



# *Exodus*

## **A 12 WEEK INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY**

**SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES**

*By Lisa Hughes*

## Welcome

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?*

Nothing could be more true! There is no better foundation for a believer than the rock-solid Word of God. It's my prayer that your faith and love for the Lord will be strengthened as you study His Word in these lessons. I want your hunger for the Scriptures to grow as you study its truths. And more than anything else, I want you to know that you can live upon the Word of God.

Steadfastness, assurance, and hope are the characteristics of all those who build upon the unshakeable foundation of the Word of God. That's why I'm so thrilled you've found your way to this Bible study. Our Bibles contain all the wisdom and guidance we'll need for our daily life (2 Peter 1:3). God's Word is one of the primary means God uses to strengthen our faith and sanctify our hearts. That's why it's so important to dig in to the details of the Scriptures and mine the treasures tucked away for us there.

*Scripture Paths Bible Studies* are in-depth, inductive studies of the Scriptures. Each lesson endeavors to teach you how to feed yourself when you delve into God's Word. As you spend time on each lesson you will grow in Bible knowledge and understanding, learn how to apply the Scriptures to your life, and become more firmly convinced than ever that God's Word is authoritative, complete, without error, and sufficient for your life.

### **HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT *SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES*:**

1. *Purposefully prepared.* Each lesson has a unique goal, whether it's to train you in the art of studying the Scriptures or to showcase the point of the passage. None of it is busywork—it's lifework for our souls.
2. *Plan ahead.* Adding a Bible study to an already busy life takes preparation. You'll need to figure out when you can complete your lessons. Do you like to set aside bits of time each day to work on the lesson or do you prefer to do it all in one sitting? Try experimenting with a method that works best for you.
3. *Persevere.* Keep going to the Lord for wisdom, for strength, and the desire to press on when life gets busy and you find it difficult to finish your lessons.
4. *Pray.* Ask the Lord to transform you through the study of His Word. Use your study time to get to know the Lord better.

5. *Prompt your memory.* Try to glean little nuggets of truth or application from each lesson, and then share them with someone. This will help solidify what you're learning and encourage someone else too.
  
6. *Put it into practice.* Nearly every lesson has questions for you to apply to your life. To study just to study is not our goal. Studying to grow in our understanding of the Scriptures, of the Lord, and how to live lives honoring to Him is what we're aiming at. Look for opportunities to apply God's Word.

There are treasures upon the surface of the Word which we may pick up very readily: even the casual reader will find himself able to understand the simplicities and elements of the gospel of God; but the Word of God yields most to the digger. ~Charles Spurgeon

## **THE GOAL AND PURPOSE OF THIS BIBLE STUDY**

*Grace to you and peace* John Calvin wrote, “We owe to the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God, because it has proceeded from Him alone, and has nothing of man mixed with it.” It’s that premise which propels me to write and study the Bible for myself and for anyone else who wants to study along with me. God has revealed Himself in the pages of Scripture. The Bible is complete and authoritative and contains everything we need to live for His glory. It’s in the study of the Scriptures that we grow in our knowledge of God and are transformed into His likeness. A commitment to lean on and live in God’s Word is a distinguishing characteristic of a Christian as Jesus explained to a crowd of His followers in John 8:31-32: “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Because all “Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16) we study inductively in order to glean as much as we can from the Word of God. Inductive Bible study consists of observation, interpretation, and application. Simply put, *observation* is noticing what the author is saying; *interpretation* is finding out what he means; and *application* is utilizing those truths to your life.

As you study this book of the Bible it is my prayer that you will grow in your commitment to the Word of God as the source of life and godliness, and you will accept it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe (1 Thess. 2:13). As a young man Jonathan Edwards (one of America’s most famous theologians and preachers) made a list of resolutions he desired, by God’s grace, to do his best to live by. One of those commitments is resolution #28: “Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.” May you see the study of God’s Word making such a difference in your life that you bear the fruit of wisdom, knowledge, godly conduct, that you overcome sin and grow daily in your love for Christ.

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
Lisa Hughes*

## **HOW TO USE THIS STUDY**

Feel free to tailor this study to your needs. Some have found it works best for them to complete the lesson in one sitting, while others find that breaking up the lesson by answering a few questions each day works the best for them. Try experimenting with different ways to complete each lesson, you'll soon discover what works for you and produces the most spiritual benefit.

