**Wycliffe Associates**

**Bible Translation Reviewers’ Guide**

*Exodus*

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[**1:1-2:10**](#_1qoc18ngwok5) **2**

[**3:1-22**](#_4tqvgxg7pkk3) **4**

[**12:1-42**](#_lkct7xzdfh6e) **6**

[**14:1-31**](#_2t6nzoy71i8u) **8**

[**16:1-36**](#_jqua3hx6sbrl) **10**

[**19:1-25**](#_3npl5qygbt67) **12**

[**20:1-26**](#_vd8jfudgqzqb) **14**

[**32:1-35**](#_17fwev1m9dnv) **16**

[**34:1-35**](#_5ukjv1wac2fs) **18**

[**40:17-38**](#_2khhwkj8thac) **20**

# 1:1-2:10

**Background**: At the end of Genesis, Israel and his family moved to Egypt to escape the famine in the land. Exodus tells the story of what happened to Israel’s descendants nearly 400 years later.

**Part 1**

Tell in your own words what you just read.

* When the people of Israel went to Egypt, they were 70 in number. [1:1-5]
* The number of the people of Israel greatly increased in Egypt, and Pharaoh treated them cruelly. [1:6-14]
* Pharaoh commanded that all male babies were to be killed when they were born, but the midwives did not obey Pharaoh. [1:15-22]
* A woman from the tribe of Levi had a male baby, and she put him in a basket and set him in the river. [2:1-4]
* Pharaoh’s daughter found the baby, and he became her son. She named him Moses. [2:5-10]

**Part 2**

Answer the following questions.

1. How many descendants of Jacob entered Egypt? [1:1-5]

Seventy Israelites went to Egypt. Joseph was already there.

1. Why did the new king over Egypt fear the Israelites? [1:6-10]

They had greatly grown in number, and he feared they would join the enemies of the Egyptians if there was a war.

1. What did the new king do to the Israelites? [1:11-14]

He was very cruel to them and oppressed them. He forced them to do very hard work.

1. When the king saw that the Israelites were still growing in number what did he command? [1:15-16]

He commanded the Hebrew midwives to kill newborn male babies.

1. What did the midwives do? [1:17-19]

They disobeyed the king. They told the king that they were unable to kill the babies because the Hebrew women were strong and would give birth before the midwives could come to them.

1. What did Pharaoh then command? [1:22]

He commanded the people to throw male babies in the river.

1. What did the woman from the tribe of Levi do when she had a male child? [2:1-4]

She hid him for 3 months. When she could no longer hide him, she put him in a basket and placed him in the reeds in the water on the side of the river.

1. Who found the baby? [2:5-6]

The daughter of Pharaoh.

**Exodus 1:1-2:10 continued**

1. What did the sister of the baby do? [2:7-8]

She got the baby’s mother to come and nurse the baby for Pharaoh’s daughter.

1. What happened when the baby grew older? [2:10]

He became the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.

1. What did Pharaoh’s daughter name the baby? [2:10]

She named the baby Moses.

1. Why did Pharaoh’s daughter name him “Moses”? [2:10]

She named him Moses because the name meant, “she took him out of the water.” (In the original language the name Moses sounds like the phrase “taken out of the water.”)

**Comment Section:**

# 3:1-22

**Background**: Years after Pharaoh’s daughter adopted Moses, Moses killed an Egyptian for beating a Hebrew. Pharaoh heard about this and tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled and went to live in the land of Midian. Moses lived in Midian for a long time, and, during that time, the Israelites cried out to Yahweh because the Egyptians were treating them so badly.

**Part 1**

Tell in your own words what you just read.

* The angel of Yahweh appeared to Moses in a burning bush. [3:1-3]
* Yahweh said he was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and he would rescue his people from Egypt and take them to the land he promised their ancestors. [3:4-12]
* God said his name is “I am that I am,” and Moses should tell the people that “I am” sent him. [3:13-15]
* God commanded Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let God’s people go for three days into the wilderness to worship God. [3:16-18]
* God said Pharaoh would not do this, so God would do miracles, then Pharaoh would let them go, and the Egyptians would give them valuable things when they left. [3:19-22]

**Part 2**

Answer the following questions.

1. What kind of work was Moses doing at the beginning of this passage? [3:1]

He was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro.

