

Quarter Three: Exodus: Journey to the Promised Land

Jill Morikone

Lesson 1—Oppression: The Background and the Birth of Moses

Sunday: God's People in Egypt

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- **Last Quarter:** “Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy”
 - Illustrations & images from OT & NT that help us interpret end-time prophecies
- **This Quarter:** “Exodus: Journey to the Promised Land”
 - **Title of Book:** Exodus
 - Hebrew = “and these are the names” (or simply, “names” for short)
 - Taken from opening words of the text
 - Common ancient practice of naming a literary work after its first words
 - *save a file in Microsoft Word, suggested title = first words
 - Common practice for other books of the Pentateuch or Torah
 - Genesis = humanity **created** in God's image but **ruined** thru sin
 - Gen ends with “a coffin in Egypt”
 - Exodus = humanity (God's people) **redeemed** from bondage
 - Leviticus = humanity **worshipping** God
 - Numbers = humanity in **pilgrimage** toward the promised land
 - Deut = humanity experiencing **covenant renewal** with God at the borders of the promised land
 - Septuagint (Gk translation of the OT) – used the name “Exodus” or “gone out”
 - English translation took that title for the book
- **Times of Exodus**
 - Book covers from the birth of Moses to the completion & dedication of the tabernacle at Sinai in the first month of the 2nd year of the Exodus
 - Approximately 85 years
 - Difficult time in Israel's history
 - Went from favored people in Egypt
 - Family of Joseph, 2nd in command / saved Egypt & the world
 - Enjoyed tax-free status - even while Egyptians sold themselves to the king
 - Used up money
 - Sold livestock to the king
 - Sold land & paid taxes to the king (1/5 went to the king)
 - To nothing
 - Slaves / lowest of the low
 - Backbreaking work – whipped if slow or got out of line
 - Male children killed

- Pharaoh of that time: 18th dynasty
 - A lot of controversy about the Pharaoh & the dates
 - 1 Kings 6:1 – 4th year of Solomon’s reign
 - He began to build the house of the Lord
 - 480th year after coming out of the land of Egypt
 - Judges 11:26 – Jephthah – 300 post exodus
- Exodus then placed 15th Century BC – within the 18th dynasty
 - Thutmose I (*thuht'-mowz*) issued the death decree for all Hebrew baby boys to be killed
 - His daughter, Hatshepsut (*haat-shuhp-soot*)– princess who rescued Moses from the Nile
 - Known for a leaning toward foreigners
 - Her husband (half brother) ruled for a short time, Thutmose II, no children from their union
 - Hatshepsut was coregent with her nephew, Thutmose III (son of her half-brother & a concubine)
 - He would have wanted to kill Moses, after his killing of the Egyptian taskmaster
 - Known for great power & long reign & desire to destroy
 - Thutmose III’s son, Amenhotep II (*aw-muhn-hoe'-tep*) became pharaoh during the last years of his father’s life & was likely the Pharaoh of the plagues & the Exodus
 - Amenhotep II was known for great cruelty
 - Or Thutmose III was the Pharaoh of the Exodus
- **Themes of Exodus**
 - **1. The presence of God**
 - God is present when we’re oppressed or afflicted
 - Israelites were slaves, yet God saw, knew, was present, & delivered
 - God is present when we’re in trouble or danger
 - Israelites trapped by the Red Sea with Egyptians behind, God was present & delivered them
 - Our God can deliver us
 - God is present redemptively (some call Exodus: “the gospel, according to Moses”)
 - Israelites – at Mt Sinai & the erection of the tabernacle
 - Ex 25:8 – “Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.”
 - Sanctuary was a reminder of redemption

- **2. Plan of Salvation**
 - Sanctuary was a reminder of redemption (modeled after sanctuary in Heaven)
 - Reminder of God's desire to have relationship with His people
 - Deliverance from Egyptian bondage
 - Sacrificial system – perfect lamb slain
 - Cleansing from sin
 - Holy place
 - Lamp – oil of Holy Spirit; Jesus = Light
 - Altar of incense – prayer / intercession
 - Table of shewbread – Word of God, Jesus = Bread of life
 - Most Holy place
 - Ark of the covenant = Law of God
- **3. Christ, pre-figured**
 - Moses life & example as a type of Christ
 - Book really not about Moses, but about God
- **4. God's love, mercy & justice**
 - Giving of the law – holiness of God, love of God, entering in covenant relationship with His people by faith
 - Ex 19 – He bore them on eagle's wings
 - His love & mercy, for a people who didn't deserve it
 - Deut 7:7, 8 – “The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people....(8) but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”
 - He freed them
 - Delivered them from Egyptian bondage
 - He forgave them & bore patiently with them
 - They complained
 - They wanted to go back to Egypt
 - They were rebellious and refused to trust Him
 - He still bore with them
 - His justice at the golden calf experience
 - Justice is love
- **Author of Exodus: Moses**
 - He was told by God to write down certain things in Exodus
 - OT books refer to the “Law of Moses”
 - NT – Jesus specifically referred to Moses as the author of Exodus & the Torah
 - The apostles did, as well

- **Author** of lesson: Jiri Moskala, professor of Old Testament exegesis & theology, & dean of the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University
- **Chronological study of Exodus**
- **This Week:** “Oppression: The Background & the Birth of Moses”
 - Exodus 1 & 2
 - Slavery in Egypt
 - The birth of Moses
 - Moses’ first 80 years
 - Have you ever been abandoned?
 - The book of Exodus is for you
 - Are you persecuted?
 - God sees you
 - Have you been oppressed or exploited?
 - God hears you
 - Do you need deliverance?
 - God understands, and can bring freedom and deliverance

Memory Text: “The children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them” (Ex 2:23-25, NKJV).