Some of the lessons have what I call "Eager Beaver" questions. They're rabbit-trail questions. They don't really fit with the theme of the passage, but they're interesting nonetheless. They're there for your enjoyment and growth.

Another feature of the Bible studies is the opportunity to do word studies. Whenever I want you to study a word further I'll include the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance number with it. The Strong's number is basically a reference number attached to most words found in the Bible. That number allows you to search for it in different reference works easily—even when you don't know Hebrew or Greek. I explain how to use those resources in an Addendum at the end of the study. These tools are valuable for any Bible study student, yet not mandatory for completing these lessons.

If you're new to studying the Bible then you may feel a bit overwhelmed, but I want to encourage you to stick with the study. Studying the Bible takes planning on your part and commitment, but the spiritual blessing and personal growth in Christ makes any "hardship" worth it. Remember, the goal of studying the Bible is that you would grow more in Christ, so start each lesson with a time of prayer asking the Lord for wisdom and His grace to study His Word, then continue to seek the Lord as you complete the lesson.

If you're a leader and you're introducing this study to your ladies for the first time, be sure to encourage them a lot! Though each lesson was written to achieve a specific purpose, you may find your ladies would fare best if they take two weeks to complete each lesson. If that's the case, feel free to do so. You want the ladies to enjoy studying God's Word, so keep encouraging them. Pray together, memorize a chapter out of the book, and dig in to each lesson. As you work on the lessons each week you will all gain a clearer picture of our great God, His will for us, and how to live for Him.

*And what could be better than that?*

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore, my soul observes them.  
 The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.  
 I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for Your commandments.  
 Turn to me and be gracious to me, after Your manner with those who love Your name.  
 Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.  
 Psalm 119:129-133

## 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.”<sup>1</sup>*

*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.<sup>2</sup>*

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 encyclopedia<sup>3</sup>, or online Bible study website.<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 14.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> You 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](https://www.preceptaustin.org/exodus_commentaries). Check out these sites as well: <http://net.bible.org>, [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com), [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com), or <http://preceptaustin.org>. There are other sites out there, but these are a good starting point.

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.

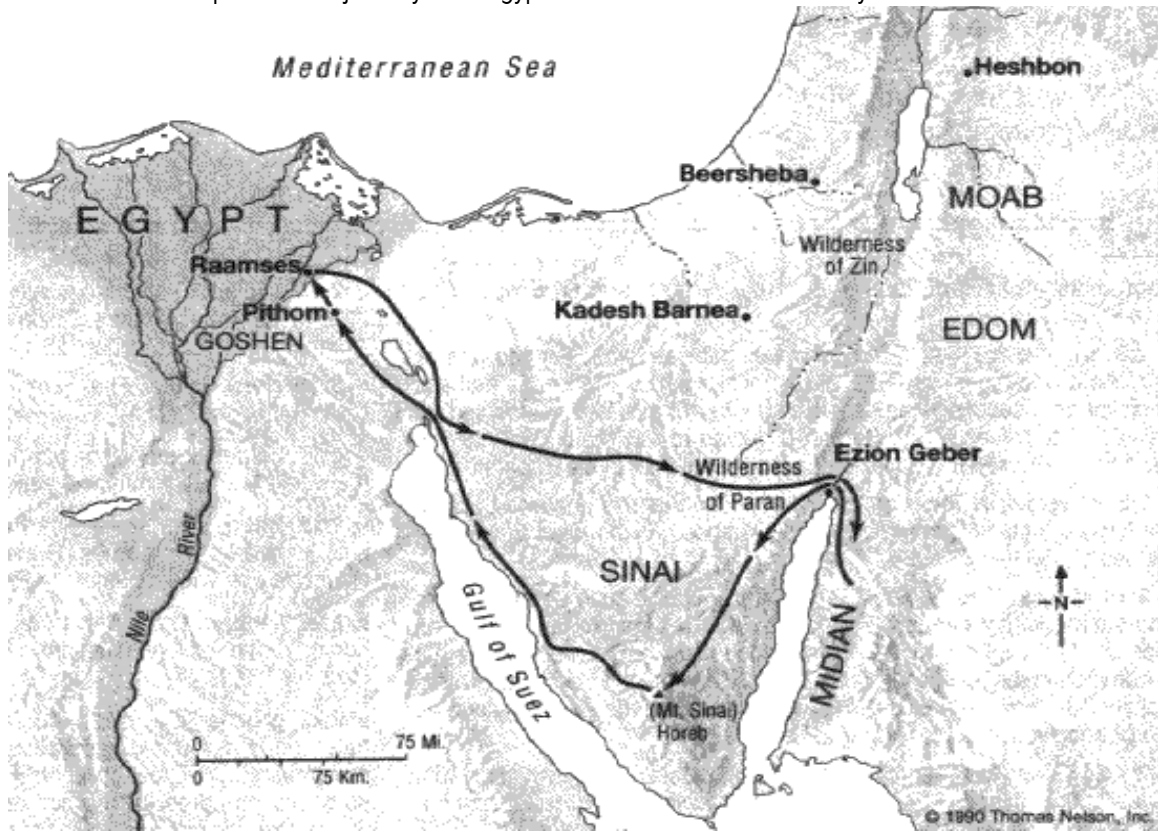
9. The king continued his efforts to curb Israel's population growth. What was this new solution? See Exodus 1:15-16.

