

Exodus: An Introduction

What a wonderful journey through the book of Genesis. Today we start our walk through Exodus and I trust it will be equally exciting, informative, and transforming.

When we think of the book of Exodus we tend to think of deliverance from Israel. Historically that is certainly true; But our interest in this devotional guide is to look for the doctrinal truths of each book of the Bible and how they point to or reveal truths about Jesus. Viewed doctrinally, Exodus deals with redemption which becomes the dominant theme of the entire book and certainly calls our attention to the redeeming work of Jesus Christ. This theme may be summed up in 15:13 where we read, "In Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You redeemed; In Your strength You have guided them to Your holy habitation."

According to writer Arthur Pink, "It appears that its contents fall into five divisions, which we may summarize as follows:—First, we see the need for redemption—pictured by a people enslaved: chapters 1 to 6. Second, we are shown the might of the Redeemer—displayed in the plagues on Egypt: chapters 7 to 11. Third, we behold the character of redemption—purchased by blood, emancipated by power: chapters 12 to 18. Fourth, we are taught the duty of the redeemed—obedience to the Lord: chapters 19 to 24. Fifth, we have revealed the provisions made for the failures of the redeemed—seen in the tabernacle and its services: chapters 25 to 40."

Important themes that are found in Exodus include the reality of persistent opposition from the Evil One against God's plan of redemption and God's chosen people. The antagonism of Satan, through various people, is made evident throughout the book. We see it immediately in chapter one where a determined and cruel effort is made to prevent the increase of the Hebrews. Then we see the children of Israel oppressed by cruel and merciless task-masters. Next, when Moses goes in and performs his miraculous signs before the king, Pharaoh's magicians "withstood" him. Pharaoh himself opposed Israel every step of the way in their exodus from Egypt. Even after Israel left Egypt and crossed the Red Sea, we see the Amalakites opposing them in the wilderness (17:8). Exodus reveals many truths about every believer's journey of following Christ. A careful read will shed light on your own walk of faith.

Exodus is packed full of what is called types and symbols. Once this is clearly grasped it gives new interest to the Old Testament scriptures. What do I mean by types and symbols? The best way for me to answer that is with some illustrations that I believe will excite you as you delve into this beautiful book of redemption.

"The very deliverance of Israel from Egypt furnishes a remarkably full and accurate typification (picture) of our redemption by Christ. Israel in Egypt illustrates our condition before grace saved us. Egypt symbolizes the world. Pharaoh, who knew not the Lord, who defied Him, who was the enemy of God's people, but who at the end was overthrown by God, shadows forth the great adversary, the Devil. The cruel bondage of the enslaved Hebrews pictures the tyrannical dominion of sin over its captives. The deliverer raised up by God in the person of Moses, points to the greater Deliverer, our Lord Jesus Christ. The Passover-night tells of the security of the believer beneath the sheltering blood of God's Lamb and there are so many more such examples which all symbolize and point us to the amazing story of Jesus Christ." - Arthur Pink