

Lesson 4

EXODUS

The time that passes between the final verse of Genesis and the first verse of the book of Exodus is about 400 years. During those four centuries, Jacob's family (who settled in Egypt with Joseph in order to survive a severe famine) went from about 70 welcomed guests of the government to an enslaved population of more than two million.

Exodus can be remembered with four words: (1) _____ [a], (2) _____ [b], (3) _____ [c] and (4) _____ [d]. Let's take a brief look at each word.

LIBERATION (Ex 1-18)

Bondage (Ex 1-6). When the suffering Israelites cry out to God for deliverance, God responds by sending them a man that he had prepared for the task of leading them to freedom—_____ [e]. He was born a Hebrew slave, but was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter, and given the world's finest education. He failed at a self-guided attempt to take a role of leadership over the Israelites, and then spent _____ [f] years as a shepherd in the desert. At last Moses was ready for leadership and, at the burning bush, receives his call to lead the nation of Israel. After some reluctance and many excuses, Moses finally obeys God, approaches Pharaoh, and requests that the Israelites be allowed to leave Egypt.

Deliverance (Ex 7-18). Pharaoh refuses Moses' request, so God unleashes _____ [g] dramatic and miraculous plagues on Egypt to convince him to let the Israelites go. The tenth and final plague is the death of the firstborn male in every Egyptian family. Death doesn't enter the Israelite homes though because they followed God's instructions to paint the _____ [h] of a _____ [i] on their doorposts.

Finally, Pharaoh gives in and releases the people. But he soon has an evil change of heart and goes after the Israelites. He's determined to bring them back to Egypt and back to slavery. In a final confrontation with Pharaoh, God displays his power by drowning Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea. With great rejoicing, the Israelites travel on to Mount Sinai where they will receive legislation from God for how they are to live and worship.

COVENANT (Ex 19-24)

Instructions at Sinai. These chapters depict one of the great defining

moments of Israelite history, of Old Testament history, and of biblical history. God enters into a _____ [j] with the entire nation of Israel. A covenant was *not* a “negotiated agreement” between two parties, but a “contract” which could only be accepted or rejected by the people.

In entering into a covenant with Israel, God creates a special relationship with them by setting them apart from every other nation, and this relationship will allow them to _____ [k] God and _____ [l] his power and presence in ways that no other nation gets to experience.

As God’s “special nation,” Israel gets to participate in God’s plan to eliminate the worldwide problem of _____ [m]. In other words, they get to participate in human redemption, and they get to reveal God’s identity to the world (that he’s sovereign, holy, transcendent, and fully alive).

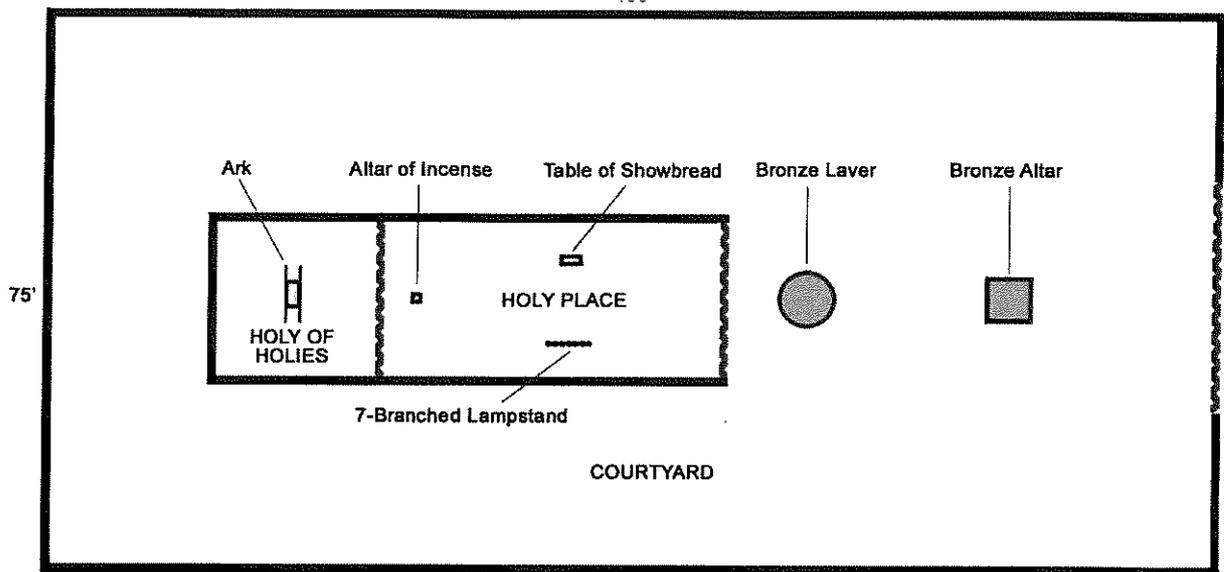
When the Israelites reached Sinai, Moses is summoned up the mountain to receive the covenant. The covenant contains hundreds of regulations that would govern the worshiping life and the community life of Israel. Because God used Moses to deliver these regulations to his people, the Bible often refers to this collection of laws as “the Law of _____ [n].”