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 *words* would you use to describe it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Chapter 2 begins by drawing our attention to *one* 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?



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?

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



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.

<sup>5</sup> John MacArthur Jr., ed., [The MacArthur Study Bible](#), electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 95.

- 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.*

## Exodus

### Lesson #2, Chapters 3-4

These chapters contain more nuggets than we have time to mine! Ask the Lord to open your eyes to behold wonderful things from His Word (Psalm 119:18) and for a willingness to take it to heart (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

1. A number of important details greet us in Exodus 3:1. What do you learn about what was going on in Moses' life at that time?
  - a. Look up Acts 7:23, 30 to determine Moses' age and how long he'd been in Midian.
  - b. Horeb is also known as what mountain? Compare Exodus 19:10-11 with Deuteronomy 4:10.
2. Briefly describe the events of Exodus 3:1-6. Did you find any particular detail or information interesting in those verses? If so, what was it?
3. What do you learn about *the angel of the Lord* in Exodus 3:2?
  - a. What added information about the angel of the Lord do you glean from Exodus 3:4-6 and Acts 7:30-33?

- b. Based on what you've learned, *who* is the angel of the Lord?
  
4. The Lord very clearly communicates two important pieces of information about Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:5-6. What does the Lord want Moses to know and understand about Him? Why?
  
5. How is that same information vital for us today as we interact with the Lord and live before Him? See also Leviticus 10:3; Hebrews 10:22 and Genesis 17:7-8; Exodus 2:24.
  
6. From Exodus 3:6 and Acts 7:32, what is Moses' reaction when he realizes what's happening and who he is interacting with? What else do you learn as you read the following Scriptures? See Genesis 17:3; Judges 13:21-22; Isaiah 6:1, 5; Matthew 17:5-6.
  - a. Why are those reactions good and right in dealing with a holy God?
  
7. After miraculously revealing His identity in the preceding verses, God now makes a series of pronouncements of things He knows or intends to do in Exodus 3:7-12. List what you observe about what God *knows* or *intends to do*.
  
8. Now summarize what you learn about the character and nature of God from your observations. How should understanding this about God make a difference in your life *today, this week, in your life?*

9. In spite of talking with a bush, and a burning one at that, standing in God's presence, and being encouraged by many truths about God's character, Moses still has a difficult time coming to terms with his calling. What is Moses concerned about? See Exodus 3:11, 13.
  
10. Moses asks for God's name so he can introduce Him to the Israelites in Egypt. What do you learn? See Exodus 3:14-15.
  - a. Since this was the first time God used His name, Moses didn't have any other teaching to round out his understanding of God's name. Thankfully, we do have added instruction. Look up the following Scriptures that add to our own understanding of God's name: Exodus 6:2-3; Isaiah 43:10-13; 44:6; 66:1; John 8:24, 28, 58.
  
  - b. What does God want to convey to us in *His name*?
  
11. God reveals His plan for rescuing the Israelites in Exodus 3:16-22. God, who knows all things, even prepares Moses for some of the bumps and roadblocks that will occur.
  - a. What are the first things Moses will *do*?
  
  - b. What reactions Moses will *encounter*?
  
  - c. How will God *intervene*?

