

Exodus 1

1. How many years have elapsed between the end of Genesis and the beginning of Exodus?

What can you learn about this period? In other words, what has been happening in Egypt and to Jacob's family?

Who wrote Exodus?

2. Verses 1-6 give us a brief review. Why do you think Exodus begins by listing the sons of Jacob?

According to verse 5, how many descendants of Jacob arrived in Egypt?

According to verse 1, who else accompanied them?

Who else might be included in the word "household"?

3. Look carefully at verse 7. What does it say happened to the children of Israel?

What words are used to describe Israel during this time?

Why do you think Moses repeated himself by using words such as "fruitful", "increased abundantly", "multiplied", "waxed exceeding mighty", and "numerous"?

Why do you think Israel remained in Egypt during this time instead of returning to the promised land?

4. According to verse 9, what concerned the new king who did not know Joseph?

Does it surprise you that the king is afraid of the Israelites?

In verse 10, what did he decide to do about the Israelites?

Why would he want to deal wisely or shrewdly with them?

5. What does it mean to you for one group to "oppress" another?

Can you think of any current examples of oppression from around the world?

What are some of the reasons given for this oppression?

How is one group, like the Egyptians, able to oppress another group, like the Israelites, when the oppressed group is more numerous and potentially more powerful?

6. What do the Egyptians decided to do in verse 11?

What is a taskmaster?

What is a store city?

What can you learn about the work force needed to build Pithom and Rameses?

Where are these cities located?

What is the difference - or is there one - between forced labor and slavery?

7. What is Pharaoh hoping will happen to the Israelites because of this forced labor?

However, according to verse 12, what happened?

How do you explain the relationship between the oppression and the increase of the Israelites?

What affect did this have on the Egyptians?

8. According to verses 12 and 13, what did the Egyptians do next?

What type of work were the Israelites forced to perform?

Verse 13 says they worked the Israelites ruthlessly. The word for ruthlessly is "perek" which means "to break apart", "to fracture". What were the Egyptians hoping?

9. What does the king say in verse 16 that lets us know the Israelites continued to increase?

What is a midwife?

What instructions does Pharaoh give to them?

The word for "delivery stool" literally means "two stones". What can we learn about the birthing process from this word?

Verse 15 mentions two midwives by name. Do you think there were more? If so, why do you think these two were mentioned by name?

What is the biggest difference between his first plan and this his second?

We can learn from this episode. Why did Pharaoh not begin by immediately killing the Israelites?

In what ways did Hitler's actions mirror Pharaoh's actions?

10. Why did the midwives not obey Pharaoh?

What reason did they give to him for not following his orders?

Did the midwives lie to Pharaoh? Please explain.

How did God reward the midwives for their actions?

11. Verse 20 says that God was kind to the midwives and the people increased. How would you respond to someone who asked how God could be kind if the Israelites were in slavery?

How does the midwives' fear of God motivate them to do what is right instead of what is popular?

Read Romans 5:20. How does this episode illustrate this verse?

12. Pharaoh is not finished and comes up with a third plan. What order does he give now?

For generations, Israel enjoyed a favored position while in Egypt. Now, they find themselves as slaves. Do you believe this change would be harder on the older or the younger generation? Please explain.

Sojourning	Years
From the descent of Jacob into Egypt to the death of Joseph	71
From the death of Joseph to the birth of Moses	278
From the birth of Moses to his flight into Midian	40
From the flight of Moses to his return into Egypt	40
From the return of Moses to the Exodus	1
Total years	430

Others contend for the shorter period of two hundred and fifteen years, holding that the period of four hundred and thirty years comprehends the years from the entrance of Abraham into Canaan (see [SEPTUAGINT](#). and [SAMARITAN](#)) to the descent of Jacob into Egypt. They reckon thus:

Sojourning	Years
From Abraham's arrival in Canaan to Isaac's birth	25
From Isaac's birth to that of his twin sons Esau and Jacob	60
From Jacob's birth to the going down into Egypt	130
Total years	215
From Jacob's going down into Egypt to the death of Joseph	71
From death of Joseph to the birth of Moses	64
From birth of Moses to the Exodus	80
Total years in all	430

Exodus 2

1. Considering the times we face with prognostications of doom, some people wonder why they should get married, and, if they do, why they should have children. How would you answer them?

All Israelites know about Pharaoh's command that boy children were to be killed. What do you think the man and woman in verse 1 were thinking and feeling?

What is the significance of both the father and mother coming from the house of Levi?

What did Jacob say to his son just before Jacob died?

Here we have a couple who are slaves, members of a despised people, and descendants of a tribe Jacob cursed. Why do you think God would choose such a couple?

Again, we have to be careful about speculating, but what do you think the mother and father said to each other when their son was born?

Verse 2 tells us that he was a goodly or a fine child. What does this mean?

2. Can you think of a situation where disobedience could be considered an act of faith? Please explain.

Read Hebrews 11:23. How were the parents' actions an act of faith?

Following the boy's birth, what did his mother do?

How might one hide a child for three months?

Why would it become more difficult to hide the child as he got older?

Notice, these verses say, "she took him" and "she hid him". Why do you think these verses don't mention the father?

3. What can you learn about the basket she made for her son?

What do you think the mother was feeling when she put her son into the basket?

Up to this point, the child does not have a name. Why do you think this is so?

As the mother placed the child in the basket and sent him down the river, do you think she feared for his life? Please explain.

Who was the baby's sister mentioned in verse 4?

4. This story is filled with coincidences. What are some of them?

How would you explain all of these coincidences?

What happened when Pharaoh's daughter saw the basket?

She knew what her father, the Pharaoh, said about Hebrew sons. How do you explain her decision to keep the baby?

How could she know this was a Hebrew baby?

5. How do you think the sister knew that Pharaoh's daughter felt for the baby?

What does the sister do?

What does this tell us about the sister that she would approach Pharaoh's daughter?

What do you think Moses' mother was feeling when her daughter returned with the news?

What did Pharaoh's daughter say to Moses' mother?

We once said, "Sometimes, bad times are God's time waiting for the right time." How is this episode illustrate this statement?

6. Read verse 10. We are not told, but how old do you think the child was when he was returned to Pharaoh's daughter?

Do you think it was easier or harder for the mother to give up the child this second time? Please explain.

It is at this time that the baby is given the name Moses. What does this name mean?

7. A long period of time has elapsed between verses 10 and 11. Can you determine about how old Moses would have been at this time?

What do you think his life was like during this time? (See Acts 7:22.)

Verse 11 tells us that Moses went out to his own people. How do you think Moses found out he was a Hebrew?

Moses is facing a decision. He is a Hebrew but he has been raised an Egyptian. How difficult would it be to give up the security and abundance of being an Egyptian to return to your people who happen to be slaves?

Why do you believe Moses killed the Egyptian?

Why did he look around first and then hide the body?

Read Acts 7:25. How do you think Moses knew God wanted to use him?

8. What happened the next day?

Why did Moses come between the two slaves who were fighting?

What do you think Moses was expecting when he came to the aid of the Hebrew slaves?

How did the two slaves react to Moses' intervention?

Why do you think they reacted this way?

9. It looks as if Moses' actions were a big mistake. Read Hebrews 11:24-27 for another viewpoint. What do these verses say about Moses?

How did God use Moses' killing the Egyptian?

10. Why do you think Pharaoh wanted to kill Moses?

Where did Moses flee?

Where is Midian located?

What do you think Moses had in mind when he ran so far? Do you believe he was thinking about God's plan for his life?

Have you ever experienced a time when you thought you had messed up God's plan for your life? If so, would you share it?

What does the story of Moses tell us about "messing up" God's plan?

11. Verse 16 talks about a priest of Midian. What can you learn about this priest? Did he worship the one true God?

What can we learn about the priest when it tells us he had seven daughters?

In verses 16 and 17 we see another confrontation. What was the location of this conflict?

How would shepherds water their flocks at such a well?

Verse 17 tells us that the shepherds drove "them" away. Whom did they drive away, the daughters or the sheep?

Why did the other shepherds do this?

Do you think the fact that they were women had anything to do with this altercation? Please explain.

12. What concerns would you have about intervening in a "disagreement" when you don't know either side?

Why do you think Moses came to the daughters' aid? What exactly did he do for them?

How was this act of watering someone else's sheep preparing him for what God had in store for him?

What does this tell us about Moses? In what way was he living up to his calling? In what way would he be

What do you think Moses was expecting in return for his help? Please explain.

What can we learn about serving others from this story?

13. What happens when the daughters return home and tell their father what happened?

How do the daughters describe Moses in verse 19?

What do you think happened between verses 19 and 20 so that Moses agreed to stay with Reuel and marry Zipporah?

Moses traded his Egyptian garments for shepherds' rags. Do you think Moses gave up on God's call for his life? Please explain

What was the name of Moses' son? What does the name mean? How does this name reflect Moses' attitude?

14. What does verse 23 tell us happened during this long period when Moses was a shepherd?

Can you learn which king of Egypt died? Did this have any effect on the Israelites? Please explain.

What does it mean to you that the Israelites groaned and cried out?

Have you ever cried out to God and wondered if He was listening? Please explain.

How long had the Israelites been crying out to God?

15. Verse 24 says that God heard their cry and remembered his covenant with Abraham. What does it mean to you that God remembered his covenant?

Then we read that God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them. What does it mean to you that God was concerned about them?

Exodus 3

1. Moses is keeping sheep in the land of Midian. What can you learn about Midian?

Where is it located? About how far is it from Egypt?

Verse 1 says Moses led the flock to Horeb. Why is Horeb referred to as the mountain of God?

Where is Horeb located?

How much area do you think Moses covered in keeping his flock?

How long had Moses been tending his father-in-laws flocks?

2. How might you react if you saw a bush on fire yet it did not burn up?

According to verse 2, who appeared to Moses?

According to verse 4, who called to Moses?

How do you reconcile these two verses?

Why do you think God chose to meet with Moses in this way?

What are some of the ways God has used to get your attention?

3. What is the first thing God says to Moses?

What does it mean to you that God called Moses by name?

What instructions does God give Moses?

Why was Moses instructed to take off his shoes?

What are some of our customs when coming into the presence of someone worthy of respect?

What made the ground holy?

4. How does God "introduce" Himself?

Why do you think He chose this way of identifying Himself?

What is the significance of God's saying, "I am the God..." instead of "I was the God..."?

What was Moses' reaction?

Why would Moses be afraid to look upon God?

5. Verse 7 says that God had seen and heard His people. What does it mean to you that God "saw" and "heard" the misery of His people?

Why do you think it took God so long to respond to the cries of His people?

Verse 8 contains an amazing statement. God says that because He is concerned about His people, He has come down to rescue them. What does it mean to you that God came down?

Do you think God still comes down when He hears His people cry? Please explain.

What might be some of the reasons God would come down from heaven?

6. God tells Moses that He has come to rescue His people. How do you think Moses felt when he heard that?

Specifically, what does God say He is going to do?

If you were Moses, how might you expect God to do all of this?

What does a land flowing with milk and honey mean to you?

7. What does God tell Moses in verse 9?

Now comes the big moment. God is ready to reveal His plan. Moses has to be excited. What is the plan of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

What was Moses' reaction?

Can you understand his reaction? Please explain.

How might you feel if God said he wanted you to go to Iran and lead His people out?

Have you ever wondered, "Who am I?" to be used by God? Please explain.

What can we learn about God in that He chooses to use ordinary people to accomplish His will?

Why might be one reason Moses is so reluctant to return to Egypt?

8. What does God assure Moses in verse 12?

How would such a promise make you feel?

Read Hebrews 13:5. How is this verse similar to what God said to Moses? What does this tell us about God?

What was to be the sign that God is the One Who sent Moses to set His people free?

Have you ever asked for a sign? Please explain.

Is asking for a sign from God a lack of faith? Please explain.

What does it mean to you to worship God?

The word used for "worship" is the same word for "to be a slave" or "to be a servant". God seems to say to Moses that He is going to free them so they can worship Him or serve Him or be His slaves. How does this strike you?

The key purpose behind Moses' task is to free the people to worship God. How are freedom and worship related?

In what way or ways has God set you free to worship?

Do you feel free to worship as you are led? Please explain.

9. Moses is not through expressing his concerns. What concern does Moses voice in verse 13?

What do you think Moses meant by the question, "What is his name?" In other words, what is Moses really asking?

Some commentaries suggest that Moses was really asking by what name was Moses to use when talking to the Israelites. What are some of the names of God?

Each name tells us something about the nature or character of God. What was God's answer to Moses' question?

What does this name mean to you and why do you think God used this name?

What else does God tell Moses about Himself in verse 15?

This is to be God's name forever, the name by which our generation is to remember Him. What does this mean to you?

10. What instructions does God give Moses in verse 16?

Moses is going to his people once again. How does this second "introduction" going to differ from his first appearance?

What does it mean to you to be God's spokesperson?

What message is Moses to give the Israelites?

God tells Moses that the elders will listen to him. Why will they listen to Moses?

11. Going back to the people who rejected you once would be difficult enough. Yet, that is only the first step. Where is Moses to go next?

If you were Moses, what would be your greatest concern about going to Pharaoh?

How far is the mountain of God from Egypt?

What does God tell Moses concerning Pharaoh?

What are the women to do?

What does it mean to you to plunder someone?

Moses is going to face a very stubborn Pharaoh. Yet, God says, in the midst of all of this, he will make the Egyptians favorably disposed to His people. What does this mean to you?

12. What have you learned about Moses from this chapter?

What do you feel is Moses' greatest challenge? Please explain.

Exodus 4

1. Despite all God has said, Moses continues his objections or concerns. To whom is Moses referring when he says that they will not believe him or listen to him?

What event in Moses' past could have led to this concern?

Have you ever let the fear of people not believing or listening to you to keep you from doing something you felt God was telling you to do? Please share.

2. What does God ask Moses in verse 2?

Carol likes to point out that God never asks a question for information. Has God ever asked you a question that He obviously knew the answer to? Why do you think God does this?

What is the significance of the rod or staff?

What does God tell Moses to do with the staff?

What do you think Moses was thinking when God told him this? Do you think he questioned God? Please explain.

What happened when he threw the staff on the ground?

What did Moses do?

What can you learn about the type of snake or serpent?

Why is picking up a snake by the tail dangerous?

What do you think God is showing Moses in this episode with the staff/serpent?

3. According to verse 5, what was the reason God performed this sign?

In verse 5, why does God refer to Himself as the God of "their" fathers instead of the God of "your" fathers?

If someone appeared to our leaders today and performed such a miracle, how do you think they would respond?

What does God tell Moses to do next?

Why do you think God made Moses' hand leprous?

Verse 6 contains the first reference to snow in the Bible. Where might Moses have encountered snow in an area that is largely desert?

Why was snow used to describe leprosy?

What was God showing Moses through this episode with leprosy?