1. What was Horeb also called? [3:1]

The mountain of God.

1. What happened when Moses arrived at Horeb? [3:2]

The angel of the Yahweh appeared to him in a burning bush.

1. When Moses saw the fire, what did he notice about the bush? [3:3]

He noticed that the bush was burning but it was not burned up.

1. When Moses turned aside to look at the burning bush what did Yahweh say to him? [3:4-5]

Yahweh called to Moses and told him to not come any closer. He instructed Moses to remove his sandals because he was standing on ground set apart for Yahweh.

1. How did Yahweh make himself known to Moses? [3:6]

Yahweh revealed himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This meant that Yahweh is the God of the nation of Israel.

1. What did Moses do after Yahweh identified himself? [3:6]

Moses covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

**Exodus 3:1-22 continued**

1. What did Yahweh say to Moses? [3:7-10]

Yahweh said:

* He knew about the Israelites’ suffering in Egypt.
* He would free them and bring them to a large land flowing with milk and honey in the land of Canaan.
* He was sending Moses to Pharaoh to free the Israelites.

1. How did Moses respond to God? [3:11]

Moses asked why God would choose him to go to Pharaoh.

1. Why do you think Moses questioned God when God said he would send him to Egypt to rescue the Israelites? [3:11]

Some possible reasons are:

* Moses may have felt he was no one special to do such an important job.
* Moses may have felt that he was not capable of convincing Pharaoh to release the people.
* Moses may have been afraid of what Pharaoh would do to him if he returned to Egypt.

1. What was the sign that would prove that God had sent Moses? [3:12]

The sign was that Moses would lead the Israelites to worship on that mountain.

1. What name for God was Moses to give to the Israelites? [3:13-15]

I AM THAT I AM. Moses was to tell them that I AM had sent him. Moses was to tell them that Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob sent him.

1. What might the name “I AM THAT I AM” tell us about the person of God? [3:14]

It may suggest that God is absolute. He has no beginning or end. No one created him. He is eternal and does not change.

1. What did God say he would do since he knew that the king of Egypt would not let the Israelites go? [3:20]

God said he would defeat the Egyptians with miracles.

1. What would the Israelites take with them when they left Egypt? [3:21-22]

They would take silver, gold, and clothing from the Egyptians.

**Comment Section:**

# 12:1-42

**Background:** Moses and Aaron traveled to Egypt to confront Pharaoh. They told him to let the Israelites leave Egypt, but he refused. As a result, Yahweh sent nine plagues against the Egyptians. This passage begins when Yahweh was about to send the tenth and final plague.

**Part 1**

Tell in your own words what you just read.

* Yahweh explained to Moses and Aaron what the Israelites should do for the Passover, and they were to celebrate this festival every year. [12:1-11, 14]
* Yahweh said he would kill all the firstborn males in Egypt, but he would passover the Israelites’ houses if they put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts. [12:7, 12-13]
* Yahweh commanded people to eat bread without yeast for seven days, and they must celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread every year. [12:15-20]
* Moses told the elders of Israel that everyone must kill a lamb for Passover and put blood on their doorposts, and they must teach future generations why they did this. [12:21-28].
* At midnight, Yahweh killed the firstborn males in Egypt, and Pharaoh told Moses to take the Israelites and leave Egypt. [12:29-36]
* The Israelites received valuable items from the Egyptians, then they left Egypt. [12:35-42]

**Part 2**

Answer the following questions.

1. To whom was Yahweh speaking in this passage? [12:1]

Yahweh was speaking to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt.

1. What did Yahweh tell them about the month in which he would rescue the people from Egypt? [12:2]

He told them that the month in which he would rescue them was to be the first month of the year for the Israelites.

1. What kind of animal were the people to eat? [12:3-5]

A lamb or a goat.

1. What characteristics were these animals to have? [12:5]

They were to be one year old, male, and without blemish, meaning not diseased, with broken bones, or deformed.

1. What were the people to do with the blood of the animal? [12:7, 21-22]

The people were to take the blood and put it on the two sides of the doorposts and the top of the doorframes of the house where they would eat the meat.

1. How were they to cook the animals? [12:8-9]

They were to roast the animal over a fire with its head, legs, and inner parts.

1. What were they to eat with the meat? [12:8]

They were to eat bread without yeast and with bitter herbs.