12. As chapter 4 begins, Moses' unwillingness or fear at accepting the mantle of "leader" once again exhibits itself. What is Moses' concern *this time*? See Exodus 4:1. How does God patiently provide for His commissioned servant in Exodus 4:2-9?
  
13. Oh goodness gracious! Moses *continues* in his unbelief and unwillingness to accept God's call. What further concerns does he bring to the Lord in Exodus 4:10? What is God's loving solution for Moses (Exodus 4:11-12)?
  
14. Even after all God's accommodations and encouragements, how does Moses respond in Exodus 4:13?
  
15. This time Moses' quibbling earned a different response from the Lord. What do you learn from verse 14? Yet, even in His rebuke to Moses, how did the Lord continue to provide for him, so he could do the job God had called him to do? See Exodus 4:14-17.
  
16. We can learn some amazing lessons from this point in Moses' life. Consider what you learn about God's willingness to help and provide for His children in whatever He may call us. What insights do you gain as you ponder God's call for Moses' life, even though Moses in no way felt prepared or able to accomplish it? How does that strengthen your heart for those times when you're called to do something outside your comfort zone?
  
17. We see in Exodus 4:18-20 Moses finally accepting his new role as deliverer to the nation of Israel. What steps does he take to fulfill his calling (Exodus 4:18-20)?

18. Once Moses arrives back in Egypt, what admonishment and encouragement does God give to his somewhat reluctant emissary? See Exodus 4:21-23.
  
19. Exodus 4:24-27 contains an interesting little story, yet it tells us much if we consider it a bit further. First, what did God intend to do to Moses?
  - a. The “why” isn’t given, but it obviously had something to do with circumcision. What did circumcision signify? See Genesis 17:7-14, 23-27.
  
  - b. When did God relent in His anger against Moses according to Exodus 4:25-26?
  
20. What was it that Moses should have done, but didn’t, that it put him in peril of death? What does this teach you about obeying the Lord, no matter who you are, or what your calling may be?
  
21. Where does Moses’ long-awaited reunion with his brother take place? See Exodus 4:27, then compare with Exodus 3:1. Who set the meeting up for the brothers?
  
22. After Moses fills Aaron in on God’s plans, they return to the people. What did the brothers do first? See Exodus 4:29-30.



- a. How did the people of Israel respond to Moses and Aaron? See Exodus 4:31.
23. Exodus 4:31 contains a point of application for us today. When the Israelites learned of God's care, concern, and intended deliverance, the text says, "they bowed low and worshiped." What is exemplary about their response? What are some ways *you* can worship the Lord when you read about His care and concern for you? Take some time to read the following Scriptures and then spend time in worship to the Lord: Psalm 118:5-9; 121:1-8; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; 3:3; Hebrews 13:5-6; Jude 24-25.

"It is certain that our happiness in heaven will consist in part in our perfect knowledge of the blessed and boundless God. And it is as certain that our holiness in this world depends a lot upon our knowledge of Him. They who know His beauty and bounty cannot but love Him, and they who know His power and faithfulness cannot but trust Him!"<sup>1</sup> George Swinnock

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<sup>1</sup> George Swinnock, *Voices from the Past, Volume 2* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2016), page 265.

## Exodus

### Lesson #3, Chapters 5-7

These chapters teach us that God always has much more He intends to accomplish than merely delivering us from our distress. He intends to teach us, train us, to give us a glimpse of His glory, to make us holy, and so much more. Ask the Lord to prepare your heart to learn what He would have you learn as you study His Word.

1. After meeting with the people (Exodus 4:29-31), Moses and Aaron then meet with Pharaoh to present their request to go worship the Lord God in the wilderness (Exodus 5:1, 3). List how Moses and Aaron's meeting with Pharaoh results in things going from bad to worse in Exodus 5:2-19.
  
2. In this section of my Bible I have written in the margin, "The path to blessing is not necessarily easy." When the people heard from Moses and Aaron of God's concern for them and His intention to deliver them, they were thrilled. Yet, they didn't expect their deliverance to include more difficulty. The people were unprepared for these new events and certainly didn't want an increase to their miseries. Who do the Israelite foremen blame for their increased trials? See Exodus 5:20-21.
  