4. What does God say to Moses in verse 8?

Would you feel comfortable going back to Egypt with these two signs at your disposal? Please explain.

However, just in case, what is the third sign God gives to Moses?

Again, what is the significance of God's turning water into blood? In other words, what is the importance of water to Egypt?

5. Despite these three signs, Moses is still not convinced. What does he say to God in verse 10?

Read Acts 7:22. Why do you think Moses told God that he was "slow of speech and tongue?"

Was Moses lying to God? Please explain.

Have you ever been less than honest with God? Please explain.

Do you think Moses thought he could change God's mind?

Do you think it is possible for a person to change God's mind? Please explain.

Have you ever tried to come up with something to change God's mind? Please explain.

6. Why do you think God answered Moses by asking him a series of questions?

Look carefully at the questions God asked. How would you answer them?

As we answer them, what conclusion do we (or Moses) reach?

What conclusion does God reach in verse 12?
Do you believe God will do the same for us today? Please explain.

Moses gives it one more try. What does he say to God in verse 13?

Why do you think Moses fought God's calling so hard?

Has there been a time in your life when you, like Moses, fought a calling from God?

7. What was God's reaction to Moses' request that God send someone else?

What does it mean to you that the LORD's anger burned against Moses?

Why was God angry with Moses?

What does God tell Moses He will do?

Who was Aaron?

When was the last time Aaron saw his brother Moses?

What does it mean to you when God tells Moses that Aaron is already on his way to meet Moses?

Why do you think God did not tell Moses earlier that Aaron was on his way?

8. What was going to be Aaron's responsibility?

God tells Moses that He will help both of them speak and will teach them what to do. Do you think Moses was relieved? Please explain.

Verse 16 contains an interesting statement. What does God say Aaron is to do?

What does God say about Moses?

What does it mean to you that Moses was to be as God to Aaron?

Do you think Moses felt prideful at this statement? Please explain.

Why, if Aaron is going to speak to the people, does God tell Moses to perform the miraculous signs?

9. As Moses was returning home, do you think he was wishing he had never stopped to look at the burning bush? Please explain.

Why did Moses go back to ask permission from Jethro before going back to Egypt?

Do you think Jethro might have been hesitant to let Moses go back to Egypt? Please explain.

For the first time, Moses refers to the Hebrew slaves as his own people. Why is this significant?

What was Jethro's response?

Moses left Jethro's house a shepherd. He returns a man of God with a great mission. What do you think Jethro thought of his son-in-law?

Why do you think there is no mention of Moses' wife during this time?

10. Moses prepares to leave. What else did God tell Moses about his return to Egypt?

Whom does Moses take with him?

How many sons did Moses have?

What else does Moses take with him?

11. Verses 21-23 contain one of the most challenging statements in scripture. What does God tell Moses to do when he returns Egypt?

What do you think Moses is thinking when he hears that he is to perform "all the wonders" before Pharaoh?

Why do you think God did not tell Moses about the other "wonders" that were to come?

According to verse 21, why was Moses able to work these wonders?

Do you still think God gives people the power to do miraculous things? Please explain.

Now comes the interesting part. What does God say He is going to do to Pharaoh?

What does it mean to you that God Himself is going to harden Pharaoh's heart?

What does it mean to you for someone to have a hard heart?

Why would God harden Pharaoh's heart so he would not let His people go?

Does God's statement mean that Pharaoh had no choice? Was his free will taken away? Please explain.

12. According to verse 23, what is Moses to say to Pharaoh?

What does it mean to you that Israel is God's firstborn son?

What can you learn about the relationship between a father and his firstborn?

Is Israel still God's firstborn son? Explain. If so, what does that mean to us today?

God speaks of Israel in a very personal manner. Why does God want His son set free?

God now makes another interesting statement. What will happen after Moses tells Pharaoh to let God's son go?

Earlier, God said He would harden Pharaoh's heart. Now God says that Pharaoh will refuse to let them go. How do you reconcile these two ideas?

Finally, what does God say he is going to do to Pharaoh when Pharaoh refuses to let Israel go?

How do you react to God's statement that He is going to kill Pharaoh's firstborn son?

The word for "kill" means: slay, murder, destroy. How does this compare to your idea of God?

13. Verse 24 tells us that Moses and his family stopped where?

Does it surprise you that they found a "resting place" or an inn along the way? Please explain.

What does this tell us about the route they took?

Can you locate their probable path on a map? How far might it have been?

What does it mean to you that God "met" Moses?

Why was God going to kill Moses?

Something seems to be missing in this statement. We must be careful about making assumptions, but what do you think Moses had done that made God so angry? Was God's anger justified?

What can you learn about the importance of circumcision?

Whom does Zipporah circumcise? Why do you think she performed this act?

What did she do after circumcising her son?

What does the bridegroom of blood mean to you?

What was the result of Moses' son being circumcised? (See verse 26.)

14. Verse 27 changes focus to Aaron. The LORD is now speaking to him. When do you think God spoke to Aaron in relation to the events in Moses' life?

What instructions does God give Aaron?

Do you think Aaron was reluctant to follow God's orders? Please explain

How might you feel if you were told to go see your brother whom you had not seen for over 40 years?

How do you think Aaron was able to leave Egypt?

Where do Aaron and Moses meet? What does Moses tell Aaron?

15. Where does verse 29 take place?

What did Moses and Aaron do?

Who spoke and who performed the miracles?

How do you think Moses felt as he listened to Aaron speak to the people?

Why do you think they were not stopped from meeting with the elders?

16. According to verse 31, what was the result of this meeting?

How do you think the people felt when they heard that God was concerned about them?

How did they show their gratitude to God?

17. What can we learn from this episode about working with others in ministry?

In addition to Aaron's doing the speaking, what other comfort do you think Moses received from his brother's presence?

How easy or difficult is it for you to work with others? Please explain.

Exodus 5

1. Preparation time is over. The time has come for Moses and Aaron to confront Pharaoh. What do you think Moses and Aaron were feeling?

What do you think Pharaoh was thinking as he saw these two 80-year-old men approach?

What is the very first thing they say to Pharaoh?

All that God has said can be summed up in one simple request. What is Moses and Aaron's request?

2. Now we hear from Pharaoh for the first time. How does he respond to Moses' request?

How would you answer someone who asked, "Who is the LORD that I should obey him?"

What answer does Moses give to Pharaoh?

Moses goes into a little more detail this time. Specifically what does Moses want Pharaoh to do?

What is the significance of the three-day journey?

What warning does Moses give?

How do you think our governmental leaders would respond if we took them a message from God with the warning, "Listen to God or He will strike the US with plagues?"

3. Pharaoh does not seem to be too concerned about Moses' warning. What is his "practical" objection to Moses' demand?

Look carefully at the end of verse 4. What does Pharaoh tell Moses and Aaron?

What does this tell us about the way Pharaoh views these two men?

God had already warned Moses that Pharaoh would not listen. Yet, Pharaoh's reaction must have come as a surprise. According to verse 6, for whom does Pharaoh send?

What order does Pharaoh give them?

What can you learn about the process by which the Hebrews made bricks?

Pharaoh believes that by working the Hebrews harder, he can remove their desire to worship God. Do you believe this is an effective response? Please explain.

Do you believe work can get in the way of worshipping God? Please explain.

Look at Exodus 20:8-11. What do these verses mean to you?

Why do you think Pharaoh made the comment that the Hebrews were lazy and that is why they want to worship God?

4. What does it mean to you for a people to be persecuted?

One way Pharaoh is persecuting the Jews is stated in verse 9. What does Pharaoh say?

Can you think of other times when work was used to persecute Jews?

What instructions did the slave drivers give to the Hebrews?

According to verse 12, what did the Hebrews do?

What is the significance of their being able to gather stubble from all over Egypt?

Why do you think they did not just leave?

5. What was the responsibility of the Israelite foremen?

What happened to them when the Hebrews were not able to meet their quota of bricks?

As a result, what do the foremen do?

What does it mean to you that they were able to speak to Pharaoh?

When speaking to Pharaoh, how do the Israelites refer to themselves? What does this mean to you?

According to verse 16, whom do they think is really at fault? Please explain what you think they mean?

6. What was Pharaoh's response?

Following their conversation with Pharaoh, what conclusion did the Israelites reach?

What do you think they meant by "trouble"?

Where did the Israelites go next?

Moses and Aaron were waiting for them. What do you think they were expecting to hear?

Moses has done everything God told him to do. Yet, what do the Israelites say to them?

What did they mean that Moses and Aaron put a sword in the hands of the Egyptians?

How do you think Moses and Aaron felt when they were accused of being the problem?

This is the second time Moses has confronted "Egypt" in order to help his people. This is the second time he is accused of being a trouble-maker. If you were Moses, how would you keep going?

Why do you think God would put Moses and Aaron through such a test?

Can you remember a time when you felt you did just what God wanted you to do but others did not see it that way? Please explain.

7. Moses goes straight to God. What questions does he ask God in verse 23?

Would ever occur to you to "blame" God for the trouble we are experiencing? Please explain.

Moses is confused. What does he say to God in verse 23?

What does this statement reveal about Moses' relationship with God?

Exodus 6

1. Moses is upset and a little confused. He has obeyed God, but the situation has gotten worse instead of better. Chapter 5 ended with Moses' crying out to God and asking God why He did this. Yet, once again, God does not directly answer Moses' questions. Why did God not answer these pressing questions from Moses?

Look carefully at God's statement in verse 1. What do you think was God's main purpose in answering this way?

God does not explain why things have gotten worse instead of better. Why would God not explain?

Can you think of other instances in the Bible where people have asked God for explanations but did not get one?

Have you ever sought an explanation from God but did not receive one? Please share. Why do you think God did not explain the situation to you?

In verse 1, what does God tell Moses He is going to do?

How will all of this be accomplished?

How do you think this answer affected Moses? Please explain.

2. God is not finished. What is the very next thing God tells Moses in verse 2?

Why do you think God said to Moses, "I am the LORD"?

What can you learn about the Hebrew version of this name?

God is known by many different names. Why do you think chose to use this name?

3. Now comes one of the most interesting and challenging verses in Exodus. What does God tell Moses in verse 3?

What is the Hebrew word for God Almighty and what does it mean?

God says He did not make Himself known to Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob by the name the LORD. Yet, look at Genesis 13:4. How do you explain this seeming contradiction?

What is the difference to you between God's two names: YHWH (Yahweh or Jehovah) and El Shaddai?

Why do you think God chose this time to reveal Himself as the LORD?

4. Why do you think God next talks about His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

What did God give them according to this covenant?

God makes a third statement in verse 5. What else does God say to Moses?

What is the significance of God's remembering His covenant with the Israelites?

5. After these statements, God reaches a "therefore". What does the use of "therefore" mean?

As a result of all God has said, He tells Moses to deliver a message to the Israelites. Each part of the message begins with "I will...". What is the significance of each part beginning with that phrase?

What affect do you think hearing "I will" over and over had on Moses?

What was God going to do for the Israelites?

How does God begin and end His message to the Israelites?

Why do you think He did this?

Remember Moses' state of mind at the beginning of this chapter. How do you think Moses was feeling after hearing God's message? Why?

6. Moses goes back to the Israelites. What do you think was their attitude as Moses approached?

Why did they not listen Moses?

Why would being discouraged cause one not to believe God?

Verse 9 says they did not believe because of discouragement and bondage. We could say people today are in bondage because of debt. The economy has not improved, causing many to get discouraged. How do you think most people would react if you took them a message from God saying, "God will do this and that"?

Do you blame the Israelites for not listening to Moses? Please explain.

7. What does God tell Moses to do in verse 11?

Once again, Moses has an objection. What is it?

Is this objection reasonable? Please explain.

Why do you think God does not address the "unbelief" of the Israelites before proceeding?

In verse 12, Moses states that another reason Pharaoh might not listen to him is that he has "faltering lips". Other versions read "uncircumcised" lips. What does this mean to you?

How would you feel if God gave you a message but nobody believed you? How difficult would it be to continue proclaiming that message?

8. Now we see a slight change. Whom does God address in verse 13?

What did God command them to do?

What does it mean to you that God "commanded" them?

How would you feel if God commanded you to do something that was impossible?

Our new building project could easily cost us over \$1,000,000. The economy continues to worsen, and people are losing jobs. What do you really think of this "impossible" task?

9. Verses 14-27 interrupt the narrative with a genealogy. What is the purpose of a genealogy?

Are you interested in your genealogy? If so, why?

Verses 26 & 27 give us an idea as to why God included this genealogy at this point. What might be one reason?

Do you read genealogies or do you pass over them? Please explain.

Did you notice anything interesting as you read this genealogy?

What do we learn from verse 23? What does this tell us about Aaron's service? What does it tell us about his motivation for going to Pharaoh?

10. The narrative continues in verse 28. Once again, what did God say to Moses when Moses was in Egypt?

Why do you think "in Egypt" was added?

Yet, true to his nature, what was Moses' response?

What quality does Moses exhibit that will come in handy later on?

11. Why do you think God chose someone like Moses to deliver His people?

Exodus 7

1. God shows His patience once again. He also stands on the truth that He does not make mistakes. What does He say to Moses in verse 1?

The last time God said this to Moses, He told Moses he would be like God to Aaron. What does He tell Moses this time?

What is Aaron's role?

God gives us a great picture of how the gift of prophecy works. Pharaoh needs a message from God. Who will deliver that message?

Where will Aaron get the message for Pharaoh?

Based on this example, how would you explain what prophecy is? What a prophet is?

2. What specific instructions does God give Moses in verse 2?

What instructions does He have for Aaron?

Why do you think God added the word "everything" when speaking to Moses?

What does this tell us about God's word?

3. What does God say He is going to do to Pharaoh in verse 3?

What is God going to do in response?

God tells Moses that Pharaoh will not listen to him. Then, why does God send Moses and Aaron to deliver these messages?

How would you feel if God asked you to deliver a message that was only going to be ignored?

4. God says He will bring Israel out with His mighty acts of judgment. What does this mean to you?

Do you think God still sends His acts of judgments against nations today? Please explain.

Verse 5 states one of the most important lessons to be learned. What is that?

What does it mean to you for a people to know that God is the LORD?

What does God promise Moses He is going to do?

This conversation resulted from the people's rejection of Moses and Aaron. How do God's words address this concern?

The Bible says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. How did these words of God give Moses and Aaron faith?

This passage touches on the judgment of God. What do you believe it means for God to stretch out His hand against a nation?

5. What do Moses and Aaron do according to verse 6?

Compared to their objections earlier, what does this tell us about the two brothers?

How important is it that we do "just as the Lord" said? Please explain.

We are now told the ages of Moses and Aaron. How old are they?

Why do you think we are given this information?

Next, God tells them that Pharaoh will ask to see a miracle. What are they to do?

How would you define a miracle?

6. Moses and Aaron once again go to Pharaoh. What do you think was their attitude or demeanor this time? Please explain.

Everything takes place just as the LORD said. Who is present besides Pharaoh?