**Exodus 12:1-42 continued**

1. How were they to eat the food? [12:11]

They were to eat the food with their belts fastened, shoes on their feet, and a staff in their hand. They were to eat the food quickly.

1. What did Yahweh say he would do to the Egyptians? [12:12]

Yahweh said he would kill every firstborn male of man and animal in Egypt.

1. What did Yahweh say that he would do to the Israelites? [12:13, 23]

Yahweh said he would see the blood on their houses, and he would pass by and not harm them.

1. What did Pharaoh do after Yahweh killed the firstborn men and animals among the Egyptians? [12:31-32]

Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and told them to take their people and flocks, leave Egypt, and go worship Yahweh.

1. What did the Egyptians give the Israelites as they were leaving? [12:35-36]

They gave the Israelites silver, gold, clothing, and anything else the Israelites asked for.

1. How many Israelites were there when they left Egypt? [12:37]

600,000 men plus women and children.

1. How long did the Israelites live in Egypt before Yahweh rescued them? [12:40]

430 years.

1. How was the word “Passover” used in this section?

It was a specific festival with a meal defined by God. The lamb that was slain for the Passover was often called “the Passover” or “the Passover lamb.” So Passover was not only the name of the feast, but also the name of the animal killed for the feast.

1. What do you think was the meaning of the blood on the door?

The blood represented the sacrifice that the people made to Yahweh. It showed they were obeying Yahweh and putting their trust in Him. By putting it on the door it applied the benefit of the sacrifice to all who were in the house. In this case, Yahweh would pass over that house and not harm anyone inside.

**Comment Section:**

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# 14:1-31

**Background:** Pharaoh let the Israelites leave Egypt. As they traveled, Yahweh guided them with a pillar of cloud in the day and a pillar of fire at night. This passage is about what happened to the Israelites soon after leaving Egypt.

**Part 1**

Tell in your own words what you just read.

* Yahweh told Moses that Pharaoh would pursue the Israelites and try to bring them back to Egypt, but Yahweh would be honored because of this. [14:1-3]
* Pharaoh and his armies pursued the Israelites, and the Israelites were afraid and blamed Moses, but Moses promised that Yahweh would protect them. [14:4-15]
* Moses reached his hand over the sea, and Yahweh caused the water to divide so the Israelites could walk across. [14:21-22]
* The Egyptians tried to chase them, but the waters fell on them, and they died. [14:23-30]
* The people trusted Yahweh and Moses when they saw Yahweh’s power against the Egyptians. [14:31]

**Part 2**

Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Yahweh want the Israelites to camp by the sea? [14:1-3]

Yahweh wanted Pharaoh to think the Israelites were confused and lost in the wilderness.

1. What did Yahweh say he would do to Pharaoh? [14:4]

Yahweh said he would make Pharaoh stubborn and defiant so he would gather his army and chase after the Israelites.

1. Why did Yahweh want the Egyptians to pursue the Israelites? [14:4]

Yahweh was going to bring honor to himself through the way he dealt with Pharaoh and his army.

1. Why do you think God would cause someone to be stubborn so that they rebelled against him?

Perhaps because Pharaoh already acted wickedly toward God’s people by enslaving them and trying to stop them from growing in population through infanticide.

1. How did the Israelites react when they saw the Egyptians coming? [14:10-12]

They were very afraid. They were angry with Moses and accused him of taking them to the wilderness to die, because there were no graves in Egypt. They told Moses it would have been better for him to leave them in Egypt to work in Egypt than to die in the wilderness.

1. What kept the Egyptians away from the Israelites? [14:19-20]

The angel of God and the pillar of cloud.

1. How did the Israelites get across the sea? [14:21-22]

Moses lifted his hand over the sea, and Yahweh split the sea so the Israelites crossed on dry ground.

**Exodus 14:1-31 continued**

1. What happened when the Egyptians pursued the Israelites across the sea? [14:23-28]

The sea that had been divided now came together again and killed the Egyptians.

1. What did the Israelites do after this happened? [14:31]

They gave honor to Yahweh and put their trust in Moses.

1. What did Yahweh’s victory against the Egyptians tell us about Yahweh in comparison to the gods that the Egyptians worshiped?