3. Being blamed for things that aren't your fault is always a difficult pill to swallow (Exodus 5:4, 14, 17, 20-21), yet God has a purpose in it. What is one of the ways it showed up in Moses' life? See Numbers 12:3.
  - a. Look up the following Scriptures for a prescription for responding with grace when treated unjustly: Romans 12:14-21; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; 1 Peter 2:18-20, 21-24; 3:1-6, 9.

4. Apparently, Moses was as unprepared for the increasing pressures and difficulties as the Israelites. How did Moses respond to the Lord in Exodus 5:22-23?
  - a. How do verses 22-23 reveal Moses' real heart expectations?
  
5. The Israelites' circumstances seemed to contradict God's promises of help and deliverance. Look up the following passages and choose at least one to trace how the writer moved from dismay and doubt to faith: 2 Chronicles 20:5-12; Psalm 73:1-28; 77:1-20; Lamentations 3:17-23; Luke 12:22-32.
  
6. How can that process of moving from dismay and doubt to faith be a guide for you when your present reality doesn't seem to fit with God's promises?
  
7. What do you think is the most challenging part in moving from unbelief to faith?
  
8. Exodus 5 concludes with Moses grumbling to the Lord about His method of delivering the people. What does God reveal in Exodus 6:1 about His plan?
  
9. What truths about God's character in Exodus 6:2-5 does He proclaim to Moses?



“How earnestly would I persuade them to overcome their very natural tendency to a hasty judgment! Press on, dear friend. Be of good courage. Pharaoh will not long be able to make you keep up that enormous number of bricks. Within a very few days he will be glad to get rid of you. Wait hopefully; for the God who begins in darkness will end in light, and before long you will come to understand those ways of mercy, which are now past finding out. Not many weeks after the sobbing and sighing at the brickyards, Moses and the children of Israel sang this song unto the Lord: “Sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.” The work of deliverance began very grimly, but it ended very gloriously.”<sup>2</sup> Charles Spurgeon

13. The Lord is so patient! Even Moses quibbles and stalls at obeying God’s next task. What does God want him to do and what is his objection to it? See Exodus 6:11-12.
  
14. Exodus 6:14-27 contains some genealogies. What main family line is being traced and for what purpose?
  - a. What’s significant about this particular family line for the nation of Israel? See Numbers 18:21-23; 1 Chronicles 6:49.
  
  - b. What are some interesting things you noticed in this section? List at least one item.
  
15. Exodus 6:28-7:7 summarizes God’s plan for rescuing the Israelites. The narrative resumes with instructions for Moses and Aaron. When they go before Pharaoh, what are they supposed to do? See Exodus 7:9. How do Pharaoh and his court respond (Exodus 7:10-13)?

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid., 307.



23. God's wisdom in dealing with men's hearts is on display in Exodus 5-7. He begins to enact the long-awaited promise of deliverance for the people of Israel, yet it comes in a far different way than they expected. What are some lessons from these chapters you can apply to your heart as you consider God's wisdom, mercy, sovereignty, and more?

"The strength of every saint lies in the Lord of Hosts. God can overcome His enemies without our hands, but we cannot so much as defend ourselves without His arm." William Gurnall<sup>3</sup>

"We judge by sense and appearance, and do not consider that God's heart may be towards us, while His hand of providence seems to be against us! If things continue at a slow rate for us, we think our prayers are lost, and our hopes have perished from the Lord. Much more, when things grow worse, and troubles increase, as usually they do just at the break of day—which will come to change our conditions—we conclude that God is angry with our prayers. . . . Delay is preparing your heart to receive mercy—that you may receive it with the greatest advantage of comfort." John Flavel<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> William Gurnall, Richard Rushing, editor, *Voices from the Past, Volume 1* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009), 14.

<sup>4</sup> John Flavel, Richard Rushing, editor, *Voices from the Past, Volume 2* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2016), 364-365.

## Exodus

### Lesson #4, Chapters 8-11

In this lesson, we'll take a look at the plagues God sent upon Pharaoh and Egypt. Ask the Lord to help you see His wisdom in sending them and what He wants you to learn from them.

1. We didn't specifically focus on the beginning of the Ten Plagues in the last lesson, so we'll backtrack a bit into Chapter 7 to do so. First, what was God's purpose in sending the plagues on Egypt? See Exodus 3:7-8, 19-22; 6:1, 7; 7:3-5. Also include Genesis 28:15; 48:21.
  