The fact that all of Pharaoh's officials were with him tells us that this was an important encounter. What happened when Aaron threw down his staff?

What reaction do you think Aaron and Moses were expecting?

What does Pharaoh order done?

What does the first part of verse 12 tell us?

How do you think Pharaoh's magicians were able to do the same thing?

What is the significance of Aaron's staff swallowing up all the other staffs?

Why does the scripture use the word "staff" instead of "snake"?

What was Pharaoh's reaction?

7. God again speaks to Moses in verse 14 and 15. Specifically, what is Moses to do next?

What does it mean to you for Pharaoh to go out to the water?

How difficult would it be for you to sleep that night knowing of the encounter to come?

When Moses meets Pharaoh at the Nile, what is he to say to Pharaoh?

This is the same message that Moses delivered the first time, but he adds something new. What does Moses add? (See verse 16.)

What does this statement tell Pharaoh about God?

8. We now will see the first plague. Each plague is a demonstration of God's power over Israel, Pharaoh and Egypt, and each of Egypt's gods and goddesses. What is Moses to tell Pharaoh in verse 17?

According to this verse, who is holding the staff?

According to verse 19, who actually holds the staff?

This plague will not just affect the Nile, as is often stated. It will also affect what other parts of Egypt?

As Pharaoh watches, what happens to the waters of Egypt?

As a testimony to God's power, what additional information does verse 19 give us?

What is the result of the Nile's waters being turned to blood? (See verse 21.)

What would be the effect of all the water in the United States - all the water - being turned to blood?

9. As we said, each plague is also a judgment against one of the gods of Egypt. What was the name of the Egyptian god of the Nile?

Why was water so important to Egypt?

What did this demonstration show the people - Hebrews and Egyptians - about the god of the Nile?

However, Pharaoh does not budge. In fact, what does he have his magicians do?

According to verse 23, what does Pharaoh do next?

What does it mean to you that Pharaoh would not even take this to heart?

Do you believe there are still people today who are this stubborn or hardhearted? Please explain.

10. According to verse 25, how long did this plague last?

Verse 21 tells us that the fish in the Nile died. The waters will be blood for seven days. What do you think Egypt would look and smell like?

How long can people live without water?

With each plague, God is giving all the people the opportunity to know who He is. As such, this plague was not to bring harm to the people. Yet, people need water to drink. If the water was turned to blood for seven days, where did they get drinking water?

What does this tell us about this plague?

11. As we look at the first plague in more detail, did you learn anything new? Please explain.

God tells Moses and Aaron that He will perform these miracles as a sign to the people and to future generations. What can we learn about God so far?

Can you remember a time when you resisted God? Would you please share?

What makes people think they can resist God?

What does it tell us that God began with this plague instead of with the death of the firstborn?

Exodus 8

1. God has warned Moses several times about Pharaoh's hard heart. So, immediately following the first plague, God once again addresses Moses. What does God tell Moses in verse 1?

The first part of God's message is the same. However, the next part is different. What is Moses to tell Pharaoh will happen if he does not let the Israelites go?

Why do you think God told Pharaoh what the next plague would be?

How would you react if someone told you that you would experience a plague of frogs?

Specifically, what does God say about this plague?

Specifically, where will the frogs go?

What can you learn about the Egyptian ovens?

2. Notice that in verse 1, God tells Moses to go to Pharaoh with the message about the frogs. What does God tell Moses in verse 5?

We do not read about Moses' encounter with Pharaoh. Why?

What do you think happened when he went to Pharaoh?

Again, Moses speaks but Aaron performs the act. What is Aaron instructed to do?

3. Can you learn anything about why God might have involved frogs with the second plague?

Frogs were a natural part of the Nile. When the Nile would recede in December, the frogs would come out of the river. However, this is not December. The river is full. In addition, the Egyptians worshipped a goddess with the head of a frog who was supposed to have the breath of life. Therefore, frogs were not to be killed.

What do you think the Egyptian people felt when frogs came out of the Nile and began to invade their homes?

Remember, the Nile was their source of life. For the second time, the river brought a plague instead of a blessing. What affect do you think this had on the people?

What would be the worst part of this plague for you?

4. Aaron stretches forth his staff, and the frogs cover the land. What does Pharaoh do in response?

For the second time Pharaoh's magicians were able to do the same thing. However, what could they not do?

Therefore, what does Pharaoh ask Moses to do in verse 8?

Do you think Pharaoh was serious about letting Moses' people go? Please explain.

Moses' response is interesting. What did Moses tell Pharaoh?

Moses said he would give the honor of setting the time to Pharaoh. Other versions say that Moses would allow Pharaoh to glory over Moses. What does this tell us about Moses?

Look carefully at Moses' statement. He says God will get rid of all the frogs with one exception. What is that exception?

What does it tell Pharaoh and the Israelites that God will get rid of all the frogs except those in the Nile?

Given a choice as to when he wants the frogs gone, what does Pharaoh say?

Why do you think he would wait until the next day?

Moses tells Pharaoh that it will be as Pharaoh said. But, so that he would know there is no one like God, what will happen?

5. What happens to the frogs when Moses cries out to the LORD?

How would you describe the scene where frogs are piled into heaps and the land reeked? To what would you compare Egypt at this time?

Once again, what happened when the relief from the plague came?

After 9/11, this nation humbled itself before God. We saw multitudes praying. Yet, after a time, when people felt relief from further danger, what happened?

How would you explain this reaction?

How was our reaction similar to Pharaoh's?

Why do you think some people take this approach to God once relief comes?

6. Verse 16 marks a change. God told Moses to announce the first two plagues, but the third plague is different. What does God tell Moses to do?

Why do you think God does not give the Egyptians any notice this time?

The first two plagues involved the river and the deities associated with it. This plague involves the Egyptian god of the earth. How does this plague differ from the previous two? What element does it contain that the first two did not?

Some versions read that the dust became gnats while others read lice. What would make this plague so bad?

What does the last part of verse 17 say? What does this mean to you?

7. What happened when the magicians tried to reproduce this plague?

Why do you think they could not produce and gnats on their own?

As a result, what do the magicians tell Pharaoh?

What is the implication of their words to Pharaoh?

What does it tell us that Pharaoh would still not listen?

8. Following the gnats, God once again tells Moses to deliver a message to Pharaoh. What is that message? (See verse 20.)

Verse 20 tells us that Moses is to confront Pharaoh. What does it mean to you to confront someone?

Why do you think Moses was to confront Pharaoh early in the morning?

What does the next plague involve?

Specifically, what is Moses to tell Pharaoh in verse 21?

Look carefully at this warning. How is this plague going to differ from the other three plagues?

Imagine your home being filled with flies. What would be the worst part of this for you?

Now comes a new message for Pharaoh and his people. According to verse 22, what is God going to do differently?

God says that no flies will appear where His people live. What message is this going to send to Pharaoh and the Egyptians?

Many believe this plague deals with the Egyptian god of creation. How does this plague show that God is the true Creator?

9. Verse 24 tells us that the LORD did this. He sent dense swarms of flies throughout all of Egypt. What was the result of this plague on Egypt?

It appears that Pharaoh has softened a little. What does he tell Moses?

However, Moses tells Pharaoh that would not be right. Why?

Why would their sacrifices be detestable to the Egyptians?

God's instructions are very clear. Where are the Hebrews to offer sacrifices to the LORD?

Exodus 9

1. Again we see that the central issue deals with worship. God wants them set free so they can worship Him. Pharaoh says no. I know what we have addressed this question before, but what is your definition of worship?

How do you account for the many different styles of worship in the church?

Are there any styles of worship that you might find offensive or that might hinder your personal worship of God? Please explain.

In verse 1, God once again tells Moses to take the same message to Pharaoh. Why do you think God continues to repeat this message?

However, there is another part to this message this time. The second part begins with the word "If". What will happen if Pharaoh does not let the people go?

According to verse 3, who will be responsible for this plague?

2. What animals will be affected by this plague?

The following was taken from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*: This plague would have been economically distressing for the Egyptians. Also many animals were sacred (cf. 8:26), particularly, as stated earlier, the bull which represented the god Apis or Re, and the cow which represented Hathor, the goddess of love, beauty, and joy. Hathor was depicted in the form of a woman with the head (or sometimes only the horns) of a cow. Also Khnum was a ram-god. Therefore, we can see that this plague was again aimed at several of Egypt's gods and goddesses. If you had been one of the Egyptians, what might be running through your head.

What will eventually happen to these animals as a result of this plague?

This plague marks a distinct change. This is the first time a plague involved the death of a living animal. What message is this sending to Pharaoh?

Also, what does verse 4 tell us?

3. The plague on the cattle is regularly identified as anthrax that was contracted from the bacteria that had come down the Nile and infected the fish, the frogs and the flies. The Egyptian goddess of love, Hathor, took the form of a cow, and the sacred Apis bull was so highly venerated that it was embalmed and buried in a necropolis with its own sarcophagus at death. (IVP Bible Background Commentary)

What is your reaction to this explanation of the plague?

If this were the cause of the plague, does it take away from the sovereignty of God? Please explain.

4. This time the LORD set the time for the beginning of this plague. When will the plague begin?

What do you think Pharaoh was thinking as he awaited this next plague?

Do you think the people knew what was going to happen? Please explain.

What happens the next day?

What does Pharaoh do in verse 7?

What does this verse say about his heart?

5. God announces the next plague to Moses and Aaron. Why do you think God does not instruct Moses to go to Pharaoh as he did before the last plague?

What is Moses to do?

Why do you think God instructed him to do this in the presence of Pharaoh?

What will happen when Moses throws the soot into the air?

Read verse 9 very carefully. The soot will cause boils to break out on whom or what?

What does verse 6 tell us?

If "all" of the livestock of the Egyptians died from the previous plague, how do you explain the fact that boils would also break out on the animals throughout the land? (See verse 3.)

This is the first plague that affects the people directly. What "message" is God sending to Pharaoh and his people?

What message is God sending to the Israelites?

What do you know or what can you learn about festering boils? (Look at Job 2:7.)

6. The Egyptians, fearfully aware of epidemics, worshiped Sekhmet, a lion-headed goddess with alleged power over disease; Sunu, the pestilence god; and Isis, goddess of healing. Yet what happens when Pharaoh sends for his magicians?

What does verse 11 tell us about the magicians?

What is the significance of the magicians not being able to stand in the presence of Moses?

If the boils were so severe that people could not stand, why did God not have the Israelites simply leave Egypt?

Up to this point, we have read that Pharaoh hardened his heart. What does verse 12 tell us?

This verse very clearly tells us that God hardened Pharaoh's heart. What is your reaction to this verse?

Read Rom 1:18-26. What do these verses mean to you, especially verses 24-26?

7. Name the plagues that the people have endured so far.

What does God tell Moses to do in verse 13?

The last time Moses went to Pharaoh, there was an "if" in the message. This time there is an "or" meaning Pharaoh has a choice. What is his choice?

Look again at the plagues God has sent so far. This time God says He will send the full force of His plagues against Pharaoh, his officials, and his people. What would you be thinking when you heard the words "full force"?

What is God's purpose in sending the full force of His plagues? (See verse 14.)

For the first time, God sends Pharaoh a more detailed message. What is Moses to tell Pharaoh in verse 15?

When we look back on the plagues, can you see God's mercy in them? Please explain.

8. What else does God tell Pharaoh in verse 16?

What do you think God means when He says that it was for this reason that He raised up Pharaoh?

Look carefully at what God says at the end of this verse. God wants His people set free, but what else does God want to result from these plagues?

In what way or ways has God's name been proclaimed in all the earth because of what happened in Egypt?

God is through asking Pharaoh. What does God say to him in verse 17?

What does this tell us about God?

9. What plague is God going to send next?

Have you ever experienced a hailstorm? How did you react?

How common do you think hailstorms were in Egypt?

The NIV says God was going to send the worst hailstorm ever against Egypt. The word for "worst" translates as heavy, great, massive, hard, very oppressive. How would you describe this hailstorm?

Once again, we see God's mercy. What does God instruct Pharaoh to do in verse 19?

What will happen to those who refuse God's word?

In what way does this reflect God's message of salvation?

How big do you see this hail was if it could kill a person?

10. Verse 20 is very interesting. What does it tell us?

What does it mean to you that some of the people feared the word of the LORD?

Yet, at the same time, what does verse 21 tell us?

Why do you think some people CHOSE to ignore God when He makes His presence known?

Do you feel sorry for those who choose to ignore God? Please explain.

11. What do you think Moses was feeling when God told him to stretch out his hands toward heaven?

What happened when Moses did as God had instructed? (See verse 24.)

What was the result of the hailstorm?

What do we learn from verse 26?

Imagine you are one of the Israelite slaves. You watch animals die from one plague. You see the people suffer severe boils from another. Now you watch as hail destroys trees

and crops and kills animals and people. What are you feeling? Are you rejoicing because these are the people who enslaved you? Are you grieved because of all the suffering?

12. For the first time, Pharaoh sends for Moses. Why do you think he does this?

What does he say to Moses in verse 27?

How does Pharaoh refer to the LORD? What does this mean to you?

What does Pharaoh want Moses to do and what does he offer to do?

Do you think Pharaoh is serious? Please explain.

What does Moses say he will do?

However, what else does Moses say to Pharaoh in verse 30?

What does this tell us about Moses?

13. What do we learn from verses 31 & 32?

Why do you think these verses are included in this account?

14. What happened when Moses stretched out his hands in prayer?

Have you ever felt like raising your hands when praying? Please explain

However, what happened when the rain and hail stopped?

Verse 34 tells us that Pharaoh sinned again. What was his sin?

What was the result of Pharaoh's hardening his heart?

15. How do you account for the change in Pharaoh from verse 27 to verse 34?

How do you think Moses reacted to Pharaoh's change of heart?

What have you learned about God and about people from this chapter?

Exodus 10

1. Once again, we see that the demonstrations of God's power have no affect on Pharaoh. What is Moses to say to Pharaoh in verse 1?

Now God tells Moses something else. What does God say to Moses in verse 2?

How important is it that we are to tell our children and grandchildren about God?

We can see that God is doing more than setting the Israelites free. What else does want to accomplish through this act?

2. Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh. What do they say to him in verse 3?

Why do you think Pharaoh was not willing to humble himself before God?

How difficult is it for you to humble yourself before God? Before someone else?

This time what will happen if Pharaoh does not let God's people go?

What can you learn about locusts?

What will be the result of this plague?

Do we still see swarms of locusts today? Are these swarms plagues from God? Please explain.

3. We now see that all these plagues have begun to have an effect upon the people of Egypt. What do Pharaoh officials say to Pharaoh when they learn of this next plague?

What do they tell Pharaoh has happened to Egypt?

After hearing from his officials, what does Pharaoh do?

Pharaoh tells Moses and Aaron to go, but he also asks them a question. What does Pharaoh ask them?