Yahweh is the true God. The gods that the Egyptians worshiped had no power to stop Yahweh because, in fact, they were not real gods.

**Comment Section:**

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# 16:1-36

**Background**: Not long after Yahweh rescued the Israelites from the Egyptians, the Israelites started complaining. First, the people complained about the lack of fresh water. Moses, by the power of Yahweh, turned some bitter water into sweet water. This passage is about another time when the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron.

**Part 1**

Tell in your own words what you just read.

* The Israelites started complaining about not having enough food since leaving Egypt. [16:1-3]
* Yahweh said to Moses that he would cause bread to come from heaven, and he would test the Israelites to determine if they would obey him. [16:4-5]
* The glory of Yahweh appeared in a cloud to the Israelites, and he said he heard the people’s complaints, and he would provide meat and bread. [16:6-12]
* When the bread appeared in the morning, the people were commanded to only gather what they needed for one day, though some disobeyed. [16:13-21]
* The people were commanded to gather enough for two days on the day before the Sabbath, but some people disobeyed this too. [16:22-30].
* The Israelites called the bread “manna,” and Moses stored some of it in the ark of the covenant. [16:31-36]

**Part 2**

Answer the following questions.

1. Where had the Israelites arrived at the beginning of this passage? [16:1]

The wilderness of Zin.

1. What did the Israelites do when they arrived there? [16:2-3]

They complained against Moses and Aaron because there was no food.

1. When Yahweh heard their complaint, what did he promise to do? [16:4]

Yahweh promised to send them bread from heaven.

1. How much food were the people to gather? [16:4]

They were to gather only enough food for one day except on the sixth day of the week. Then they were to gather enough food for two days.

1. Why were they to gather two days’ worth of food on the sixth day? [16:5, 29-30]

The seventh day was the Sabbath and they were not to work or gather food.

1. What was the purpose for which Yahweh gave these commands? [16:4]

Yahweh was testing the Israelites to see if they would obey him.

1. What did Moses and Aaron tell the Israelites would be the evidence that it was Yahweh who brought them out of Egypt and had heard their complaint? [16:6-8]

The evidence was that Yahweh would give them meat in the evening and bread in the morning.

**Exodus 16:1-36 continued**

1. What did the Israelites see after Aaron told them to come near before Yahweh? [16:10]

They saw the glory of Yahweh appear in the cloud.

1. When the food appeared, in what ways did some of the Israelites disobey Yahweh? [16:19-20, 27-30]

Some kept some food until the next morning, and some went out on the Sabbath to gather food.

1. What happened to the food that had been kept until the next morning? [16:20]

The food that was kept until morning was spoiled and had worms in it.

1. What did the Israelites call the bread from heaven? [16:31]

They called it manna because they did not know what it was. (In the original language, the word “manna” sounds like the word for “what is it?”)

1. What did the manna look like and taste like? [16:31]

The manna was white and tasted like honey.

1. What did Yahweh command Moses and Aaron to do with some of the manna? [16:32]

Yahweh commanded them to keep some of the manna so that later descendants of Israel could see what Yahweh fed the Israelites when he brought them out of Egypt.

1. Where did Aaron put the manna that Yahweh commanded them to keep? [16:34]

Aaron put the manna beside the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments in the ark.

1. How long did the Israelites eat the manna? [16:35]

They ate the manna for 40 years until Yahweh brought them to the land of Canaan.

**Comment Section:**

# 19:1-25

**Background**: Yahweh continued providing for and guiding the Israelites. This passage is about when Yahweh brought them to Mount Sinai.

**Part 1**

Tell in your own words what you just read.

* The Israelites came to the mountain of Sinai, and Yahweh told Moses from the mountain to tell the people that they would be Yahweh’s special people if they would obey him. [19:1-6]
* The people agreed to do all that Yahweh commanded, so Yahweh said that he would come in a thick cloud so that the people would hear when Yahweh spoke to Moses. [19:7-15]
* On the third day, Yahweh descended on the mountain in a thick cloud of fire and smoke, and he told Moses to come to the top of the mountain. [19:16-20]
* Yahweh told Moses to go down and bring Aaron and to warn everyone else not to come up to see Yahweh or he would punish them. [19:21-25]

**Part 2**

Answer the following questions.