2. What was the *first plague* God gave to Pharaoh and the Egyptians (Exodus 7:20)? What were the results of the plague? See Exodus 7:21, 24. How did Pharaoh and his court respond? See Exodus 7:22-23.
  
3. What was the *second plague* God sent in Exodus 8:1-7?
  - a. What negotiation took place between Moses and Pharaoh regarding this plague? See Exodus 8:8-13. What was God's purpose behind this plan as seen in those verses?
  
  - b. How did Pharaoh respond to the reprieve? See Exodus 8:15.
  
4. What was the *third plague*, its effect upon Egypt, and how did Pharaoh respond in Exodus 8:16-19?



5. We learn about the *fourth plague* in Exodus 8:20-24. What was the plague, yet what distinction was made as it came upon the land?
  - a. More negotiating took place between Moses and Pharaoh. What details are given in Exodus 8:25-32?
  
6. What are the unique details about the *fifth plague* (Exodus 9:1-7)?
  
7. The *sixth plague* affected the Egyptians in a personal way. What was this plague and how did it begin? See Exodus 9:8-12.
  
8. Moses was to deliver a message to Pharaoh before he commenced with the *seventh plague*. What did God want Moses to tell Pharaoh (Exodus 9:13-19)? Why was Pharaoh still alive (verses 14-16)?
  - a. How did some of the Egyptians respond to Moses' warning about this plague? See Exodus 9:20-21.
  
9. The *seventh plague* was described in Exodus 9:22-26. What happened during this plague?

10. What did Pharaoh ask of Moses and Aaron (Exodus 9:27-28)? In spite of this encouraging message, what did Moses know about Pharaoh according to verses 29-35?
  
11. What was God's purpose in hardening Pharaoh's heart in Exodus 10:1-2?
  
12. The pressure upon Pharaoh didn't let up with the commencement of the *eighth plague*. What do you learn about this plague from Exodus 10:3-6?
  - a. What happened when Pharaoh's servants put pressure on Pharaoh to let the Israelites go? See Exodus 10:8. What interaction transpired between the brothers and Pharaoh in verses 9-11?
  
13. What did Pharaoh request of Moses in Exodus 10:16-17? Yet, what do you observe about the true state of Pharaoh's heart (verses 18-20)?
  
14. The *ninth plague* is described in Exodus 10:21-23. What do you learn about this plague?
  
15. What concession was Pharaoh willing to make in Exodus 10:24? Describe what happened to the negotiations between these two men from verses 25-29.

16. What sad, but welcome news did the Lord give Moses in Exodus 11:1?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
17. What task was given to the Israelites in Exodus 11:2-3? How were the Israelites and Moses then viewed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
18. Explain the details of the *tenth and final plague*. See Exodus 11:4-8.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
19. What apparent “difficulty” do we run into between the statements in Exodus 10:28-29 and Exodus 11:8? In light of that information, when does Moses’ final pronouncement of judgment take place (Exodus 11:4-8)?

“The critical approach to Scripture has made a great deal of unnecessary confusion in determining the proper sequence here. It seems clear that 11:1-3 refers to instructions given previously to Moses, while 11:4-8 is the parting warning to Pharaoh, following 10:29.” Charles F. Pfeiffer<sup>1</sup>

“It is more than likely that we should render “the Lord had said to Moses” in verse 1, for verse 4 is obviously the continuation of 10:29, which introduced Moses’ parting words to Pharaoh. Verse 8 suggests that even as the priesthood had collapsed, so now the high court officials were prepared too late to defy their master.” H. L. Ellison

20. As you consider the context from Exodus 10:27-11:8, what possible explanation is there for Moses’ anger with Pharaoh? Take into account what we know about Moses from Numbers 12:3.

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<sup>1</sup> Charles F. Pfeiffer, *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: Old Testament* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1962).

<sup>2</sup> H. L. Ellison, *Exodus*, The Daily Study Bible Series (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1982), 60.

21. How is Exodus 11:9-10 a fitting epitaph to the section on God's plagues upon Egypt?
  
22. What do you learn about Pharaoh's hard heart from Exodus 7:13, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 12, 35; 10:20, 27; 11:10?
  