What can we tell about Pharaoh from this question?

What is Moses' answer?

Pharaoh was looking for a way to let them go while still keeping them as slaves. Moses would not compromise. Can you think of an issue or situation where compromise would be acceptable to the Lord? When it would not be?

4. Read verse 10 very carefully. Look at the first part of Pharaoh's answer. What does he say?

Now look at the rest of his answer, which begins with the word "if". What else does Pharaoh say?

When we put the two parts of Pharaoh's answer together, we can see into his heart. What can we learn about Pharaoh from his answer?

Of what does Pharaoh accuse Moses?

What does Pharaoh tell Moses in verse 11?

When he is finished, what does he have done with Moses and Aaron?

5. What does God say to Moses once Moses leaves Pharaoh's presence?

What happens when Moses stretches out his staff?

Why do you think God used a wind to bring the locusts?

What does verse 14 say the locusts did?

What does verse 15 tell us about these locusts?

What affect did these locusts have on Egypt? (See verse 15.)

Read Joel 1:1-4. What can we learn from these verses about locusts?

6. Verse 16 tells us that Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron. What do you think "quickly" means here?

What does Pharaoh say to them?

Notice, this time Pharaoh says "my sin" instead of "our sin" and "take the plague away from me" instead of "take the plague away from us." What does this mean to you?

Do you think Pharaoh is sincere in his repentance? Please explain.

Pharaoh refers to this plague as a "deadly plague" or a plague that brings death. He has said this about no other plague. Why do you think he described this plague this way?

7. What happens when Moses prays to God?

Amazingly, what does Pharaoh do when the locusts are gone?

There is nothing left in Egypt. The locusts have eaten everything green so that Egypt is left barren. Yet, Pharaoh will not let them go. Why?

8. God again tells Moses to stretch out his hands toward the sky. What will happen this time?

How does God describe the darkness?

What does it mean to you that the darkness could be felt?

I just finished watching a program called the *Black Plague* about the dust bowl era in the United States. Dust storms were so large and thick that darkness would cover the land. In this way, the darkness could truly be felt. Is it possible this is what happened in Egypt? Please explain.

Have you ever experienced "total" darkness? Please explain.

How long does this plague last?

This is a supernatural darkness brought by God. Do you think the people were able to use lamps to produce light in their homes? Please explain. (See verse 23.)

What would be the most difficult aspect of this plague for you?

What was happening in the land of Goshen where the Israelites lived?

How long does the darkness last?

9. Pharaoh once again sends for Moses. In what way has Pharaoh softened his stand toward the Israelites?

In what way has Pharaoh not changed?

Why do you think Pharaoh wanted the Hebrews to leave their flocks and herds behind?

However, Moses stands his ground. What does he tell Pharaoh in verses 25 and 26?

Is Moses telling Pharaoh the truth? Please explain.

10. A turning point has arrived. Pharaoh still is not willing to let the people go. What does he say to Moses this time?

What was Moses' response?

In what way or ways has Moses changed during the course of these plagues?

Exodus 11

1. This chapter is the beginning of the end. Pharaoh has had his chances. God now gives Moses a new message. What does God tell Moses in verse 1?

How do you think Moses felt when he heard God say, "He will let you go"?

What is meant when God says Pharaoh will drive them out completely?

So far Pharaoh has done all he could to keep the Israelites in Egypt. They comprised a work force of over 1,000,000 people. Now, God says Pharaoh will drive them out; he will force them out. Something is going to happen that will change everything. What do you think was going through Moses' mind?

2. Now we are going to see a different aspect of these events. What else does God tell Moses? (See verse 2.)

Read Gen 15:13-14. What does it mean to you that God announced this very moment to Abraham over 700 years before it happened?

One might wonder why the Egyptians would simply give the Israelite slaves silver and gold. What does verse 3 tell us?

After decades of being slaves, of being the lowest people in Egypt, and after nine plagues, God caused the Israelites to have favor with the Egyptians. What does this mean to you?

Next we read that Moses was highly regarded. By whom?

Why did they hold Moses in such high esteem?

When we read verse 3 carefully, who was the one person who did not highly regard Moses?

3. To whom is Moses addressing in verse 4? (See verse 8 also.)

Reread Genesis 10:29. What did Moses say to Pharaoh?

How do you account for this apparent discrepancy? How could Moses leave in anger if he already left Pharaoh?

Some translations give us a little clue. In some versions, verse 4 says: So Moses had said. Now for a little grammar lesson. "Replied" in Genesis 10:29 is past tense. "Had said" in verse 4 is past perfect tense. Past perfect tense indicates an action that began before another event in the past. Is it possible that Moses gave Pharaoh this last warning before he made the statement in Gen. 10:29? Please explain.

4. This will be the last of the plagues. This will be the moment everything will change. According to verse 6, what is God going to do?

Why are the firstborn males the ones to die?

How do you feel about God's decision to take the lives of all the firstborn?

According to this verse, every family will be affected. Pharaoh was the one with a hard heart. Why are all families going to lose their firstborn?

What will be the result of this plague? (See verse 6.)

Read verse 7 carefully. What does it say will happen?

What is the significance behind the fact that not even a dog will bark?

How will this demonstrate to Pharaoh that the LORD is in control?

What will be the result of this plague? (See verse 8.)

The goddess Isis, the wife and sister of Osiris, supposedly protected children. What will this plague demonstrate to Pharaoh and his people?

5. Verse 8 tells us that Moses was hot with anger. What does this mean to you?

What do you think led to this anger?

What does the Bible say about anger?

6. Verse 9 contains another verb in the past perfect tense. The LORD "had said" to Moses. This means that God told this to Moses before Moses went to see Pharaoh. What did God tell Moses?

We read that Moses and Aaron performed all the wonders God mentioned. How do you think these two brothers have changed since Aaron's rod became a snake?

Moses and Aaron leave Pharaoh for the last time. What they do not yet realize is that God is going to do something that will be remembered forever. What do you think is the mood among the Hebrews as the last plague approaches?

Exodus 12

Beginning with this chapter, God has no more words for Pharaoh. Now God gives Moses a message for the people of Israel. They were no longer going to sit back and watch. This event was so important that it would serve as the beginning of the year. Can you find out about what month God was talking?

Verse 2 says that Moses was to give instructions to the whole community of Israel. How do you think Moses accomplished this considering the whole community of Israel comprised more than 1,000,000 people?

How long do you think it took for Moses to convey all that God had said?

According to verse 3, what was the nation of Israel to do?

Each man was to select a lamb for his family. Where do you think they got all those lambs? What does this tell us?

What is a family to do if it is too small for an entire lamb?

Why was it important for the family to be able to eat an entire lamb? (See v. 10.)

Think about the size of your family. Could your family eat an entire lamb?

What are the requirements for choosing an animal for the sacrifice?

What does it mean that the animal was to be free of defects? Why was this important?

After selecting an animal, what were the Israelites to do with it?

Why do you think God wanted them to take care of these animals?

On the 14th of the month, what was Israel to do with the animals they had selected?

Remember, Moses told Pharaoh that one reason they needed to be free to worship God was that their form of worship may be offensive to the Egyptians. What would you think of a people who, suddenly, slaughtered thousands and thousands of innocent lambs?

Can you think of time when following God caused you to be misunderstood or ridiculed by others?

According to verse 7, what are they to do with the blood?

The Israelites have received no instructions from God about sacrifices or about the blood of animals. What do you think they were thinking as they smeared their doorframes with blood?

After smearing the blood, what were the Israelites to do next? (See verse 8.)

What else were they to eat with the lamb?

Do you think the Israelites understood the significance of the bitter herbs and bread made without yeast?

What does it mean to you that when we celebrate Passover, we eat these same items because of what God told Moses thousands of years ago?

How do you think Moses conveyed all these requirements to every household in Goshen?

Verse 9 gives specific instructions as to how the lamb is to be cooked. How is the lamb to be cooked?

How is it not to be cooked?

Why do you think the LORD commanded them not to eat the meat raw or boiled?

Why were they to cook the lamb with the “inner parts” in place?

According to verse 10, what are they to do with any portion of the lamb that is left over?

Why do you think that none of the lamb was to be left?

What does verse 13 say?

What is the significance of their having their cloaks tucked into their belts?

Why eat it with their sandals on and staff in hand?

For the first time, the LORD lets Israel know that this plague is different from the others by giving it a name. What is it to be called?

Now comes the moment for which Israel has been waiting for over 400 years: their deliverance. What is the LORD going to do the night all Hebrews are eating the Passover lamb?

God makes it very clear that He will pass through Egypt and He will strike down every firstborn. Is the LORD being cruel? Please explain.

Why is the LORD going to strike the firstborn of animals as well as men? (See the end of verse 12.)

What will the LORD do when He sees the blood on the doors?

Does it make any difference to the LORD who is in the house? Please explain.

For the Israelites, the blood meant their freedom. What does the blood mean for us thousands of years later?

Beginning with verse 14, the LORD gives additional insight into this night. He tells them they are to commemorate this day. What does "commemorate," mean to you?

Who is to celebrate this day?

Why do you think the LORD used the word “celebrate”?

What does it mean to you that Passover is to be a lasting ordinance?

Now the LORD gives additional information concerning Passover. (See verse 15.) What are the Israelites to do for seven days?

Why eat bread made without yeast?

What are they to do on the first of the seven days?

How many items in your house contain yeast?

What does the removal of yeast symbolize?

What is God saying to us through this act?

What is to happen to anyone who eats anything with yeast in it during these seven days?

What is the significance of being cut off from Israel?

What are they to do on the first and seventh days?

Why do you think the LORD commanded them to meet as a community?

Are there benefits in our meeting together as a community? Please explain.

What is the only work they are allowed to do on these days?

Why do you think God commanded them not to do any work?

What does God call these seven days?

Why is Israel commanded to celebrate this feast?

God again says that this is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. Does that include us? Please explain.

According to verse 18, when are they to celebrate this feast? What days?

Did the Israelites in Egypt have a calendar? Please explain.

What does this tell us?

What do verses 19 & 20 tell us?

Why do you think God repeats Himself?

God has finished giving Moses instructions. Now Moses must tell the people of Israel what God has commanded. What is his first step?

Imagine that God had given you these instructions concerning Passover for all the people in Dallas, Tx. (Dallas has a population of about 1.2 million people, roughly the number of Israelite slaves.) You have no way to communicate except by word of mouth. What would be your first step? What would be the major obstacles? What time factor would be involved?

Moses faced the same task, so he summons all the elders of Israel. Who were these elders?

According to these instructions, what were they to use to spread the blood on their doors?

What is hyssop?

Read John 19:28. What does this verse mean to you in light of our study on Passover?

After they spread the blood on the doors, what are the Israelites not to do?

What will happen to those who venture outside even with blood on their doors?

According to verse 23, what will cause the LORD to pass over a home?

What is the significance of this? What significance does this hold for us?

If you lived during this time and had witnessed all God's plagues so far, would you spread blood on your door? Please explain.

Can you imagine anyone not spreading the blood on his or her homes? Why or why not?

Why do so many people today refuse to apply the blood of the Lamb to their lives?

What is the key word in verse 24?

This may seem a simple question, but what do the words "lasting ordinance" mean to you?

Beginning in verse 25, Moses prophesies. What does he tell the Hebrew slaves?

Why does Moses tell the people not to forget to keep Passover when they enter the promised land?

Do we have a tendency to "forget" God's commands when everything is going well for us? Please explain.

According to verse 25, what is one reason the Israelites are to observe Passover as a lasting ordinance?

What is the message of Passover for their children?

Do we do a good job of explaining to our children why we do certain things in the church?
Please explain.

After Moses finished conveying God's instructions, what did the people do?

Beginning with verse 29, we read about that first Passover. What does the LORD do?

What do Pharaoh and all the Egyptians do?

Some 400 years earlier, what event caused loud wailing among the Israelites?

Do you think Pharaoh and the people were thinking of the Israelites during this time of loud wailing? Please explain.

Finally, Pharaoh summons Moses. What does he say to Moses?

Look carefully at verse 32. How does Pharaoh end this conversation?

Why are the people urging the Israelites to hurry and leave Egypt?

After 400+ years, the Israelites are free. What do you think they were feeling?

According to verse 34 what do the Israelites do?

How were the Israelites going to bake their bread?
What did they do in verse 35?

What does the word "plunder" mean to you?

The Hebrew word for “plunder” is natsal. It means to snatch away, to strip, to plunder, to take away, to deliver. How do these definitions relate to this passage of the Bible?

How do you explain this exchange of wealth?

Today, our government has advocating “spreading the wealth” by taking from the wealthy and giving to the poor. How do you feel about this?

What were the Egyptians doing when Israel left Egypt?

On a map, locate Rameses and Succoth. How far did the Israelites travel?

How many Israelites were there?

Why do you think God numbered the people by counting the men? Does this mean the women and children were not important? Please explain.

Verse 38 is an interesting verse. What does it tell us?

The KJV reads as follows: a mixed multitude went up also with them. What was this mixed multitude? From where did they come?

Why do you think they left with the Hebrews?

What affect might these people have on Israel?

Besides the people, what else did the Israelites take with them?

What did the Israelites use for food?

How did they find time to bake bread?

How did they bake it without ovens?

Now we are given some additional information. How long were the Israelites slaves?

Every Israelite who left Egypt had never known an existence as anything other than a slave. How difficult do you think it would be for them adjust to their new freedom?

Read I Corinthians 8:9 and Galatians 5:13. What do these verses tell us about freedom?

According to verse 42, what is Israel to do to keep this night special?

Beginning with verse 43, the LORD gives the regulations for the Passover. What is the first regulation the LORD gives?

Why do you think the LORD began with this statement? (See v. 38.)

What is the significance of this ordinance?

What must these foreigners and slaves do before they can take part in Passover?

What does circumcision represent to God and to the Israelites?

Why must all the males in a foreigner's household be circumcised?

God then gives this law: no uncircumcised male may eat of the Passover. What does this statement mean for us today?

Who must abide by this law?

What is the sign of our covenant with God today?

What other regulations does the LORD give Moses and the Israelites? (See v 46.)

Does God give a reason for these regulations? Why does or doesn't He?

What does verse 45 tell us?

Look carefully once again at all these regulations. Remembering that the Israelites were just coming out of bondage, what is the overall meaning or focus of these regulations?

What are we to learn from these guidelines?

Some today preach a gospel of inclusion. What does this mean to you? Do you agree or disagree with it?

Looking at these guidelines, how do they address this issue of inclusion?

Exodus 13

The LORD continues to instruct Moses. What does “consecrate” mean?

Why do you think the LORD instructed the Israelites to consecrate to Him every firstborn male?

Of what would this act of obedience be a reminder?

Why does this apply to only firstborn males?

What would it mean to you to consecrate your firstborn son to the LORD?

What instructions does Moses give the people in verse 3?