1. Where did the Israelites arrive three months after leaving Egypt? [19:1]

The wilderness of Sinai

1. Where did the Israelites camp? [19:2]

In front of the mountain, that is, Mount Sinai.

1. What did Yahweh say that the Israelites would be to him if they obeyed him? [19:3-6]

They would be his special possession, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation to him.

1. What do you think it meant for the people to become a kingdom of priests? [19:6]

The entire nation of Israel was to serve Yahweh in a special way that other nations did not. They were to be “set apart” to God, not just the priests, but the entire nation.

1. How did the Israelites respond to Yahweh? [19:7-8]

They said they would do everything that he said.

1. What did the people have to do to prepare for Yahweh to visit them? [19:10-15]

* They had to wash their clothes.
* They had to put boundaries around the mountain so the Israelites would not touch it.
* Men were not allowed to have sexual relations with their wives.

1. Describe what it was like when Yahweh descended on the mountain. [19:16-19]

There was a very loud sound, thunder and lightning, fire and smoke, and the mountain shook.

**Exodus 19:1-25 continued**

1. Why do you think Yahweh stayed within a thick cloud of smoke?

Yahweh had to remain separated from the people because he is holy, and the people were not. If Yahweh did not stay within the cloud, his presence would destroy the people.

1. When Yahweh arrived on Sinai, about what did he tell Moses to warn the people? [19:20-22]

They were not to come up the mountain or many of them might perish.

1. Why do you think that the people were forbidden to touch the mountain when Yahweh was there?

Perhaps when God came to the mountain to speak to Moses, that place became a holy place and human beings were not to put their feet on holy ground.

1. Whom did Yahweh allow Moses to bring up the mountain with him? [19:24]

Aaron

**Comment Section:**

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# 20:1-26

**Background**: The Israelites were still at Mount Sinai.

**Part 1**

Tell in your own words what you just read.

* God spoke his Ten Commandments. [20:1-17]
* The Israelites were terrified and asked Moses to speak to them rather than God speaking to them, because they feared they may die, so Moses approached God. [20:18-21]
* Yahweh told Moses to make an altar for sacrifices. [20:22-26]

**Part 2**

Answer the following questions.

1. How did Yahweh identify himself to the Israelites? [20:1]

Yahweh said, “I am Yahweh your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.”

1. What were the Ten Commandments that Yahweh gave the Israelites? [20:3-17]

* You must have no other gods before Yahweh.
* You must not make idols.
* You must not take the name of Yahweh in vain.
* You must observe the Sabbath.
* You must honor your father and mother.
* You must not murder.
* You must not commit adultery.
* You must not steal.
* You must not give false testimony.
* You must not covet.

1. Why do you think Yahweh identified himself to the Israelites before he gave the Ten Commandments?

Perhaps He was reminding them of who he was and what he did for them so that the people would know why they should obey his commandments. Yahweh had rescued them, and proved his power, therefore they should obey him.

1. What reason did Yahweh give for why he does not want the Israelites to worship idols? [20:5]

Yahweh said he is a jealous God, and he would punish the descendants of wicked people to the third or fourth generation. But he shows love to thousands of those who obey him.

1. Why do you think Yahweh is a jealous God?

He is the one and only God. He does not want his people worshiping other gods, because he is the only one who deserves worship.

**Exodus 20:1-26 continued**

1. Why must the Israelites honor the Sabbath? [20:11]

Yahweh created all things in six days and rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Israelites were not to work on the seventh day of the week.

1. What did Yahweh promise to those who honored their mother and father? [20:12]

Yahweh promised that they would live a long time in the land that he would give them.

1. What did the Israelites say when they saw the thunder and lightning and heard the loud voice? [20:18-19]

They asked Moses to speak to them for God instead of God speaking to them directly. They were afraid they might die.

1. Moses said that God had come to them for what reason? [20:20]

God had come to test them so that they would honor and obey him.

1. What did Yahweh ask Moses to build? [20:24]

An altar

1. What commands did Yahweh give to Moses about the altar? [20:24-26]

The altar was to be made of earth. If the altar was made of stone, the stones should not be cut. There were not to be steps leading up to the altar.