23. When did God finally begin to harden Pharaoh's heart? Why did God do this? See Exodus 3:19-20; 4:21; 7:3; Deuteronomy 2:30; Joshua 11:20; Romans 1:28; 9:17-18.
  
24. What attributes about God do you find on display in these chapters? What response do they, or should they, inspire in you?

"His purpose in preventing Pharaoh from giving in too easily and too early was, as will be seen in subsequent parts of the narrative, to allow himself fully to demonstrate his sovereignty over Pharaoh, the Egyptians, the land of Egypt itself, and the gods in which Pharaoh and the Egyptians trusted."<sup>3</sup> Douglas K. Stuart

"Among the natural punishments which God has attached to sin, would seem to be the hardening of the entire nature of the man who sins. If men "do not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gives them up to a reprobate mind" (Rom. 1:28); if they resist the Spirit, he "takes his holy Spirit from them" (Ps. 51:11); if they sin against light he withdraws the light; if they stifle their natural affections of kindness, compassion and the like, it is a law of his providence that those affections shall wither and decay. This seems to be the "hardening of the heart" here intended—not an abnormal and miraculous interference with the soul of Pharaoh, but the natural effect upon his soul under God's moral government of those acts which he willfully and wrongfully committed."<sup>4</sup> H. D. M. Spence-Jones

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<sup>3</sup> Douglas K. Stuart, *Exodus*, Vol. 2, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006), 146–147.

<sup>4</sup>H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., *Exodus*, Vol. 1, The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 103.

## Exodus

### Lesson #5, Chapters 12-13

In this lesson we come to a pivotal point in Israel's history. One commentator put it like this: *"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."*<sup>1</sup> This lesson barely scratches the surface of all God desires us to learn and understand about His work, His ways, and His own character. Continue to ask Him for insight and help as you work on your lesson.

1. In Exodus 12:1-2 what announcement does God make to Moses and Aaron?
  - a. What other details can you gather from Exodus 13:4; 34:18; Leviticus 23:5; Deuteronomy 16:1?
  - b. Approximately when does that time period occur on our calendars?
2. Summarize the details each household is to undertake regarding a lamb from Exodus 12:3-11.
3. Exodus 12:11 gives the feast a name. What is it? Exodus 12:12-13 tells us what the feast commemorates. What do you learn?

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<sup>1</sup>Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa, *Talk Thru the Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1983), 14.

“The blood on the doorposts showed acceptance of God’s plan for rescue and trust in his word. After all, the sight of dried blood by itself had no power to deter death; it was only as the dried blood painted on the top and sides of the door was a testimony to the faith of the inhabitants in Yahweh that it had its efficacy. Thus the statement, “When I see the blood, I will pass over you”—in other words, I will spare all those who show that they have placed their faith in me.”<sup>2</sup>

4. But wait! The Passover Feast is only the beginning. What else are the Israelites to do? See Exodus 12:14-20; for added details also see Leviticus 23:4-8; Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Luke 22:1.
  
5. God institutes some interesting requirements for these two feasts—all for the purpose of teaching and reminding the Israelites about some specific things.
  - a. What do we learn from the Scriptures about the Passover Lamb? See Exodus 12:6, 13; Isaiah 53:4-7, 10-11. Ultimately, what do we learn from John 1:29, 36; 1 Peter 1:18-19?
  
  - b. Describe the manner in which the Israelites are to eat the Passover Feast. See Exodus 12:11.
  
  - c. What was significant about removing all leaven from the household? See Deuteronomy 16:3-4; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; 11:23-32; Galatians 5:9.

“Sin is a leaven, the smallest portion of which will leaven and defile our whole souls. It must therefore be purged out with all possible care and diligence. If we retain knowingly and willfully the smallest measure of it, we have nothing to expect but an everlasting separation from God and his people——Let us then search and try our own hearts; and beg of God also to “search and try us, to see if there be any wicked

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<sup>2</sup>Douglas K. Stuart, *Exodus*, vol. 2, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006), 278.

way in us, and to lead us in the way everlasting”——We must be “Israelites indeed and without guile,” if we would enjoy the full benefits of the body and blood of Christ.”<sup>3</sup> ~ Charles Simeon

6. What is noteworthy about the *order* of the two feasts—first the Passover Feast, then the Feast of Unleavened Bread? As you form your answer consider the details of those two feasts from question #5 above, then look up 2 Corinthians 5:21; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:24.

