

Unit 2: Exodus

Unit Overview: “Let My people go.” God delivered His people in the exodus, but that wasn’t all He had planned. Why does the exodus matter for Christians? In this unit, we will see how Exodus foreshadowed our salvation.

OPENING VIDEO

1. Exodus shows us the God who is present to bear witness to His Name. The book opens with God’s people multiplying greatly in Egypt, resulting in Pharaoh oppressing them. Exodus leads to the Mosaic Covenant, which is a fulfillment of “Stage 1” of God’s promises to Abraham: He will become the father of a nation (Gen 12:1-2a). The New Testament refers back to Exodus to show how this book points to Jesus: Jesus is the Passover Lamb (John 1:29, 1 Cor 5:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19). Jesus is a new Moses, who teaches and works wonders (Matt 5:1-2; Matt 28:19-20). Jesus’ “signs” in John’s Gospel recall the Plagues in Exodus: John 2:11, 23;3:1. Jesus led an “exodus,” not from Pharaoh but from slavery to sin (Luke 9:30-31). Jesus leads through a new wilderness like Moses led the Israelites (I Cor 10:1-6). Jesus is a better Tabernacle, who embodies God’s presence and character (John 1:14; “dwelling” is “tabernacling,” and “grace and truth” translate the words “steadfast love and faithfulness” in the OT: Ex 34:1-9). Jesus’ body is a better Tabernacle (John 2:18-21). Jesus makes Christians a kingdom of priests and a holy nation like ancient Israel was (I Pet 2:9). Read Hebrews 8:8-13. Jesus brings a better covenant between God and His people than Moses did. According to this passage, what makes this new covenant better than the old covenant?

2. How can we summarize the book of Exodus? Dr. DeRouchie summarizes the book of Exodus like this:

As a foreshadowing of what God will do through His Messiah, God defeats the serpent-kingdom of Egypt by rescuing His people from Egyptian tyranny through Moses. Then He re-establishes His covenant among His people by making a covenant with them on Mount Sinai, so that He could dwell in their midst in Sabbath rest forever. What questions do you have about this summary? What do you hope you will hear more about in the lesson?

SESSION VIDEO

3. In Exodus, God establishes ancient Israel as a nation. King Yahweh has global purposes for ancient Israel, whom He saves from slavery and calls to serve as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation in His presence. Through Moses God redeems this oppressed Israelite people from slavery in Egypt and establishes His covenant with them on Sinai, which includes the building of a Tabernacle, so that they as sinners can lastingly enjoy His presence. Here’s an overview of the whole book: God redeems His people (1-18). God relates with His people through covenant and by His presence (19-40). Read Exodus 2:23-25. What does the covenant with Abraham have to do with the Exodus from Egypt and ancient Israel becoming a ‘nation’?

4. God promises to deliver ancient Israel (Ex 6:6-8). This deliverance will have four steps: Step 1 – Redemption (v.6), Step 2-Relationship (v.7a), Step 3-Knowledge (v.7b), Step 4: Land (v. 8). How does Exodus 6:9 say that the people responded to this message of deliverance? What are some ways you can think of that this response continues throughout the Old Testament?

5. God promises through the exodus to ultimately bring a greater defeat of the Evil One. Remember, all those who rebel against God and oppress His faithful remnant are considered the “seed of the Serpent.” Pharaoh is an “offspring” of the Serpent: Pharaoh is compared to the Serpent by God when God calls Moses and Moses’ staff becomes a serpent (Ex 3:19-20; 4:1-5). God will “strike” the Serpent in the exodus. In Psalm 74:13-14, the psalmist talks about the exodus poetically as God destroying a serpent in the waters. Those waters are the Red Sea, where Pharaoh and his chariots were drowned (Ex 15:1-5). The Serpent is embodied in the life of Pharaoh, and God will now take His firstborn son out of Pharaoh’s tyranny, Israel (Ex 4:21-22). So, the “son” of God is going to triumph over the serpent-king. The first exodus would be the pattern for a new and better exodus, led by the promised royal Deliverer, the Offspring of the woman who would strike the Serpent’s head, as Gen 3:14-15 foretold: Isaiah 51:9-11, Isaiah 11:10-12, Isaiah 11:15-2:2 (compare to Ex 15:2), and Zech 10:10-11. Read Jeremiah 23:5-8. How does this promise connect the future exodus with a king from David’s (and Judah’s) line?

6. Redemption then leads to relationship. After God leads ancient Israel through the waters and brings them to Mt. Sinai, He relates to His people through covenant and by His presence. The covenant embodies God’s relationship with His people. In response to His gracious redemption, He calls His people to God-centered living (Ex 19:4-6). As Israel lives out the word of God and heeds the covenant, they put on display the character of God and mediate God’s presence to the world. They had the calling to stand as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, much like Adam was called to do in the Garden. The Mosaic Covenant fulfills Stage 1 of the Abrahamic Covenant: making Abraham’s descendants into one nation that would receive the land. Israel didn’t fear God, and they sinned greatly and were exiled from the land, sent back into slavery. But Christ, as Israel’s representative, perfectly obeyed this covenant (the 10 commandments of Ex 20:18-20) and secured all its blessings. The promise of the New Covenant was that God would put the fear of the Lord in our hearts, so that we would never turn from Him like ancient Israel did. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. Then read Jeremiah 33:14-16. How does Jesus, the “righteous Branch” descended from King David, give His people hearts to obey God?

7. God is holy, but humanity is sinful. God graciously gives ancient Israel the Tabernacle: His divine presence would reside in the midst of a broken and sinful people. The tabernacle had two distinct sections: Sacrifices for sin – They entered from the East and traveled through the bronze altar, where sins were addressed. Fellowship with God – Then they could have fellowship with the Great King Himself, seated in the Holy of Holies on His throne. There was a problem: How could God be merciful and gracious and yet be faithful to punish iniquity and sin? (Ex 34:6-9). Through sacrifice. How do the two sections of the Tabernacle foreshadow the work of Jesus?

8. The holy God dwells with His people. Left to our sin, coming near the holy God is dangerous. But the Lord provides a sacrifice to cleanse us and forgive us: Jesus. Read Revelation 21:1-4. How will the promise of fellowship, seen in the Tabernacle and now in Jesus, be fulfilled when Christ returns?