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** God’s People in Egypt (Jill)
 - Ex 1:1 – 12 – growth of Israelites from 70 persons to 2 million; degression of Israel from favored people to nation of slaves
- 2. **Monday:** The Historical Background (James)
 - Gen 37 & 39 – background of Joseph coming to Egypt & highly favored; Egyptian dynasty during time of Moses (18th dynasty)
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Hebrew Midwives (Ryan J)
 - Ex 1:9 – 21 – 2 Hebrew midwives who saved lives & brought deliverance & stood for right; first Jewish death decree
- 4. **Wednesday:** Moses Is Born (SQ)
 - Ex 2:1 – 10 – divine intervention to save Moses from the river & be raised by Pharaoh’s daughter
- 5. **Thursday:** A Change of Plans (John L)
 - Ex 2:11 – 25 – Moses’ growth in the palace; killing of an Egyptian, flight to Midian & unlearning & relearning under God

Sunday: God’s People in Egypt

Exodus 1:1 – 12; Ex 12:37; Gen 46:27; Ex 40

- Ex 1:1 – “Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob.”
 - Heb begins “And these are the names...” (simply “Names” for short)
 - Where we get Hebrew title of the book
 - Septuagint used name “Exodus” or “gone out”
 - “And” indicates it continues from where it left off in Genesis
 - Gen 46:8 “ Now these were the names of the children of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt:...”
 - Gen starts with Leah’s children & grandchildren
 - Zilpah’s children & grandchildren
 - Rachel’s children & grandchildren
 - Bilhah’s children & grandchildren
 - Gen 46:27b – “...All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy.”
 - Acts 7:14 – Stephen’s defense b4 the Sanhedrin – lists 75 persons
 - Septuagint lists 75 (includes 5 more names in the section)
 - Stephen was a Greek believer
 - Points to authenticity of Scripture
 - *Different points of same accident
 - 1 or 2 demoniacs
 - Matt & Luke reverse the order of the temptations
 - Exodus 1 orders such: (Rachel more in the middle)
 - Leah’s descendants
 - Rachel’s descendants
 - Bilhah’s descendants (Rachel’s handmaid)
 - Zilpah’s descendants
 - Leaves out Joseph, since he was already in Egypt
- Ex 1:5 – “All those who were descendants of Jacob were seventy persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already).”
 - 70 expresses fullness / completeness in the OT
 - Gideon had 70 sons
 - Descendants of Noah = 70 (gen 10)
 - 70 elders are representatives of the people
- Ex 1:6, 7 – “And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. (7) But the children of Israel were **fruitful** and **increased** abundantly, **multiplied** and **grew** exceedingly mighty, and the land was **filled** with them.”
 - Grew from 70 to a great multitude
 - 5 verbs describe supernatural multiplication of children of Israel
 - Ex 12:37b – “...six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. (38) A mixed multitude went up with them also....”
 - 600k fighting men (older men not counted in that number)
 - By time of the Exodus, probably 2 million people went out of Egypt

- **Takeaway #1: Only God brings something from nothing** (or little)
 - In those 400 years, (Ex 12 says 430 years) – God multiplied them miraculously
 - Widow's 2 mites in the temple offering
 - Widow's oil multiplied
 - Widow Zarephath's oil & meal multiplied
 - 2 loaves & 5 fishes multiplied
- **Takeaway #2: An ending often indicates a new beginning**
 - Joseph & brothers died - & Israel arose & multiplied supernaturally
 - Moses died & Joshua arose & was appointed
 - Elijah was taken away & Elisha arose as new prophet of God
 - David & Bathsheba's child died & then David arose & ate
 - Isa 43:19 – “Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth...”
- Ex 1:8 – “Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.”
 - Turning point in story – affliction & enslavement began
 - New king = new dynasty in Egyptian rule (18th dynasty)
 - They were oppressed by the previous dynasty (Asiatic Hyksos)
 - The oppressed now became the oppressor (any foreign ethnicity was not tolerated)
- Ex 1:12 – “But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel.”
 - **Takeaway #3: What looks like oppression, is actually the start of a miracle**
 - God delights in making the impossible, possible
 - Jer 32:27 – “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?”
- **3 takeaways from Exodus 1**
 - 1: Only God brings something from nothing
 - 2: An ending often indicates a new beginning
 - 3: What looks like oppression, is actually the start of a miracle

Lesson 2: “The Burning Bush” (The commission of Moses)