“May the Holy Spirit grant us grace to accomplish this sweeping of the house. Where the precious blood is sprinkled, no sin can be tolerated.”<sup>4</sup> ~ Charles Spurgeon

7. Moses calls the elders, the leaders and fathers of the Israelites, to administer the Passover Feast to the people. He again explains how to celebrate the feast. What new details are given that continue to fill out your understanding of how this feast was to be celebrated? See Exodus 12:21-27.

8. After they had eaten the Passover Feast, or possibly while they were eating it, the last plague came upon the Egyptians. What finally happened as a result of this last plague? See Exodus 12:29-32; Hebrews 11:28.

- a. What is notable about Genesis 15:12-16 as it relates to Exodus 12:29-32?

9. How did the Egyptian people respond to the Israelites after the last plague? See verses 33-36; see also Genesis 15:13-14; Exodus 3:21-22; 11:2-3.

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<sup>3</sup>Charles Simeon, *Horae Homileticae: Genesis to Leviticus*, vol. 1 (London: Samuel Holdsworth, 1836), 380.

<sup>4</sup>C. H. Spurgeon, *The Interpreter: Spurgeon's Devotional Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1964), 79.

- a. How was this another way the Lord provided for the Israelites?
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10. What stands out to you as you read the summarizing statements from Exodus 12:37-41?
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11. In Exodus 12:42-51 God continues to fine-tune the details for celebrating the Passover. What helpful details are given in this section that weren't included previously?
    - a. What kind of commitment was God asking of those who desired to partake of the Passover? See Exodus 12:44, 48.
    - b. Why would God require that commitment of the "foreigners/strangers/aliens" or "slaves" who desired to reside with the Israelites?
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12. As chapter 13 begins, God continues His instructions for life in the Promised Land. One of the first regulations Israel needed to understand and undertake is described in Exodus 13:2. What does God want the Israelites to do? What does *sanctify* mean as it's used here? To help you define the word also look up Genesis 2:3; Numbers 3:13; 8:17; Nehemiah 13:22.
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13. That discussion (from Exodus 13:2) is then picked up further in the chapter in Exodus 13:11-16. What do you learn about the sanctifying of the firstborn for God from Exodus 13:11-13?



- a. For more insight into what God was requiring also look up Leviticus 1:1-3; Numbers 18:15-17; Luke 2:22-24.
  
  - b. Please summarize what you've learned about the law of setting aside of the firstborn.
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14. What does God want the Israelites to understand and remember as they obey the law of the firstborn? See Exodus 13:14-16.
  
  15. Let's jump back up to the beginning of the chapter again and resume our verse by verse look at this chapter. In Exodus 13:3-10 God again instructs the Israelites in celebrating the Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread. What reasons are given in these verses for participating in these feasts?
  
  16. Think about how many times God has instructed the Israelites about the Passover Feast in Chapters 12 and 13. Why is God making that such a big deal? What does God want the Israelites to understand and remember?
    - a. What can we learn from His instructions about the Passover Feast from all we've studied?
  
  17. Look at the attached map on the last page of this study and look for the quickest, easiest way to get to the Promised Land. What way did God take the Israelites according to

Exodus 13:17-18? What reason does God give for not taking them the quick way in verses 17-18?

18. Though he had long since died, Joseph's faith still had an impact upon his family members. What do we learn about Joseph in Exodus 13:19? See also Genesis 50:24; Joshua 24:32; Acts 7:15-16; Hebrews 11:22.
  
19. What encouraging thing did God do for the newly emancipated Israelites? See Exodus 13:20-22. See also Deuteronomy 1:33; Psalm 105:37-39.
  
20. List what you observe about God's dealings with the Israelites from Exodus 13:17-22.
  
21. For a fitting conclusion to all we've studied in these last few chapters, read the Levites' prayer of praise in Nehemiah 9:5-12. Write your own prayer of praise as you consider God's leading and care for you.

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!  
 O words with heav'nly comfort  
 fraught!  
 Whate'er I do, where'er I be  
 Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

*He leadeth me, He leadeth me,  
 By His own hand He leadeth me;  
 His faithful follower I would be,  
 For by His hand He leadeth me.*

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,  
 Nor ever murmur nor repine;  
 Content, whatever lot I see,  
 Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.  
 ~ Joseph Gilmore

