



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

## Old Testament Survey

### Lesson 9 – The LORD Frees His People from Slavery in Egypt (Exodus 1-18)

#### The Great Exodus

**EXODUS** is the second Moses' five books. The word "exodus" means "journey out". The account of God leading His people out of slavery in Egypt is in many ways a picture of Jesus Christ and His work, for God brought His chosen people out of slavery by:

- 1) sending a deliverer or savior.
- 2) by the sacrifice of an unblemished Passover Lamb.
- 3) by the conquest of the world's mightiest ruler and his armies at the Red Sea.

After God freed His people, He took care of them in the wilderness by providing water from rocks, manna from heaven, quails for meat, and by protecting them from their enemies.

In a similar way, our Lord Jesus, as our Savior, has delivered us from sin, death, and the power of the devil by giving Himself as a sacrifice; He is the perfect unblemished Lamb of God. He defeated the devil by His death and resurrection and now takes care of His people as we travel through the wilderness of this life on our way to the promised land.

#### Moses the Deliverer

God saved Moses as a baby from the Egyptians and caused him to be brought up in the Pharaoh's court. When Moses was 40 years old, he tried to deliver his people in his own way and had to flee from Egypt to Midian. When he was 80 years old, God called him at the burning bush to deliver His people. This time he did not depend on his own strength but trusted in the LORD in all things. God spoke to Moses as to a friend and gave him the power to do miracles. Moses is a picture of Jesus Christ, the Savior of all people enslaved to sin.

#### Pharaoh the Enemy

The Pharaohs of Egypt were the world's mightiest rulers at the time of Moses. Most likely Moses was raised under Thutmose III (1482-1450 BC) and lead the Israelites out of Egypt when Amenhotep II reigned (1452-1425BC). But since Amenhotep hardened himself in pride against God, God Himself finally hardened Pharaoh's heart so that he would not let the children of Israel go. But God overthrew him through the ten plagues and the disaster at the Red Sea. This was a picture of how our Lord overthrew Satan on Easter by His glorious resurrection.

#### Egyptian History

We cannot be absolutely sure whether the following timeline is totally accurate, but this is what some Christians who study Egyptian history believe is most likely: The great pyramids in Egypt were constructed in the Old Kingdom between the time of the flood and the time of Abraham. Joseph's rise to power in Egypt came during the period of Egypt's Middle Kingdom. After the death of Joseph and while the Israelites were still in Goshen, Egypt was overrun by Asiatic invaders known as Hyksos who entered around 1730 BC and they ruled Egypt until they were expelled by Pharaoh Ahmosis I around 1570 BC. After the Hyksos were driven out, the Egyptians entered their empire period. This is when the new Egyptian Pharaohs took over and the children of Israel became slaves. This is known as Egypt's New Kingdom. During this time Egypt conquered territory all the way north to the Euphrates River.

It seems that the slavery of the Israelites reached its worst degree of oppression under the mighty Pharaoh Thutmose III (1482-1450 BC). His prime minister, Rekhmire, carried out great building projects during this time. The tomb of Rekhmire has a picture of him inspecting stonecutters, brickmakers, and builders who worked under him. The taskmaster in the picture says: "The rod is in my hand; be not idle." The princess who adopted the baby Moses could have been Hatshepsut. She held power before Thutmose III. The Pharaoh who hardened his heart was probably Amenhotep II (1452-1425 BC)<sup>1</sup>. The historical records indicate that Amenhotep II regarded himself as invincible.

Read Exodus chapters 1-18 along with the notes below. If you have any questions, please ask them.

#### Exodus 1 – Slaves in Egypt

The children of Israel multiply and increase as God has promised (vv. 1-7).

The Pharaoh enslaves them and vainly tried to exterminate them (vv. 8-22).

#### Exodus 2 – God Sends a Deliverer

Moses is born and grows up in the Pharaoh's house (vv. 1-10).

Acts 7:22: "**Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians.**"

Moses tries to deliver his people in his own way and must flee to Midian (vv. 11-22).

God plans to deliver His people (vv. 23-25).

#### Exodus 3 – God Calls Moses to Deliver His People

The Angel of the LORD (**JESUS**) appears in a burning bush, and calls Moses to be the deliverer of His people (vv. 1-10).

God tells Moses His name (**I AM**) and tells him how He will deliver His people (vv. 11-22).