Where are Moses and the Israelites when Moses gives them these instructions?

Why do you think it is so important to God that the Israelites commemorate the day they came out of slavery?

Why should we remember the day we were saved or the day we came out of slavery?

This was such an important event that the month they were freed was to become the first month. Why is this significant?

Now Moses’ instructions take the Israelites into their future. What are they to do when the LORD brings them into the promised land?

Who will the Israelites find in the promised land?

What can you learn about these peoples?

Does it bother you that the Promised Land was already inhabited?

What does “a land flowing with milk and honey” mean to you?

Again, what are the people told in verse 7?

LORD continues to remind them that they are to get rid of all yeast. Why does God repeat this so much?

Earlier, we said that leaven or yeast was symbolic of sin. How many times are we warned to put sin away?

Verse 8 gives us additional insight as to this event. The Israelites are to tell whom about this event?

It becomes quite clear that parents were to tell their children about this special event. What were they to tell their children?

Why do you think it is so important to God that parents tell their children about His delivering Egypt from slavery?

From this we can see that one of the ways children were to learn was by listening to the stories of their parents. Do we still see this as a way of teaching our children today? Please explain.

Do you remember hearing stories about God when you were young?

Why do you think some parents are reluctant to tell their children about what God has done?

What do you think is the key phrase in verse 8? Please explain.

Do you carry a cross or other religious object with you? If so, why?

For many, the cross is a sign of what?

Read verse 9. Then read Deut 6:8 and 11:18. What do you think God meant when He said to make these words a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead?

Subsequent generations have taken these commands literally. What is a phylactery?

If God's commands were not to be taken literally, then how was one to bind them to his hands and forehead?

What is stressed in verse 10?

Verses 11 and 12 again repeat God's instructions. What is repeated in these verses?

When were the Israelites to start giving the LORD the firstborn of every womb?

What does the word "redeem" mean in verse 13?

Why were the Israelites to redeem every firstborn donkey?

What was to be used to redeem a donkey? If the donkey was not redeemed, what was to happen to it?

Why do you think the LORD included these verses about donkeys?

According to verse 14, the observances of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread would undoubtedly raise questions. What were the parents to answer when the sons asked, "What does all this mean"?

Again, what is repeated in verse 16?

Verse 17 marks a break in the narration. We now move from Moses' instructions to the continuance of the Israelite's journey. What do we learn from verse 17?

Can you think of a time or of a situation where the shorter route was not the best route? Please

explain.

What was God's reason for taking the Israelites the long way?

According to verse 18, where did the LORD take them?

Can you locate this route on a map?

The last part of verse 18 gives an interesting piece of information. Based upon what we have read and upon the stories you have heard about the exodus, how do you picture the Israelite people?

What does verse 18 tell us about them?

Does it surprise you that they were armed for battle? Why or why not?

Where would the Israelites have learned about fighting?

If they were armed for battle, why did the LORD lead them away from the Philistines?

Read Genesis 50:24-25. What do these verses say?

How long ago did Joseph make this request?

What does it tell us about Moses and Israel that they did not forget the bones of Joseph with them?

Where did the Israelites go after leaving Succoth?

The Israelites saw a physical demonstration of God's presence. What did they see during the day? During the night?

Verse 21 tells us that the pillar of fire gave enough light that the Israelites could travel by night. What does this tell us about the light?

What is the significance of verse 22?

What is the significance of verses 22 and 23 for us today?

Exodus 14

The narrative returns to the exodus. What does the LORD instruct Moses to do?

The Israelites were not running or escaping from the Egyptians. However, they were moving toward their freedom. How would have felt had you been part of this exodus and God told you to turn back?

Where are they to make camp? Can you locate this on a map?

Verse 2 tells us that that they are encamp BETWEEN Migdol and the sea. Which sea?

The exact route taken by the Israelites is still a matter of debate. Some believe they camped near the Red Sea. Others believe they camped next to the Reed Sea. Where is the Reed Sea?

Does your map show several different routes for the exodus?

Some look at the lack of definite evidence, such as the location of these cities, as proof that the exodus was not a real event. How do you respond to this statement?

According to verse 3, the LORD wants to “mislead” Pharaoh. What does He want Pharaoh to think?

Why does the LORD want to do this?

What is the LORD going to do to Pharaoh in verse 4?

Once the LORD hardens Pharaoh’s heart, what will Pharaoh do?

Is God setting a trap for Pharaoh? If so, how do you feel about that?

According to verse 4, what will be the result of this next encounter?

What has Pharaoh been doing since the Israelites left? Who else had doubts about what had happened?

What was their main concern?

What does Pharaoh do?

How big was Pharaoh's army? (See also verse 9.)

After God hardened Pharaoh's heart, what was Pharaoh determined to do?

What does verse 8 say about the Israelites?

Do you think they knew the Egyptians were coming after them? Please explain.

The Egyptians are pursuing and the Israelites are camping. A showdown is ahead. Can you think of another time when God orchestrated or allowed such a showdown?

Imagine you are one of the Israelites. All you have known is slavery under Pharaoh. Then you witness the miraculous deliverance at the hands of the LORD. You have followed God, and, at His command, you are now camping. Suddenly you look up and see Pharaoh's army approaching. What would be your thoughts?

What was the reaction of the Israelites? Do you blame them for being terrified?

They have water in front of them and Pharaoh's army behind them. Moreover, the LORD led them to this place. Why would God lead them into such a situation?

What do the Israelites say to Moses in verse 11? What do they accuse Moses of doing?

What do they say in verse 12?

What can we learn from the fact that they would have preferred to remain in Egypt?

They accuse Moses of leading them into a trap and to their deaths. Yet, how does Moses react to their accusations?

Moses responds by first telling the people what?

Think back to the burning bush. Moses was afraid of approaching God. Now he is the one telling the people not to be afraid. What change can we see in Moses?

What assurance does Moses give the people?

What are they to do? (See verse 14.)

How hard would it be for you to stand still in the face of this danger?

What does Eph 6:13 tell us to do?

What does it mean to you to stand your ground?

Now we hear from the LORD. What does He tell Moses in verse 15?

How would you feel if someone answered you with, “Why are you crying out to me”?

The LORD tells them to move on. Where are they going to go?

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt the LORD told you to do something impossible? Please explain.

What is the LORD going to do for them in verse 16?

Much has been written about the parting of the water. Some say the Israelites crossed over on a submerged land bridge. Some say a strong wind and tide lowered the water so they could cross.

But look carefully at verse 16. What else is the LORD going to do for the Israelites besides parting the water?

Remember how many Israelites there were. How wide do you think the path would have had to been?

According to verse 17, what else is the LORD going to do?

How are the Egyptians to know that God is the LORD?

Following this exchange, what does the angel of God do?

Again, for decades people have been trying to logically explain the parting of the Red Sea. Yet, what happens when the pillar of cloud came between the Israelites and the Egyptians? (See verse 20.)

Who was in the light and who was in the dark?

How does this describe our world?

As they prepare to cross to safety, we see that the LORD stands between Israel and destruction. In what way does Jesus do the same for us?

What does Moses do in verse 21?

How long does it take the waters to divide?

The Israelites pass through on dry ground, walking between walls of water. How high do you think these walls would be?

What would have been going through your mind if you were among that group crossing between those walls of water? Would you prefer to be in the front or in the back?

Verse 23 tells us that Pharaoh and the Egyptians pursued them. What can we infer happened such that they could pursue the Israelites?

Verse 24 mentions the last watch of the night. What time would this have been?

Exodus 15

1. What does it mean to you to praise God?

Is there any form of praise that you find awkward? Please explain.

What is spontaneous praise?

Can you think of a time when you were so caught up in praise that you did not want to stop?

Read Col. 1:16. What does this verse say to you?

Does Col. 1:16 include music, singing, and dancing? Please explain.

What is your favorite part, if you have one, of worship?

2. What prompted Moses' song in this chapter?

What can we learn about the nature of worship from this?

Considering all you know about Moses, do you picture him as a worship leader?

Look carefully at verse 1. It says that Moses and the Israelites sang the song. How did they all know the words?

According to verse 1, why are the Israelites singing this song?

Can you think of any songs that commemorate key military victories in our history?

As you read the words to this song, who is given credit for what happened?

What does this tell us about true praise?

Does it seem right or wrong to you for the Israelites to be singing as thousands of Egyptians lie dead around them? Please explain.

3. According to verses 1-5, what did the LORD do for the Israelites?

What do these verses say about God?

Verse 5 says the Egyptians sank to the depths like a stone. Why would they sink like stones?

4. Verse 6 states that God's right hand was majestic in power. What can you find out about the phrase "God's right hand"?

Look at the following verses: Isaiah 41:10; Mark 16:19; and Acts 7:56. What do these tell us about the right hand of God?

Believe it or not, some people find this phrase offensive because they see this as demeaning to left-handed people. How would you respond to this?

The LORD is described as a "warrior", a "man of war." How do you react to this description?

5. Beginning with verse 7, Moses and the Israelites sing of the greatness of God's majesty. What did God do by His majesty and power?

What does verse 8 tell us?

What is the "blast from God's nostril"?

Is it possible that certain "acts of nature" are really "blasts from God's nostril"? Please explain.

The following is a description of the burning of Washington, D.C. by the British during the war of 1812. In retaliation, the British were determined to burn Washington to the ground. They entered Washington unopposed and began to set fire to our capital. This account was taken from a website about the War of 1812:

Dawn rose the next morning and the remaining Washingtonians felt the day's warmth not from the sun but from the heat of the fires. While the British soldiers continued to set fires and destroy the stores of ammunition found, they failed to notice the early afternoon sky begin to darken. Westward beyond the city, large clouds were forming, beginning to swirl, and soon the sky intensified with lightning and thunder signaling the approach of a thunderstorm. The British soldiers familiar with thunderstorms in England and preoccupied with their orders discounted the Americans watching the sky.

As the storm front neared the city, Washingtonians took cover. The winds dramatically increased and a tornado developed over the city that produced a "frightening roar." The tornado ripped through Washington and headed straight toward the British occupation. Structures were torn off their foundations, other buildings were blown down. Feather mattresses were sucked out of windows, trees were uprooted, fences were blown down, chimneys collapsed, the heavy chain bridge across the Potomac River buckled, and many British cannons were picked up and tossed around. Panic ensued; many British soldiers did not have time to take cover and were killed by collapsing buildings and flying debris.

Finally, the winds quieted but the rain fell in torrents for more than two hours quenching most of the flames and prevented Washington from continuing to burn. The British Army regrouped near Capitol Hill, a bit shaken by the harsh weather and decided to depart Washington that evening. Downed trees across roads hampered their journey and when they reached their ships, it was discovered two had broken free from their moorings and

were washed ashore. The British Commander later reported that more of their soldiers were wounded and killed by this catastrophic disaster than from all the firearms the American troops could muster in their ineffectual defense of Washington.

How would you explain this event?

6. Verse 9 gives a very human response to God that we can still see today. What is this response?

Can you think of any other examples where man has said, "I will..." in defiance of God? What was the result?

What was the result for the Egyptians? (See verse 10.)

7. What is a rhetorical question?

Is verse 11 an example of a rhetorical question? Please explain.

According to verse 13, why has God chosen to lead His people?

Some people might look at this event and not see God's love but God's violence as He destroys the entire Egyptian army. How would you respond to this?

8. Beginning with verse 14, the song takes on a prophetic tone. Do you believe that we still have prophetic songs? Can you give an example of a prophetic song that you have heard?

What do Moses and the people prophesy in verses 14 and 15?

Where are Pillistia, Edom and Moab located?

What is going to happen to the people of these lands?

What will be the result of this terror and dread?

Read Joshua 2:8-11. When does this event take place? What does it have to do with this song?

Look carefully at the end of verse 16. How does it refer to the people of Israel?

How did God buy or purchase the people of Israel?

How has God purchased us?

9. According to verse 17, the last stanza of the song, what is God going to do for the Israelites?

What and where is the mountain of God's inheritance?

Who was Miriam? Why do you think it says she was Aaron's sister but not Moses'?

What is a prophetess?

What do Miriam and the other women do?

Look carefully at what Miriam sang. Is she singing a different song or is she singing with Moses?

Some commentaries suggest that Moses and the men sang the verses to this song while Miriam and the women sang this refrain between each verse. If this is so, how did they know what to sing and when?

10. We now return to the narration of the exodus. After they finish praising God for their miraculous deliverance, where does Moses lead the people?

Where is the desert of Shur located? How long does it take them to reach this wilderness area?

How far do you think this multitude of people and animals could travel in one day? In three days? Does this help identify where they might have crossed the sea?

Imagine coming off a high where you see the power of God mightily demonstrated before your eyes. Your enemies are completely destroyed. Then, you are led into a desert wilderness for three days without any water. What would you be thinking?

How long can a person survive without water?

What was the condition of the people at the end of this time, especially the children?

Why do you think God led them this way without any water?

11. After three days, where did the people find themselves?

Now Marah had water, but why could the people not drink it?

Once again, put yourself in their place. You have been without water for three days and now you find yourself standing before water that you cannot drink. Might you grumble? Please explain.

What does Moses do when he finds himself standing before the bitter waters at Marah?

What does God tell Moses to do?

Once again, we can read numerous accounts of people trying to explain this miracle. Some refer to a shrub that absorbs salt. Others report that barley will take the salt out of water. What do you think of these explanations?

Imagine how much water it would take to quench the thirst of all these people and their animals. How much barley would Moses have to use to "neutralize" the bitterness of the water?

According to verse 25, what did Moses throw into the water to make it sweet?

Verse 25 also tells us why the LORD brought them to this place. Why?

What decree or law does God make with the people at this place called Bitterness?

We also learn another name for God. He tells Israel that He is the LORD Who heals us (Jehovah Rophe). Why do you think God chose to reveal this name to Israel at a place called Bitterness?

Can you think of another covenant God made with us that involved a piece of wood and bitterness?

After the bitter waters of Marah, where does the LORD lead them?

What is the significance of the 12 springs and 70 palm trees?

12. As we look at this part of the journey, what follows the bitterness of the trials we face?

In what ways does this part of the exodus story relate to us?

If someone were to ask you why should he or she study the Old Testament, what would you tell him or her?

Exodus 16

After 400 years, the Hebrews are free. They have personally witnessed the mighty hand of God. They have seen the entire Egyptian army destroyed. As free people, they sing praises to God for the first time in their lives. Now the journey truly begins. According to verse 1, they left Elim and traveled to the Desert of Sin. How far did they journey?

Where is the Desert of Sin located?

How much time has passed since they left Egypt?

What does it mean to you for someone to grumble?

Have you ever grumbled against a church leader? Against God?

What does the Bible say about grumbling or complaining?

Why is grumbling such a bad trait?

What is the solution to grumbling?

According to verse 3, about what are the people complaining?

For what are the Israelites yearning?

What has happened that has made slavery look so appealing?

Do you think slavery was that appealing? Please explain.