The covenant regulations begin with the _____ [o] _____ [p]. These ten commands are the foundation of all the covenant commands. The first _____ [q] commands cover various aspects of Israel’s relationship with God. In a nutshell, these four commands make it clear that their relationship with God must take precedence over every other relationship. The last _____ [r] commands deal with human relationships and regulate how they are to interact with others.

TABERNACLE (Ex 25-40)

While Moses is on the mountain, God also commands Moses to take an offering to build a “holy place” called the _____ [s]. In addition, Moses is given a detailed plan for constructing the tabernacle. It was a large, elaborately decorated tent that was portable. It could quickly be dismantled and moved to a new location. It was always in the middle of the camp of the Israelites with three tribes on each side.

The tabernacle is also to be the _____ [t] center for the nation. The central activity was _____ [u], and the priests will be the ones to facilitate worship. Worship will have a central place in Israel’s life. Worship needs to have a physical context and the worship center and priests provide this. God wants his chosen people to know that they were chosen and that he wants to live among them, and meet with them, and speak to them. The book of Exodus ends with the completion of the tabernacle and God coming dwell in it. (see diagram on the next page).



TRAGEDY (Ex 32-34)

Scripture is dotted with extremely exciting and hopeful situations that are dashed by persistent human failure. Exodus 32-34 is one of those tragic moments of human failure.

While Moses is on the mountain receiving instructions from God, the people below are committing the worst kind of sin—_____[v]. They are worshipping a golden calf. God, in His holy, righteous anger, desires to destroy the people and start all over again with Moses. But Moses _____[w]. He appeals to God's character and mercy. As a result, the fellowship between Israel and God is renewed and the people recommit themselves to obeying God.

After the people repented for worshipping the golden calf, they willingly give their possessions to build the tabernacle and its furnishings, and to sew garments for the high priest. God's reaction to sin demonstrates his holiness and his readiness to _____[x] people who _____[y].

THE LESSONS OF EXODUS

- **God is a _____ [z]-keeping God.** God keeps his pledges, even when the one to whom he pledges is dead. Pharaoh can't stop the multiplication of Israel. Since this is an attempt to reverse God's promise to Abraham, his efforts are futile.
- **God has the ability to _____ [aa] his people from danger.** The most powerful man and military force on earth could not keep God from rescuing his people.
- **God _____ [bb] and _____ [cc] for his people.** The desert region over which the Israelites traveled was unable to sustain human life. It was not the ideal place to take 2.5 million people plus animals, but God has no trouble sustaining them.
- **God is _____ [dd].** The plagues are partly performed to instruct everyone about God's sole claim to deity. Every plague was an attack on a particular god worshiped by the Egyptians. Also, the plagues show God is the sole ruler of the earth. He controls the insect world because he made it.
- **God wants to _____ [ee] among his people.** A major purpose of the tabernacle was to be a visible symbol that God dwells among his people. When the people saw the tabernacle, they were reminded that God lives among them and wants to fellowship with them.
- **God is a _____ [ff]-making God.** God enters into relationships with people. He makes promises which cannot fail, and he sets boundaries and gives direction to his people. God's covenants are _____ [gg]-based and _____ [hh]-oriented.
- **The exodus is an important _____ [ii] of God's plan to redeem humanity.** Humanity is enslaved to sin and unable to save themselves. God is going to send a special servant to free us and take us to the Promised Land. On that journey he will sustain us, but we must trust him and obey him. The principles of _____ [jj], _____ [kk] and _____ [ll] are on full display. The principle of grace is seen in God's liberation and the principles of faith and obedience are seen in the rules God gave them to live by.
- _____ [mm] is not a sign of God's lack of concern or loss of power. While God's people suffered in slavery, it didn't mean that he had lost his power or run into an undefeatable natural or divine foe. And suffering didn't mean that God has abandoned his people.
- **God is ready to _____ [nn] and renew.** After the golden calf episode Moses intercedes on the people's behalf and God responds with forgiveness and a renewal of the covenant.
- _____ [oo] is in the blood of the lamb. Death didn't

enter the Israelite homes during the tenth plague because they were protected by the blood. The foreshadowing of Jesus—the “Lamb of God”—is obvious here.

KEY PASSAGES IN EXODUS

1. Exodus 2:23-25
2. Exodus 3:13-15
3. Exodus 12:13
4. Exodus 19:3-6
5. Exodus 34:6-7
6. Exodus 40:34-38

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK ANSWER KEY:

- [a] liberation
- [b] covenant
- [c] tabernacle
- [d] tragedy
- [e] Moses
- [f] forty
- [g] ten
- [h] blood
- [i] lamb
- [j] covenant
- [k] know
- [l] experience
- [m] sin
- [n] Moses
- [o] Ten
- [p] Commandments
- [q] four
- [r] six
- [s] tabernacle
- [t] worship
- [u] sacrifice
- [v] idolatry
- [w] interceded
- [x] forgive
- [y] repent
- [z] promise
- [aa] rescue
- [bb] sustains
- [cc] cares

[dd] sovereign
[ee] live
[ff] covenant
[gg] faith
[hh] obedience
[ii] model
[jj] grace
[kk] faith
[ll] obedience
[mm] suffering
[nn] forgive
[oo] Salvation