Regardless of our choices His plan will be accomplished. But He gives us freedom to choose. If we say *no*, we will mess up our life and the lives of those around us. If we say *yes*, our life will be enriched and we will have an impact on the lives of others. God is active in everyone's life. But the way in which He is active is determined by what we choose. We can either be a Moses or a Pharaoh. We can either say *yes* to God or we can say *no*.

