Discovering the Treasures of the Word

Exodus Lesson #1, Chapters 1-2

"Exodus stands at the heart of the Old Testament as the greatest example of the saving acts of God before Christ." 1

The climax of the entire Old Testament is recorded in chapters 12–14: the salvation of Israel through blood (the Passover) and through power (the Red Sea). The Exodus is the central event of the Old Testament as the Cross is of the New Testament.²

As you embark on this study of the book as Exodus, ask the Lord for His help and insight into His Word.

- 1. List five facts about the book of Exodus you discovered in the introductory notes of a study Bible, commentary, Bible encyclopedia³, or online Bible study website.⁴ Look for answers to the who, what, when, where, and why questions. You can start with questions like who wrote the book, what is the book about, when did the events of the book take place, where do the events in the book take place, and why is this book important for today? Record your cool five facts below!
- 2. What are some reasons to study the book of Exodus? See Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- 3. Look up Genesis 12:1-3; 46:3, 26-27; 48:3-4 and Deuteronomy 26:5. Explain how the time in Egypt was significant for the descendants of Abraham.

¹ Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa, *Talk Thru the Bible* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1983), 15.

² Ibid., 14.

³ Recommended resources: *Talk Thru the Bible* by Wilkinson and Boa; *The Expositor's Bible Commentary* by Walter Kaiser Jr.; *Moses and the God's of Egypt* by John J. Davis; *Exodus* by John L. Mackay.

⁴You can find some great information about the book of Numbers on different Bible study websites. I would highly recommend https://www.preceptaustin.org/exodus_commentaries. Check out these sites as well: http://net.bible.org, www.biblegateway.com, www.biblegateway.com, www.biblegateway.com, www.biblegateway.com, www.biblegateway.com, www.biblegateway.com, or https://preceptaustin.org. There are other sites out there, but these are a good starting point.

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4.	Based upon your preliminary reading and study, describe how the book of Exodus is divided. Try to answer with broader characterizations, rather than more super detailed, specific divisions.
5.	The book of Exodus picks up where the book of Genesis ends. What was the situation for the family of Jacob at the end of the book of Genesis? See Genesis 50:22-26.
6.	What do we learn about this family as the book of Exodus opens in Exodus 1:1-7?
7.	What do you learn about the new king mentioned in Exodus 1:8? What were his concerns about the Israelites? See Exodus 1:9-10.
8.	What was the king's solution? See verses 11-14.
	Eager Beaver: See what you can discover about the storage cities, Pithom and Raamses and list a few details here.
9.	The king continued his efforts to curb Israel's population growth. What was this new solution? See Exodus 1:15-16.

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10.	What do you learn about two particular Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1:15-21)?
11.	Because forced and rigorous labor didn't work at reducing the population, nor did the command for the Israelites to kill their male children, the king ups the ante in verse 22. Who else is enlisted in his wicked plan?
12.	Consider what life would have been like for the descendants of Abraham as told in Exodus chapter 1. What <i>words</i> would you use to describe it?
13.	Chapter 2 begins by drawing our attention to <i>one</i> family in the midst of the thousands of Abraham's descendants residing in Egypt. What do you learn about this family in verses 1-4?
14.	Speaking through the author of Hebrews, what extra insight does the Holy Spirit give us about this particular family? See Hebrews 11:23.
15.	According to the author of Hebrews, why weren't Moses' parents afraid of disobeying the king's command? See Hebrews 11:1-2, 6.
16.	Moses' parents looked to God for help and deliverance for their family. How did the Lord provide for them? See Exodus 2:5-10 and Acts 7:20-22. What events from those verses stand out to you as particularly noteworthy or awe-inspiring?

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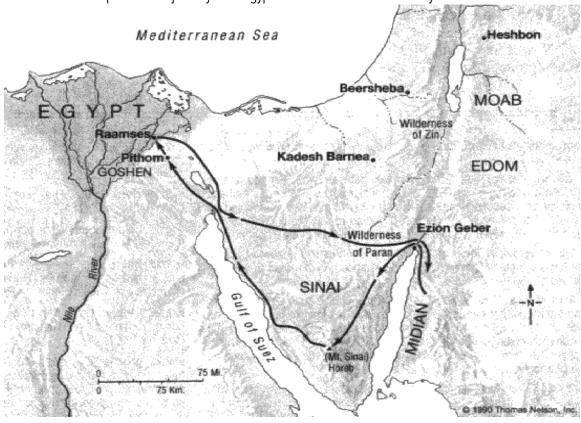
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- 17. Exodus 2:11 records an interesting turn of events. What do you learn from Exodus 2:11; Acts 7:23 and Hebrews 11:24-26? What insights do you gain from those passages about Moses' faith in the One, True God?
- 18. At the age of 40, Moses threw in his lot with the people of Israel. How do the events recorded in Exodus 2:11-15; Acts 7:23-29 and Hebrews 11:24-27 reveal Moses' motivations? What indication is there in the Acts 7 text that Moses knew God intended to use him to deliver his suffering brethren from their Egyptian bondage?
- 19. Though Moses *was* called to deliver the Israelites, the timing wasn't yet right. Rather than leaving Egypt with *all* the people in tow, at this point, the only one to leave Egypt was Moses. What does this teach us when we want to "help" God along by moving ahead of Him? See Exodus 12:41; Habakkuk 2:3; Romans 5:6; 1 Timothy 2:6; 6:15; Titus 1:3.
 - a. Also consider what it teaches us about our ability to "ruin" God's sovereign plans. See Genesis 50:20; Job 23:13; Proverbs 16:1, 9; 19:21; 21:1; Psalm 33:10-11; Isaiah 46:10; Acts 4:27-28.
- 20. In Exodus 2:15 we read, "When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the presence of Pharaoh and settled in the land of Midian, and he sat down by a well." And just like that, the next chapter of Moses' life begins. Where did Moses escape to? What information can you find about that place?

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Map of Moses' journey from Egypt to Midian and the return 40 years later.⁵



- 21. Moses' new life begins when he sits down at the well. What happened next? See verses 16-22.
- 22. The prince of Egypt becomes a shepherd. Though the next 40 years of Moses' life are not remarked upon in the Word of God, we know God never wastes time or opportunity to teach and train His children. We do know that those years caring for sheep in the Midian desert prepared him for the next phase of his life. What did that next phase include? See Exodus 2:23-25; 3:10.

⁵ John MacArthur Jr., ed., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 95.

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- a. Exodus 2:23-25 eloquently hints at changes soon to come. List what you learn about Israel and about God from verses 23-25.
- 23. The final verses of Exodus chapter 2 contain precious and encouraging truths that can strengthen us today. When we read that *God heard*, *God remembered*, *God saw*, and *God took notice*, we see our God at work. He is active to rescue and save His children. Write a prayer of hope, trust, and praise to the Lord as you meditate on Exodus 2:23-25; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 34:17-18; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Corinthians 1:8-9.

God's Promise By Fanny Crosby

He who brought His ancient people, With a strong and mighty hand, Out of all their cruel bondage, Into Canaan's promised land.

He who led them through the desert, By the cloud that went before, He whose goodness never failed them, Though they grieved Him o'er and o'er.

> God is faithful to His promise, He is mindful of His own; On our journey to His kingdom We shall never walk alone.

We shall have His kind protection And His love as in the past; Though our days be few or many, He will guide us to the last.

He has said, and we believe it, 'Tis a promise made of old, From the trusting and the loving No good thing will He withhold.