#### Exodus 4 – God Overcomes Moses' Excuses and Moses Begins His Work

To overcome his objections, God gives Moses several signs and a spokesman, his brother Aaron (vv. 1-17).

Moses leaves his home in Midian (vv. 18-23).

God forces Moses to circumcise his second son (vv. 24-26).

The children of Israel believe Moses and Aaron (vv. 27-31).

#### Exodus 5 – Moses' First Efforts Lead to Worse Treatment of Israel

#### Exodus 6 – God Renews the Promise of Abraham to Israel

God encourages Moses with His Great Promise (vv. 1-13).

**"I will rescue you from their bondage"** (v. \_\_)

**"I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments"** (v. \_\_)

**"I will take you as My people, and I will be your God"** (v. \_\_)

**"I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham"** (v. \_\_)

**"I am the LORD"** (vv. \_\_\_\_)

The families of Reuben, Simeon, and Levi (vv. 14-30).

#### Exodus 7 – The Beginning of God's Mighty Works: Plague #1

Moses and Aaron change their rod into a snake, but Pharaoh hardens his heart (vv. 1-13).

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<sup>1</sup> Tutankhamun (King Tut), whose tomb was discovered in 1922, ruled later: from 1366 to 1357 BC. His tomb is the only tomb of a Pharaoh that has been discovered that still contained all of its treasures, including a coffin of solid gold. King Tut became king when he was 8 or 9 years old, and he ruled for only nine years.

Plague #1: the Nile turns to blood (vv. 14-25).

Exodus 8 – Three More Plagues

Plague #2: the frogs (vv. 1-15).

Plague #3: the lice (vv. 16-19). The magicians now say: **“This is the finger of God”** (v. \_\_\_\_)

Plague #4: the flies (vv. 20-32). This plague and those following did not affect Goshen.

Exodus 9 – Three More Plagues

Plague #5: the livestock disease (vv. 1-7).

Plague #6: the boils (vv. 8-12). Notice that now God hardens Pharaoh's heart.

Plague #7: the hail (vv. 13-35).

Exodus 10 – Two More Plagues

Plague #8: the locusts (vv. 1-20).

Plague #9: the darkness that can be felt (vv. 21-29).

Exodus 11 – God Announces Plaque #10: the Death of the First Born

Exodus 12 – The Passover and Plaque #10

God gives Israel instructions concerning the Passover Lamb (vv. 1-28).

God sends Plaque #10 and the Pharaoh sends Israel away (vv. 29-51).

Exodus 13 – Further Passover Instructions and the Beginning of the Journey Out: **EXODUS**

God gives regulations concerning the Passover and the first born (vv. 1-16).

God leads His people by a pillar of fire and a pillar of cloud (vv. 17-22).

Exodus 14 – VICTORY over the Pursuing Egyptians at the Red Sea

Exodus 15 – From the Red Sea to Elim

Moses and Miriam and Israel sing a song of praise to God (vv. 1-21).

Israel journeys from the Red Sea to Marah (which means “bitter”) to the oasis Elim (vv. 22-27).

Exodus 16 – God Provides Manna and Quails in the Wilderness

Despite the people’s grumbling, God graciously (and miraculously) provided for the Israelites<sup>2</sup>.

Notice: God gave the Sabbath to the people for their benefit (v. 29). See Jesus’ words in Mark 2:27.

Exodus 17 – God Provides Water in Rephidim and Victory over the Amalekites

Exodus 18 – Moses’ Father-in-Law Jethro Gives Moses Some Good Advice

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<sup>2</sup> Numbers chapter 11 tells of a second time when the Israelites complained to God and wanted meat.

## Questions

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1. List some of the similarities between how God delivered the Israelites from slavery and how He has delivered us from sin and death.
2. Why was Moses reluctant to carry out the work God commanded him to do?
3. Why might God have wanted to kill Moses?
4. What were the miraculous signs that Moses was given power to perform?
5. How did the Israelites receive Moses when he first came to them?
6. Why did many Israelites grumble against Moses after he spoke to Pharaoh?
7. What do the ten plagues teach us about God?
8. What is meant when the Bible says God hardened Pharaoh's heart?
9. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart?
10. List the rules God gave His people regarding the Passover Lamb.
11. In what way is the Passover Lamb a picture of Jesus, the Lamb of God?
12. How did God provide for His people in the wilderness?
13. What good advice did Moses receive from his father-in-law?