If Israel's being set free from Egypt is symbolic of our being set free from sin, why would anyone want to go back to a life of sin?

To whom are the people speaking in verse 3?

If they people are speaking to Moses, why does the LORD answer in verse 4?

What can we learn from this?

What is God going to do for the people?

Why is God going to do this?

What special instructions does He give them in verse 5?

What is the first thing Moses and Aaron said to the Israelites in verse 6?

According to verse 7, why is the LORD doing this?

In verse 7 Moses says that the Israelites were "grumbling against him." To whom is the "him" referring?

However, Moses next says that the Israelites have been grumbling against "us." Why does he use "him" and then "us" when speaking to the Israelites?

What warning does Moses give the people in verse 8?

How does this advice affect the church today?

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What does Moses tell Aaron to tell the people in verse 9?

How do you think the people were feeling when they were told to appear before the LORD?

What did the people see when they looked toward the desert?

How would you explain to someone what the "glory" of the LORD was?

Do you think seeing the glory of the LORD before them made them forget about their problems for a while? Please explain.

Have you ever experienced the glory of God? Please explain.

Once again the LORD tells Moses to tell the people that He has heard their grumbling. Why do you think God keeps repeating this?

What does God tell the people in verse 11?

What happened that evening?

We have quail in Oklahoma. What can you learn about quail in the area of the Sinai?

What does it mean to you that the quail covered the camp?

How did the people gather the quail?

If you had been there, how would you know that it was the LORD Who did this?
Following the quail, what did the people find the next morning?

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What happened when the dew was gone?

How do you picture the scene as the people looked out at the "flakes" or "round" objects?

What did the people say when they saw the thin flakes?

What word means, "What is it?"

Do you have any idea as to what this manna could have been?

As with many of the miracles found in Exodus, scholars have attempted to explain them through natural means. Following are two explanations as to what manna might have been. (1) The most frequent identification is with the secretion of small aphids that feed on the sap of tamarisk trees. When it hardens and falls to the ground, it can be collected and used for a sweetener. A full season would normally produce only about five hundred pounds. (2) Alternatively, some would favor the sweet liquid of the hammada plant, common in southern Sinai, which is used to sweeten cakes. How would you respond to these explanations? What aspects of the miracle do they fail to explain?

Why do you think people are still trying to explain God's miracles through natural explanations?

1. What does Moses tell the Israelites the manna is?

In what way has God given to us bread that sustains life?

How much is each person to gather?

How much is an omer?

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Some estimate that there were around 1.5 million people in the exodus. At an omer apiece, how much manna had to fall each day?

2. According to verse 17, how much manna was gathered?

What is the significance of verse 18?

What does this tell us about God's provision?

3. What special instructions does Moses give the people in verse 18?

However, what did some of the people do?

What happened to the manna that was kept overnight?

Why do you think Moses was angry?

What happened to the manna once the sun came out?

Therefore, if you were going to gather bread for the day, when would you have to gather it?

Would you encourage people to have a morning time with the Lord? Please explain.

4. What did the people do on the sixth day? Why did they do this?

What did the leaders of the community do?

What command does the LORD give to the people in verse 23?

This is the first time that the Sabbath is mentioned. What is the purpose of the Sabbath?

Why is so difficult for us to "keep" the Sabbath?

What would happen to any manna that was kept overnight during the week?

What would happen to any manna that was kept overnight on the Sabbath?

How do you explain why the manna would spoil one night but not the other?

What did the people do on the seventh day?

How easy is it for you to rest? Please explain.

5. Verse 31 is a summary of the previous section. How is the manna described?

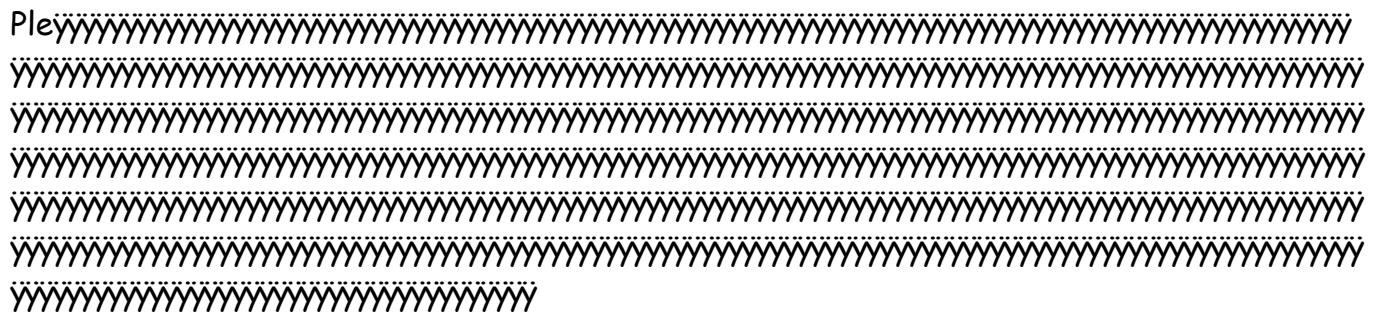
What is coriander seed?

The manna tasted like what?

What does the LORD tell Moses in verse 32?

Do you think that manna still exists?

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Exodus 17

Romans 15:4(NIV) 4For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

This verse means that everything we have studied so far was written to teach us today. Based upon our study of the first 16 chapters, what have you learned from our study?

How can these lessons teach us endurance?

How can they encourage us?

Where is the nation of Israel at the beginning of chapter 17?

Verse 1 tells us that they traveled from place to place as the LORD commanded. During this part of the journey, we do not read of any specific events happening. Why?

The LORD then brings them to Rephidim. Where is it located?

What happened when they reaching Rephidim?

What happened the last time the people found themselves without water? What did God do?

Why do you think God again brought them to a place without water?

What was the people's response?

What conclusions can we draw about the people of Israel?

This time the people quarreled with Moses. What does this mean to you?

Why would quarreling with Moses be such a bad thing to do?

Have you ever quarreled with someone? If so, what was the result?

Previously, the people found themselves without water at Marah. How did God provide water for them?

How is the situation at Rephidim different?

If the people are quarreling with Moses, does that mean Moses is quarreling with them? Please explain.

How did Moses respond when the people quarreled with him?

In what way are the people putting God to the test?

What does it mean to put God to the test?

Are we ever to put God to the test? Please explain.

According to verse 3, what did the people continue to do?

What specifically was their complaint?

This is almost word for word what the people said to Moses at Marah. How could they have forgotten what God did for them?

Have you ever "forgotten" God's provision in a time of need such that you found yourself "complaining" to Him or others? Would you mind sharing?

As the leader of these people, what did Moses do in verse 4?

Do you believe the leaders of our nation cry out to the LORD for guidance? If not, why don't they?

What do you think this nation would be like if our leaders cried out to God before they acted?

Beginning with verse 5, God answers Moses. Read verses 5-7 carefully. Does God address the people's grumbling and complaining?

When we read these verses, Moses seems to be the focus and not the people. How do you explain this?

What does God tell Moses to do?

Why do you think Moses was to take some of the elders of Israel with him?

Do you think they were among those who quarreled with Moses?

What is Moses to do with his staff?

How do you picture the rock at Horeb?

The following are pictures of what is traditionally considered the rock at Horeb. The rock stands some 200 feet tall and is split down the middle.

INCLUDEPICTURE

"<http://commondatastorage.googleapis.com/static.panoramio.com/photos/original/8604949.jpg>" * MERGEFORMATINET

INCLUDEPICTURE "http://mw2.google.com/mw-panoramio/photos/medium/8605150.jpg" * MERGEFORMATINET INCLUDEPICTURE "http://mw2.google.com/mw-panoramio/photos/medium/8605307.jpg" * MERGEFORMATINET

How do these pictures match what you envisioned as you read these verses?

Does it make a difference to you if we can or cannot locate the historical places of the Bible? Please explain.

Why do you think God had Moses do this in sight of the elders of Israel?

Where was God when Moses performed this miracle? Why is this important?

What did Moses call this place?

What does Massah and Meribah mean?

Who were the Amalekites? (See Genesis 36:12 & 16.)

Why do you think the Amalekites attacked Israel?

Do we still see battles over water? Please explain.

Deu 25: 17-19 tells us a little more about this battle. What do we learn about the Amelakites from this passage?

YYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY1YY

This is the first battle Israel has had to fight, and it comes after their "salvation" and after an amazing act of God. What can we learn from this about our Christian walk with the Lord?

What type of battles do we have to fight?

We hear about Joshua for the first time in verse 9. Who was Joshua?

What does Moses say to Joshua?

Joshua had never been in a battle before. Actually, all he has ever done in his life is make bricks. Now Moses tells him to select some men and go to war. What do you think was going through Joshua's mind?

What can we learn about this young man in that he never complained?

How would you describe the relationship between Moses and Joshua?

If you were Joshua, what type of men would you choose to go into battle with you?

What is Moses going to do when Joshua goes into battle?

Verse 10 tells us that Joshua fought the Amalekites just as Moses had ordered. What can young leaders in the church learn from Joshua?

Who went with Moses to the top of the hill?

What happened when Moses held up his hands while holding his staff? What happened when he grew tired and lowered his hands?

What do you think is the significance of this action?

What did Aaron and Hur do when Moses grew tired and could not raise his hands?

What can we learn about leadership from this episode with Moses, Aaron and Hur?

Moses plays a most prominent role in Exodus. Aaron appears several times. Hur only a few. In this account, who would you say played the most important part?

For every "Moses" there will be a "Hur" around. How would you describe Hur's ministry?

What

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fixExodus 18

Exodus 18 brings us a change. So far, we have read about the Israelites dealings with Egypt, about the destruction of the Egyptian army, about the grumbling and complaining of Israel, about the miraculous supply of water and food, and about Israel's first battle. Now, we encounter a change of pace. Exodus 18 takes us inside the Israelite camp for a more personal look at God's people.

1. Based upon what we have read so far, how would you describe life in the Israelite camp?

Do you like to camp out? Please explain.

If you had been part of this group, what would have been the most challenging part of this experience for you?

What might have been the most exciting aspect?

2. This chapter begins with the reintroduction of Moses' father-in-law. Where did Jethro live?

Once again, can you locate Midian on a map?

Why did Jethro come to Moses?

How do you think Jethro heard about everything God had done for Moses and the people of Israel?

Specifically, verse 1 says Jethro heard how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt. How would he have heard of this?

3. Verse 2 tells us that Moses had sent away his wife and two sons. This raises an interesting question: when did Moses send his wife and sons back to her father Jethro? Look back to Ex 4:24 - 25. What do these verses tell us?

So, we know that Zipporah and the two sons were with Moses as he traveled to Egypt. Now, they return. Yet, we never read of Moses' sending them back. Can you locate any information explaining when this might have happened?

Is it possible that Moses' sending his wife back and Jethro's hearing about what God had done are related? Please explain.

Can you think of a reason as to why Moses might have sent his family back to Midian?

Why do you think Zipporah and the boys have returned at this time?

Where did Jethro and Zipporah meet Moses?

4. Look carefully at verse 3. It reads "her two sons" instead of Moses' sons. Is this significant? Please explain.

What was the name of one of Moses' sons? What does this name mean?

What was the name of the other son? What does his name mean?

Following this "reunion" do we ever read of Zipporah or the two sons again?

5. Verse 5 picks up the narrative. Jethro, Zipporah, and the sons meet Moses in the desert near the mountain of God. How did Jethro let Moses know they were coming?

So far, every time Jethro is mentioned, he is referred to as Moses' father-in-law. Why do you think this was done?

What do you think Moses was feeling when he heard his family was coming?

Verse 7 tells us that Moses went out to meet Jethro. What is the significance of this act?

How does Moses greet him?

What do you think Aaron and the other elders thought when they say Moses bow down to Jethro? (Remember, they saw all the miracles God performed through Moses.)

What does this tell us about Moses?

What does Numbers 12:3 tell us?

Who wrote Numbers? How do you explain this?

What does the Bible say about humility?

How difficult do you think it would be to remain humble after "defeating" one of the most powerful men alive?

Why do you think God delights in our remaining humble?

Have you ever struggled with remaining humble? If so, would you share?

How can we remain humble? How can we help each other remain humble?

6. What does Moses do in verse 8?

Why is it important that we tell others what God has done for us? What He has done to save us?

What has God done for you that you would like to share?

How does it make you feel to share about Jesus?

For a long time, we have been saying that the "fight" will be over the name of Jesus. This week, a pastor was fired after being asked to say a prayer over the North Carolina Congress. He was going to pray in the name of Jesus, but they told him he could not do that. He would not remove Jesus' name so they fired him. How important is it to you to proclaim the name of Jesus?

Do you think we should remove the name of Jesus (we can pray in the name of God) to promote more spiritual unity? Please explain.

7. How does Jethro react when he hears Moses' story?

What does Jethro say to his son-in-law?

What effect does Moses' testimony have on Jethro? (See verse 11.)

How important is your testimony?

Do you think we should give more time on Sunday mornings for people to give their testimonies? If so, why? If so, would you be willing to give your testimony?

Verse 11 tells us God dealt harshly with those who treated Israel arrogantly. What does it mean to you that Egypt dealt arrogantly with Israel?

Are there countries today that deal arrogantly with Israel? If so, do you think God still get upset? Please explain.

8. Beginning with verse 13 we get another look at camp life. What does Moses do in verse 13?

What does it mean to you that Moses took his seat as judge?

What do you think were some of the complaints that Moses heard?

How long did it take for Moses to listen to all the people?

What did the people have to do?

What questions does Jethro ask Moses?

What was Moses' answer?

When we look at the LORD lead Israel according to His will, we will begin to see patterns that the church would be wise to follow. How are most disputes in today's church settled?

What qualified Moses to sit as judge over all the people?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:2-6. What do these verses mean to you?

How does this advice to the Corinthians relate to Moses' situation?

What does this mean to the church today?

Why is it important for us to settle family disputes within the family?

Why is it so important for us to settle our disputes within the church?

What qualifications would you look for in a "judge" whom you would trust to settle your disputes?

Does the church as a whole abide by these guidelines? Please explain your answer.

Verse 17 gives us another guideline for the church.. When Jethro hears what Moses is doing, what does he say in verse 17?

Does it surprise you that Jethro would "correct" Moses?

How comfortable would you be correcting someone in leadership? Correcting David? Please explain.

When we look carefully at what Jethro says next, we get another lesson. Many people can criticize or point out problems. However, they seldom have a valid suggestions. Jethro does not do this. He corrects Moses and then gives a solution. What solution does Jethro suggest to Moses?

How do you usually respond to constructive criticism?

Look carefully at verse 10. It contains two action verbs that describe what Moses is to do. What is the first "verb" that Moses is to do? What is the "second"?

What is the difference between teaching people God's laws and showing them the way to live?

Do you think the church does a good job of teaching people God's truth? Does it do a good job of showing people how to live those truths? Please explain.