**Comment Section:**

# 32:1-35

**Background:** Yahweh gave the Israelites many more commands. The Israelites agreed to do everything that Yahweh commanded. Moses sprinkled blood on the people to confirm the covenant between Yahweh and Israel. Then Moses, along with his aid, Joshua, went back up Mount Sinai. Moses entered Yahweh’s cloud, which covered the mountain, and Yahweh commanded Moses about how the tabernacle and everything associated with it should be made. This passage took place after Moses had been on the mountain for a long time.

**Part 1**

Tell in your own words what you just read.

* The Israelites saw that it was taking Moses a long time to come back down from the mountain, so they told Aaron to make them an idol. [32:1]
* Aaron took some gold and made an idol in the shape of a calf, and the people worshipped it. [32:2-6]
* Yahweh told Moses that he would destroy the Israelites and make a nation through Moses. [32:7-10]
* Moses asked Yahweh not to destroy the people, and Yahweh did as Moses asked. [32:11-14]
* Moses went down the mountain and was very angry with the people, so he broke the two stone tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments, and he destroyed the idol. [32:15-19]
* Moses told the Levites to go through and kill some of the Israelites, and they killed about 3,000 of them. [32:25-29]
* Yahweh said he would continue to lead the Israelites, but he punished them by causing a plague. [32:30-35]

**Part 2**

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the Israelites do when they saw that Moses was taking a long time to come back down the mountain? [32:1]

They told Aaron to make them an idol.

1. What did Aaron do? [32:2-3]

Aaron melted gold jewelry that he took from the people, and he made a golden idol in the shape of a calf. [32:1-4]

1. What did the Israelites do the day after Aaron made the idol? [32:5-6]

They held a festival to honor Yahweh, but they offered their sacrifices to an idol.

1. What did Yahweh intend to do when the people made the idol? [32:9-10]

Yahweh intended to destroy the people and start a nation through Moses.

1. How did Moses reason with Yahweh so that he would not destroy the people? [32:11-14]

Moses told Yahweh that the Egyptians would think that he rescued the Israelites just to kill them in the mountains.

Then Moses reminded Yahweh of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel to whom he promised to give very many descendants and to give them the land [of Canaan] forever.

1. What did Moses do when he went down the mountain? [32:19-20]

He threw and broke the stone tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments. Then he ground the idol to powder, put it in water, and made the people drink it.

**Exodus 32:1-35 continued**

1. Why do you think Moses made the people drink the water with the powder from the idol? [32:20]

Perhaps Moses was showing the people how terribly they sinned by making them drink the water which had a bitter taste from the powder of the idol.

1. How did Aaron respond when Moses asked him how this situation happened? [32:22-24]

* Aaron asked Moses not to be angry because he knew these people were wicked.
* Aaron explained that the people wanted an idol when Moses had not returned for a long time.
* Aaron said he threw the gold into a fire and the golden calf came out.

1. Why do you think Aaron claimed that he just threw gold in a fire and a calf came out?

Perhaps Aaron was trying to avoid the responsibility for what he did. Aaron spoke about the golden calf as if it was the people’s fault and as if it happened by accident.

1. Who came to Moses when he asked for those who still supported Yahweh to join him? [32:26]

The Levites

1. What did the Levites do at Moses’ command? [32:27-29]

They killed 3,000 Israelites.

1. When Moses went back up the mountain, what did he ask Yahweh? [32:31-32]

Moses asked for Yahweh to either forgive the Israelites or to take him out of the book that Yahweh had written.

1. What do you think it meant to be removed from the book that Yahweh had written?

Perhaps the book referred to a record of all the people that belonged to Yahweh. To be removed from it meant to no longer belong to Yahweh or be a part of his people.

1. How did Yahweh respond? [32:33-35]

He told Moses that he would only punish those who had sinned, so he sent a plague on the people.

**Comment Section:**

# 34:1-35

**Background**: Moses set up a tent, called the “tent of meeting,” where he would go to speak with Yahweh. Moses asked Yahweh to show him his glory. Yahweh told Moses he would pass before him, but Yahweh would only allow him to see his back and not his face. This passage continues this story.

**Part 1**

Tell in your own words what you just read.

