

Survey of the Old Testament – The Book of Exodus

INTRODUCTION: Exodus means "*going forth*". The book has 40 chapters which follows the history of Israel from where Genesis ends, from the death of Joseph on to generation of the Hebrews with Moses.

It shows God's faithfulness to His promises, His power over the gods of men, and the law given to Israel at Sinai.

AUTHOR: Moses is considered to be the traditional author of Exodus which is also part of the "*Law of Moses*" and considered as the second of the group of books called the Pentateuch which means "*five*", that is the first five books of the Old Testament.

DATE WRITTEN: during the 40 years in the wilderness, approximately 1440–1400 BC.

PURPOSES:

1. To show God's concern and love for Israel.
2. To give God's chosen people instructions for their lives.
3. To remind man that God always keeps His promises.

TO WHOM IT WAS WRITTEN:

To Israel during their 40-year wilderness journey in the Sinai Peninsula. Exodus records the history of Israel from the generation immediately following Joseph, until the time Israel received the law of God in the wilderness. The word *Exodus* emphasizes the escape of the Hebrews under Egyptian slavery toward life as a people in a new land.

MAIN THEME: Israel's history from the death of Joseph to the erection of the Tabernacle.

KEY WORD: Deliverance

KEY VERSES : Exodus 12, ⁴⁰ *Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.* ⁴¹ *And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years --- on that very same day --- it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.* ⁴² *It is a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.* ⁴³ *And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it."*

OUTLINE :

Exodus covers over four periods in the history of Israel:

- The Period of Bondage (**chapters 1 & 2**)
- The Period of Deliverance (**chapters 3 to 12**)
- The Period of Discipline (**chapter 12:31 to chapter 18**)
- The Period of Legislation and Organisation (**chapter 19-40**)

PROMINENT CHARACTERS: Moses, Miriam, Pharaoh, Jethro, Aaron, Joshua

LESSONS FROM EXODUS:

- God wants us to live more righteously than those about us.
- God is serious about how we ought to serve and worship him – Exodus shows us that it is God who determines how we must approach him, and he has provided a pattern to his people to achieve this.
- God's will and commandments cannot and must never be changed by men. It is God who dictates his terms, our role is to love him and obey him.
- We will always have enemies if we choose to live a righteous life.
- There is only one God, the others are just counterfeits.
- God is faithful to his promises - he means what he says and says what he means.
- Sin has its penalty and consequence – we have been warned.

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Mid-Week Bible Discussion

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