Matthew 28:19-20 contains what many call the Great Commission. How do Jesus' words to the church parallel Jethro's words to Moses?

What is the best way to teach people how to live as God's people?

When Jethro suggests that Moses select capable men, for what qualities does he say Moses should look?

How would these two qualities help the men to sit as "judges" over the people?

Next, Jethro says Moses should pick men to be over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. What does it mean to you that some men were gifted to be over thousands while some men were gifted to be over tens?

Are the men who are over tens less gifted or important than those over thousands? Please explain.

Read Matthew 25:24-15. How does this parable address what Jethro said to Moses?

What are these appointed men to do?

What is Moses' responsibility?

What do you think might be some of the "difficult" cases that would reach Moses?

Is this idea the same as "passing the buck"? Please explain.

What does the last statement in verse 22 say?

How does this idea pertain to us?

Read Galatians 6:2. What does this verse say to you?

How does it fit with Jethro's words?

Jethro is going to teach us another lesson about taking advice. So far, Jethro has given Moses some sound advice. Look carefully at the beginning of verse 23. What does Jethro say to Moses?

Even though he has given good advice, Jethro tells Moses that Moses should not follow this advice until what happens?

What does this tell us about Jethro?

If Moses follows this advice and if this advice is from God, what will be the result?

Verse 24 says that Moses listened to his father-in-law. What do you think Moses was thinking as he listened?

How long does Moses wait before implementing this plan?

Verse 26 tells us that these men served as judges for the people all the time. How does this differ from what Moses was doing?

Deuteronomy 1:9-18 gives a different account of this episode. What more do we learn from reading it?

Following this episode between Jethro and Moses, what happened?

Does it seem odd to you that Jethro would travel all that way to visit for such a short time? Please explain.

Nothing else is heard about Moses' wife or sons. However, additional information is given in 1 Chronicles 23:14. What does this verse tell us?

What can we learn from Numbers 3:21-26 and Numbers 4:24-28?

What can we conclude about Moses as a father from these verses?

Why might the book of Exodus contain no other mention of Moses' family?

What can we learn about church organization from this chapter?

Have you seen this type of "structure" at work in the church? Please explain.

Exodus 19

As this chapter opens how long have the Israelites been wandering in the wilderness?

How would you describe their relationship with the LORD?

Verse 2 says they set out from Rephidim. Can you locate this on a map?

Then they camp to the Desert of Sinai and camped in front of “the mountain.” What mountain was this?

Can you locate this mountain on a map?

When you think of a desert, do you picture mountains? Please explain.

What type of desert was the Desert of Sinai?

What does it mean to you to have an encounter with God?

Do you think the people know what is about to happen? Please explain.

Verse 3 states that God called to Moses from the mountain. What does this mean to you?

Moses is our first prophet. He hears from God and then tells the people. God gives the people a promise with a condition. What is the promise?

What is the condition?

What image does God use to convey His treatment of Israel? (See verse 4.)

What meaning does this image convey to you?

What does it mean to you that Israel would be God's treasured possession?

Verse 5 contains an interesting statement from God. What does God say at the end of this verse?

What type of kingdom was Israel to be?

What does it mean for Israel to be a holy nation?

Does it bother you that out of all the nations of the earth, Israel is God's treasured possession? Please explain.

What is the first thing Moses does when he descends the mountain?

How would you define an elder?

Had you been in the crowd when Moses returned, how might you have reacted to these words?

How did the people respond to God's words?

Do you think they meant what they said? Please explain.

How do you think our nation would respond to such a promise from God today?

In verse 9 Moses ascends the mountain a second time. Why did he go up this time?

Why would Moses need to take the Israelites' answer to God? Wouldn't God already know their answer?

Look carefully at the order of events in verse 9. Who speaks first?

What is God going to do? And why is He going to do this?

How will God's doing this help the people put their trust in Moses?

Does it seem strange that God would want the people to put their trust in Moses and not in Him? Please explain.

Beginning with verse 10, God gives Moses the main part of His message. What is Moses to do?

What does the word "consecrate" mean?

How long will it take Moses to consecrate the entire nation of Israel?

According to verses 10-11, what is the first thing the people are to do?

What is the significance of the people's washing their clothes?

Who exactly is to wash their clothes?

How big an operation would it be for a million plus people to wash their clothes?

According to verse 11, what will happen on the third day?

What is the significance of the "third day?"

Verse 12 gives the second condition the LORD places on the people. What is it?

How would you put limits around a mountain?

Why would God place such limits on the people?

What is to happen to anyone who just "touches" the foot of the mountain? (See verse 13.)

What is to happen when the people hear the ram's horn?

Why would God put limits around the mountain if the people were going to go up the mountain in the end?

Has the Lord put “limits” on us? Please explain.

What happens to children if parents do not put limits on their children?

Verse 15 contains the third condition placed on the people. What is the third condition?

Briefly, what are the three conditions placed on the people?

How does each one of these conditions help the people to focus on God?

After going through these three steps, how do you think the people were feeling?

In what way are we to consecrate ourselves for the Lord now?

How do you prepare yourself to meet the Lord?

What marked the beginning of the third day?

Would the mountain have looked like an inviting place? Please explain.

What was the purpose of the trumpet blast?

Verse 16 tells us that the trumpet blast was very loud. What did the people do when they heard this blast?

Why do you think the people trembled?

The trumpet blast, which was probably a shofar or ram's horn, was heard by all the people. Who do you think blew that horn?

God gave Moses instructions that the people were to prepare themselves. After three days God wanted to meet with them. Why do you think God began with this very loud blast?

The Bible tells us that the beginning of knowledge is a fear of the Lord. Please explain.

Do you think we should have a fear of the Lord? Please explain.

Following the trumpet blast, Moses leads the people out of camp. Why?

What did the people do when they reached the mountain?

The people witness firsthand the holiness of God (consecrate themselves), the power of God (thunder and lightning), and the love of God (His invitation). In what way have you witnessed these aspects of God?

Verse 18 gives us a very detailed description of the mountain. What are these details?

Why do you think the LORD descended in fire?

Moses refers to a furnace to help us picture the mountain at this time. What comes to mind when you hear this word?

Verse 18 says the mountain trembled violently. The word for "trembled" means to quake or to move about. "Violently" means exceedingly or much. What exactly is happening to this mountain?

Would you have wanted to go up this mountain? Please explain.

What else happened in verse 19?

What message was God sending to the people through this awesome sound and light display? Verse 19 tells us that Moses spoke and God answered him. How did Moses speak when the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder?

Of what can we be assured when we cry out to the LORD?

According to verse 20, what takes place?

What does it mean to you that God came down to the top of Mt. Sinai?

Moses had never seen such a display of God's power. What do you think he was thinking as he ascended the mountain?

What message does God give Moses concerning the people?

What response was God expecting from the people?

Verse 22 mentions priests, yet God has not yet given the requirements for priests. Who were these priests?

What does it mean to you that not even the priests could approach God unless they had been consecrated?

What does it mean to you for the LORD to "break out" against the people?

Now we see a little of the "old" Moses. Instead of obeying God, what does Moses say?

How do you interpret Moses' statement to God?

God answers Moses by continuing to give him instructions. What is Moses to do?

Moses is to bring Aaron with him. Why do you think God wants Aaron to accompany Moses?

Again, God gives Moses a warning. What is it?

Moses descends the mountain and tells the people what God said. This ends his first trip up the mountain. Why do you think God wanted to speak to Moses first?

This episode gives us a great visual description of man's relationship with God. Based upon this chapter, how can sinful people approach a holy God?

What type of relationship does God desire with us?

Today, how can we approach God without His breaking out against us?

Exodus 20

1. Now we come to one of the most often talked about passages in the Bible: the giving of the 10 commandments. What do you know about the commandments?

These commandments form the foundation of all Israel's civil and religious laws. What does that mean to you?

What forms the foundation of this country's laws?

What is the first thing God says to Moses in verse 2?

Why do you think God began with this statement?

Next, God reminds them of what He has done. What does He say next?

How does verse 2 set the stage for what is to come?

2. What is the first commandment?

Why do you think this is the first commandment?

Some versions read "no other gods **before** me" while others read "no other gods **besides** me." What is the difference between these two statements, if there is one?

The word for "before" also means "in my presence" or "in opposition" to another. How do these definitions affect your understanding of this commandment?

This commandment can be read as: we are to have no other gods in God's presence. Based upon this rendering, how would you feel about allowing another religion to use our facilities to worship?

Compared to many of the other commandments, this commandment is rather short. Why?

What are some of the gods we could have besides God, or what are some of the gods that get in the way of people's worship of God?

Do you think the church today sees idolatry as a problem? Please explain.

Read John 10:30. How does this verse relate to the first commandment?

What does John 10:30 tell us about worshipping Jesus?

3. Next, we move to the second commandment. This commandment is often shortened to read as follows: thou shalt not worship any graven image. What is a "graven" image?

What exactly does verse 4 tell us?

What does "in any form" mean to you?

What might be some be some graven images of things in heaven? On the earth? In the waters below?

Why might people favor these images that they can carry with them?

What does tell us not to do in verse 5?

Can you think of any examples where people worship such an image?

Also in verse 5, God tells us that He is a jealous God. What does that mean to you?

Are you happy that God is a jealous God? Please explain.

Do you often think of God in terms of His being jealous? Please explain.

Read John 6:39. How does this verse - or does it - show us that God is jealous?

What does God say He will do because He is a jealous God?

What does it mean to you that God will punish the children to the third and fourth generations?

How do you explain this verse when God specifically says we will be judged by our own acts and not another's?

Read Numbers 21:8-9. What is going on in these verses?

Now, read 2 Kings 18:4. Why had the people been worshipping this image of a snake? For how long had they been doing so?

Read Judges 8:27, What message does this verse carry for us today?

What do you think of icons in the church today? Please explain.

Can you think of any religious objects or places that have become objects of worship for people today?

What objects in our sanctuary could become idols if we are not careful?

How do you feel about images of Christ appearing in everything from sandwiches to potato chips?

Should we or should we not have pictures of Jesus in our homes and churches? Please explain.

4. What is the familiar translation of the third commandment in verse 7?

What is the usual understanding of this commandment?

Most people do not worry about this commandment the minute they stop cursing or using the Lord's name in vain. However, the word for "vain" also means the following: emptiness, vanity, falsehood, emptiness of speech, lying, worthlessness (of conduct). Based upon these definitions, what are some of the other ways people can misuse or take the Lord's name in vain?

Read :Leviticus 19:12 and Matthew 5:33. How do Jesus' words parallel this commandment?

What are some of the ways people take the Lord's name in vain today?

What will happen to those who break this commandment?

What does it mean to you that God will not hold anyone guiltless?

Read Matthew 24:33-37. What do Jesus' words have to do with this commandment?

5. The first commandment began with "You shall have no...", the second with "You shall not...", and the third with "You shall not..." How does the fourth commandment begin?

When someone tells you to remember, what does that imply?

Since this was the first time God "gave" His law to the people, where did they hear about keeping the Sabbath holy prior to this? (See Ex 16:26)

When is the first time we read about the Sabbath?

No parallel for this commandment is found in the writing of any other peoples. How do you explain this?

What does God instruct us to do in verse 9?

What does this verse tell us about God and work?

How does verse 10 describe the seventh day?

Because the seventh day is a Sabbath, what are the people to do?

Keeping the Sabbath holy applies not only to the Israelites but also to whom?

Why do you believe God included all these other people?

Verse 11 explains the "origin" of the Sabbath day. What is that?

What does this commandment tell us about God? Why would He command us to rest?

To further show us how important the Sabbath is to Him, what punishment does God set aside for those who break the Sabbath? Can you find scriptures to support your answer?

People in the church today would not think of breaking the 5th or the 6th or the 7th commandments. Yet, do we keep the Sabbath day holy? Please explain.

What is the most common reason as to why people do not honor the Sabbath day?

Do you keep a Sabbath day unto the Lord? Please explain.

How would keeping the Sabbath holy help us in our busy world today?

What impact should verse 10 have on our world?

What does it mean to you that we are to keep the seventh day holy?

What are ways we can keep the Sabbath holy?

6. The first four commandments cover man's relationship with God. How do they define that relationship?

What have you learned about the relationship God wants to have with you? Based upon these four commandments only, how would you explain to someone not in the church the relationship God wants to have with him/her?

7. Beginning with the 5th commandment, God focuses on our relationship with others. This commandment addresses our relationship with our families. How does the world view the elderly?

How would you describe the overall relationship between children and parents today?

What is the 5th commandment?

What does it mean to you to honor your father and mother?

Does God put any age or behavior restrictions or guidelines on this commandment? What does this tell us?

Read Eph 6:1-3. What does Paul say about this commandment?

What is the promise associated with honoring our parents?

How does this promise apply to us?

How would you explain this commandment to a new believer whose parents were drug addicts and abusive?

What does this commandment tell us about the importance of family to God?

Do you believe people honor their parents today? Please explain,

8. The sixth commandment has caused some confusion over the years depending upon how it is translated. What is the sixth commandment?

In most instances this commandment is stated as, "You shall not kill," and is used by some to argue against going to war. How would you respond?

How do you interpret this commandment?

The word for "murder" or "kill" means "to murder, to slay, to kill." How does this affect your understanding of this commandment?

Read I Kings 2:5. How does this verse add to our understanding of this commandment?

Read Luke 18:20, Acts 7:52, Matthew 5:21-22. How do these verses add to our understanding of this commandment?

Why do you believe God included this commandment against committing murder?

9. What is the seventh commandment?

Read Genesis 2:23-24. How does this verse help our understanding of this commandment?

Read Matthew 5:27-28. What does Jesus say about this commandment?

Why do you believe God included this commandment?

What do you see as society's view of this commandment?

What is the most detrimental effect of breaking this commandment on our society?

10. What is the eighth commandment?

Of what do you think when you read this commandment?

What are some of the things people can steal?

What are some current examples of people stealing from others?

Why does this tell us about people that God had to include this commandment?

Have you ever stolen anything? Please explain if you feel comfortable.

11. What is the ninth commandment?

What does it mean to you to bear or give false witness?

Why do you believe this commandment says "against your neighbor?"

Does this mean one could bear false witness against an alien? Please explain.

Who does Jesus say is our neighbor?

How does this affect our interpretation of this commandment?

Read Deu 19:15-20. How do these verses relate to this commandment?

How did the breaking of this commandment help lead to Jesus' crucifixion?

Many commentaries state that this commandment refers to the legal system. Do you agree? Please explain.

What are some reasons people today might bear false witness?

12. What is the last and tenth commandment?

What does covet mean?

Why is coveting so bad?

Read James 1:13-15. What do these verses tell us about coveting?

Why do you think God did not simply say, "You shall not covet"? Why did He list specific things we are not to covet?

Is coveting a problem in our society? Please explain.