* Moses cut two stone tablets, and he carried them up the mountain so Yahweh could write his commandments on them. [34:1-4]
* Yahweh passed by Moses and proclaimed his name and described his mercy, grace, and justice. [34:5-7]
* Moses asked Yahweh to continue leading the Israelites, and Yahweh said he would make a covenant with them and do mighty miracles among them. [34:8-11].
* Yahweh said he would defeat the people living in Canaan and give the land to the Israelites, but the Israelites should be careful not to worship their false gods. [34:11-17]
* Yahweh gave Moses commandments about three festivals the Israelites were to celebrate every year. [34:18-28]
* After being in Yahweh’s presence, Moses’ face glowed, so he would wear a veil over his face, except when he was speaking with Yahweh. [34:29-35]

**Part 2**

Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Yahweh tell Moses to cut two stone tablets? [34:1]

Yahweh said he would write the words that had been on the two stone tablets, which Moses had broken.

1. When Moses went up Mount Sinai, what did Yahweh say when he passed by Moses? [34:6-7]

Yahweh said that he is merciful, loving, and forgiving, but he also punishes people and their descendants for their sins.

1. What did Moses ask Yahweh to do? [34:8-9]

Moses asked Yahweh to go with the Israelites and to forgive their sins.

1. What did Yahweh say he would do? [34:10-11]

Yahweh said he would make a covenant with the Israelites, do great miracles before them, and drive out the inhabitants in the land that Yahweh would give the Israelites.

1. What did Yahweh warn the Israelites against? [34:12-16]

Yahweh warned the Israelites not to make any covenants with the people living in the land where they were going because those people would become a trap for the Israelites.

**Exodus 34:1-35 continued**

1. What three festivals did Yahweh command the Israelites to observe? [34:18, 22]

* The Festival of Unleavened Bread [the Festival of Passover is a day during the Festival of Unleavened Bread]
* The Festival of Weeks
* The Festival of Ingathering.

1. What did Yahweh say about firstborns? [34:19-20]

* All firstborn males, including the cattle, belonged to Yahweh.
* The Israelites were to buy back the firstborn of a donkey with a lamb, or else break the donkey’s neck.
* The Israelites were to buy back their firstborn sons.

1. What other commands did Yahweh give in 34:25-26?

* Must not offer the blood of sacrifice with yeast.
* No meat from the sacrifice at the Festival of Passover should be left over to the next morning.
* Must bring first fruits from the fields to Yahweh.
* Must not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk.

1. How long was Moses on Mount Sinai with Yahweh? [34:28]

40 days and 40 nights.

1. Describe what Moses looked like when he came down from the mountain. [34:29-30]

Moses’ face was shining because of speaking with Yahweh.

1. What did Moses do as a result of his face shining? [34:33]

He wore a veil over his face.

1. When did Moses remove the veil? [34:34]

Moses removed the veil when he went to speak with Yahweh.

**Comment Section:**

# 40:17-38

**Background**: After Moses returned from Mount Sinai, the Israelites built the tabernacle and everything associated with it just as Yahweh commanded. The passage is about the completion of their work on the tabernacle.

**Part 1**

Tell in your own words what you just read.

* Moses set up the tabernacle just as Yahweh instructed. [40:17-33]
* Yahweh’s glory filled the tabernacle. [40:34-35]
* Yahweh’s cloud was over the tabernacle by day, and his fire was over it by night, and when the cloud moved, the Israelites would follow it. [40:36-38]

**Part 2**

Answer the following questions.

1. What was 40:17-33 about?

These verses told about Moses setting up the tabernacle and putting everything in it just as Yahweh commanded.

1. What did Moses put in the tabernacle? [40:22-27]

He put in the tabernacle the ark, table, lampstand, and golden incense altar.

1. What did Moses put at the entrance of the tabernacle? [40:28]

A curtain

1. What did Moses put near the entrance of the tabernacle? [40:29]

The altar for burnt offerings.

1. What did Moses, Aaron, and his sons do when they went into the tabernacle? [40:30-32]

They washed their hands and feet from the basin.

1. What happened after Moses finished his work? [40:34]

The cloud covered the tent of meeting and God’s glory filled the tabernacle.

1. How did the Israelites know when they were to travel? [40:36-37]

The cloud would rise up from the tent and go somewhere else.

1. What covered the tabernacle during the night? [40:38]

The fire of Yahweh.

1. Why do you think God showed his glory at the tabernacle?

Perhaps God’s appearance in the tabernacle confirmed that he was with them, and the Israelites should worship him there.

**Comment Section:**