Are we ever supposed to covet? Please explain.

The first four commandments dealt with our relationship with God. The last six deal with our relationship with others. What type of relationship are we to have with others?

13. Beginning with verse 18, the narrative returns to the people. From whom did the people remain at a distance?

Why did they do so?

What caused them to be afraid to approach the mountain?

Did God want them to remain at a distance? Please explain.

Do you believe some people today are afraid to approach God? Why or why not?

As a result, what did they tell Moses in verse 19?

Can you remember a time when you felt more comfortable having someone else pray for you than praying yourself? Please explain why you felt this way.

The people say they will obey God, but they do not want God to speak to them. Why?

What is the difference between God's telling you to do something and someone else saying, "God told me to tell you...."?

14. How does Moses respond to the people's request?

Why did God test the people?

Why does God want the people to fear Him?

How has the fear of the LORD kept you from sinning?

Even though the people remain at a distance, what does Moses do?

What can we learn about our personal relationship with God from Moses' actions?

15. What does the LORD have Moses tell the people in verse 22?

What is the significance of God's having spoken to them from heaven?

What does it mean to you that God speaks to us from heaven? Do you believe God still does so? Please explain.

What commandments does God have Moses repeat to the Israelites?

Why do you think God focused on these two commandments?

16. God now instructs Moses to build or make an altar. What is the purpose of an altar?

Why do we call the wooden rail at the front of the church an "altar rail"?

What were the people to sacrifice on this altar?

God had not yet given the people His instructions concerning the sacrifices. Why do you think He had them build the altar first?

What promise does God make in verse 24?

How does God "cause His name to be honored"?

17. How was Moses to build the altar?

What are dressed stones?

Why would using dressed stones defile the altar? See the commandments above. Which commandment addresses this issue?

Verse 26, the last verse, seems to be out of place. What does God instruct Moses in this verse?

What can we learn about the altar from the fact that they were not to use steps?

How would using steps expose the priest's nakedness?

God is making a sharp contrast between His worship and other types of worship. Nudity and sexual immorality were quite common in the worship of many of the idols during this time. What message is God sending to the Israelites and to us in this verse?

Exodus 21

Usually when people think of the laws given to Moses, they think of the Ten Commandments. However, God has hundreds of laws, regulations, or ordinances to give to Moses. Beginning with chapter 21, we read about the other laws.

1. What topic does verse 2 address?

Some say these verses deal with slavery. However, neither "slave" nor "slavery" appears in these verses. Instead, what word do we find?

What is indentured servitude?

Despite the fact that "slavery" is never used, some say these verses condone slavery. Slavery in this country is still a very touchy subject. Its devastating effects still haunt many. We have worked for generations to remove the hurts and divisions generated by this practice.. How do you feel about the assertion that God is condoning slavery?

How would you respond if someone asked you, "Does God or His word promote slavery"?

During the years before the Civil War, could slave owners have used these verses to justify their owning slaves? Please explain.

What can you learn about slavery as described in the Bible? How does it differ from the slavery in our nation's history? (Note:

2. What type of class of servants is mentioned in verse 2?

What does God say about them?

Who is the "you" God is addressing in this verse?

From whom would the Israelites buy a servant?

Under what conditions might a person sell himself to another? (See Lev. 25:39-40.)

3. What is to happen to the servant during the seventh year?

Why do you think God says that these servants were to go free without paying anything in the seventh year?

According to verse 3, what happens to the wife of a Hebrew male who is sold as a servant?

What does verse 3 say about setting the servant free the seventh year?

Verse 4 is different. What does this verse say?

How do you feel about the wife and children belonging to the master?

Now, does this sound like slavery? Please explain.

4. In this case, the man who is set free has two choices. What are they?

What happens if the male servant loves his wife and children and does not want to leave them?

Interestingly, this is the only time a person was to pierce an ear. Any comments?

- Beginning with verse 7, we learn that male and female children were treated differently. Sons could not be sold as a servant while daughters could be. Does this mean that daughters were inferior to sons? Please explain.

Some people find the male dominated culture in the Bible a hindrance to their acceptance of God. What would you say to them?

Verse 7 also states another difference between female and male servants. What is that difference?

How do you explain that God does not allow the female servant to go free during the seventh year?

- According to verse 8, the daughter could be redeemed. What does "redeemed" mean?

What are the conditions for redemption? (See Lev. 25:48-54.)

Under what conditions must the master allow the female servant to be redeemed?

What does the phrase "if she does not please the master" mean to you?

What is a concubine? Are these verses saying that a Hebrew father could sell his daughter to another Hebrew male as a concubine? Please explain.

So far, these verses seem to promote slavery, inequality between male and female, and infidelity. How would you respond to these conclusions?

- What must the master never do with a female servant?

Why must he never do this?

According to verse 9, what else can the master do with a female servant?

What must the master do if he selects the female servant for his son? What does this mean?

What happens to the female servant if the son marries another woman?

What happens if the son does not provide for her?

8. Verse 12 changes topics. What does this verse say?

Now these verses add capital punishment to the list of controversial topics. Does this verse support capital punishment? Please explain.

Verse 13 is very interesting. How does it differ from verse 12?

This verse seems to say that if someone kills another unintentionally, then God lets it happen. Do you agree or disagree with this interpretation? Please explain

How do you explain this wording?

What does verse 14 say?

9. Beginning with verse 15, we learn of other "crimes" that warrant the death penalty. What is listed in verse 15?

Why do you think God considered this crime worthy of death?

What crime is listed in verse 16?

In verse 17?

Do we have a problem today with children cursing their parents? Please explain.

If you answered "yes" to the previous question, why do you believe this is such a problem?

10. Verse 18 continues to define our relationships with our neighbors. What do verses 18 and 19 tell us?

Verse 20 is talking about slaves and not servants. As you read these verses, what is the difference between servants and slaves?

Read verse 20 and 21 carefully. What do they say?

What do you think the punishment for the master was to be?

What does verse 22 say a slave is?

How would explain that God seems to condone beating a slave as long as that slave can get back up?

Let's take another look at slavery. During this time, neither servants nor slaves had any rights. Remember Joseph. In light of this, what is God saying about servants and slaves?

What does this tell us about God?

11. Verses 22-24 are very interesting. They have been used many times in the abortion debate to argue for abortion. Some of the older translations of verse 22 read as follows: "If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she has a miscarriage, yet there is no further injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide. Please summarize this verse.

How could pro-abortion advocates use this verse to support abortion?

However, a more accurate reading of this verse is as follows: If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. How does this reading differ from the first?

What is the difference between "miscarriage" and "gives birth prematurely"?

How do you account for these different readings?

Using the second reading, does this verse support or refute abortion? Please explain.

What do verses 23 and 24 say?

What do these verses say about unborn children?

Using these verses, how would you say God views unborn children?

How do you feel about verse 24? How would this affect crime?

12. Many of these verses deal with violence. What do verses 26 and 27 say?

Verse 24 says "eye for eye" while this verse says take an eye and slave goes free. How do you account for the difference?

Is God saying that Israelites are more important than slaves are? Please explain.

13. The verses beginning with verse 28 cover an issue that was also covered in many of the cultures of that time. What does verse 28 say?

Why must the meat not be eaten?

Why do you think the owner is not to be held responsible?

What does verse 29 say?

What is the main difference between verse 28 and 29?

Do we still have any laws that are similar to this? Please explain.

However, verse 30 gives the owner a way to save his life. What does verse 30 say?

Suppose you are the father of the victim. One of your family members has been killed by your neighbor's bull, an animal that has been in trouble before. Would you rather have the owner's life or demand a payment that would redeem his life?

How much money would be a suitable sum?

What does verse 32 add?

Again, we see the difference between a Hebrew and a slave. What was the price for a slave that lost his or her life to an ox or bull?

What was to be done to the animal?

Do you remember how much Judas was paid to betray Christ? What does the amount tell us about that transaction?

14. What do verses 33 and 34 say?

How might this law be applied to us today?

Why do you think God gives the dead animal to the victim?

Why would he want the dead animal? Of what use would it be? (What does God say about eating dead animals?)

Verse 35 covers another dimension of a dangerous bull. What does God say here?

What does verse 36 say? How does it differ from 35?

15. What can we learn about God from this set of laws?

Why do you think God gave them laws covering open pits as well as murder?

Did you gain any new insights based upon what we discussed? If so, would you share them?

Exodus 22

1. What does verse 1 say?

Why do you think the thief had to pay back five head of cattle but only four sheep?

What does verse 2 say? Verse 3?

Why do you think the owner is guilty of bloodshed if he waits until after sunrise to punish the thief?

Do we have any laws that are similar to this one?

What does the last part of verse 3 say a thief must do?

2. Now we read laws that cover seemingly random events. Read verses 4-6. Do these laws seem just to you? Please explain.

How would these laws help the Israelites live together?

Why might a man give silver to his neighbor for safekeeping?

Today, what might we give our neighbor for safekeeping?

What happens to the neighbor if the silver is stolen?

Who receives the punishment?

What happens if the thief is not known?

Does it seem fair to you that the neighbor was not punished at all? Please explain.

Today, what would happen if an item were stolen from the neighbor who was watching over it?

3. What does verse 9 tell us?

Who was to determine who was the guilty party?

Now we see why it is important to have Godly judges administering justice. Read Ex 23:8; Deu 16:19; Prov 29:4. What do these verses tell us?

Do you think our nation has just judges? Please explain.

What other justice is the judge to dispense in verses 10 & 11?

Read Deu 6:18; Psalm 15:1-4. What do these verses say about making oaths?

Do you think this method of determining guilt would work today? Please explain.

How does verse 12 differ from verse 10?

What is to happen to the neighbor in verse 13?

As we read these laws, it becomes clear that in some circumstances, no one is to be held guilty. Accidents occur without either party being to blame. Do we still feel the same way today? Please explain.

4. Verse 14 deals with borrowing. What responsibility does the borrower have?

We are not likely to borrow an animal from our neighbors. What are some of the items we might borrow from our neighbors?

According to this verse, what is our responsibility if the borrowed item is broken while in our possession?

5. Now the laws change focus. What does it mean to you for a man to seduce a virgin?

How important was it to God and to the family that unmarried women were to remain virgins? Please explain.

What was the man who seduced the virgin to do?

Why might the father refuse to let the man marry his daughter?

6. What does verse 18 tell us?

This law is succinct. Why do you think God made this law?

Should Christians read the horoscope, go to palm readers, or have good luck charms? Please explain.

7. What do verses 19-21 tell us?

8. Verse 22 warns us not to take advantage of widows or orphans. In what way or ways could one take advantage of them?

Why do you think God specifically mention widows and orphans?

Who would become the judge if a widow or orphan cried out for help?

What would God do?

What does it mean to you when God says His anger will be aroused?

Do people today take advantage of widows and orphans? If you answered yes, please tell how they might do this.

Do you think God still hears the cries of widows and orphans? Please explain.

What is the church's responsibility concerning widows?

9. Under what conditions would you consider making a loan to someone?

Under what conditions would you not consider making a loan?

What does God say in verse 25?

Why do you think God does not want His people to charge interest?

What does Deut. 23:20 say about making loans?

Read John 6:34-35. What does Jesus say about making loans?

To whom does Jesus compare a person who would charge a "brother" interest?

How do you believe God views all of today's businesses who promise to loan money, cash checks, or advance payments - all for a hefty interest rate?

10. Israelites were not to charge interest. However, what does verse 25 allow them to do?

Why would someone take another person's cloak as a pledge?

What conditions does God put on the taking of a pledge?

Why does God care about whether a cloak is returned at night? (See verse 27.)

Read Amos 2:8. What does this verse tell us?

What do these verses mean for us today?

11. What does it mean to blaspheme God?

Read Leviticus 24:15-16. What do these verses say?

Why is blaspheming God so bad?

What else does verse 28 instruct us not to do?

How would you define a curse?

What does it mean to you that we are not to curse our President or other elected officials?

Do you think people today curse their leaders? If so, how do they curse them? If so, why do they curse them?

What does the Bible say about cursing others?

12. What does it mean to you to tithe?

What percentage of born-again Christians do you believe tithe on a regular basis?

Why do you think the majority of churchgoers do not tithe?

What does God tell us in the first part of verse 29?

Why does God want our tithes?

What does the last part of verse 29 say?

What does it mean to you that they were to give their firstborn sons?

Why do you think God is so interested in the firstborn sons?

In what ways could we give our firstborn sons to God?

What does it mean that the people are to give God the firstborn among the cattle and sheep?

13. What does God say to the Israelites in verse 31?

Does this verse apply to the church as well? Please explain.

What are the Israelites not to do because they are God's holy people?

Why were the Israelites not to eat meat torn by wild beasts?

Exodus 23

1. Verse 1 is similar to the ninth commandment. How might spreading a false or empty report help a person?

What is a conspiracy?

What is a malicious witness?

Why would one help a wicked man by being such a witness?

Can you think of an example from the Bible that illustrates this verse? From the news?

2. What warning are we given in verse 2?

Give an example of someone's following the crowd in doing wrong.

Why would some people, who would never do wrong on their own, be inclined to do wrong when with a crowd?

What does it mean to pervert justice?

How does God feel about justice? Look at Deu. 10:18, Psalm 82:3, and Prov 21:3. What do these verses tell us about justice?

Why might one show favoritism to a poor man in a lawsuit?

Do we see favoritism in our courts of law? Please explain.

3. What do you think the purpose of verses 4 and 5 are?

What do these verses have to do with justice?

In what way might we "leave our enemy's ox" in a ditch?

What does verse 6 tell us?

Do you think poor people get a fair representation in our courts? Please explain.

We seem to be suit-happy nation. What are some of the things people sue for today?

Under what circumstances might God allow us to file a lawsuit?

4. What warning is contained in verse 7?

How do we keep from putting to death an innocent person?

We have put to death innocent people in this nation. God says He will not acquit the guilty. To keep from incurring God's wrath, should we do away with the death penalty? Please explain.

What is the result of a bribe?

Do you think we have problems with bribes today? Please explain.

5. What does verse 9 say?

How might one oppress another person?

Are immigrants to this country "aliens"? Does their legal status make a difference? Please explain.

How do people oppress aliens in this country?

What do you think is the church's responsibility concerning illegal aliens today?

6. Verses 10 and 11 have to do with crops. Why was Israel to let their land lie unused during the seventh year?

Today, what have we learned about letting land lie fallow?

What does God say about the poor in verse 11?

Why do you think God mentions wild animals? Why were the Hebrews to let the animals eat from cultivated land?

Do we have a responsibility to care for wild animals when we use the land for our use? Please explain.

Why do you think God repeats His regulations concerning the Sabbath?

7. Verse 13 again cautions Israel - and us - to do everything God has said. So far, do you remember everything God has said to Moses?

How can we do everything God commands us?

What are the three festivals Israel is to keep?

Why is no one to appear before God empty handed?

Should we celebrate these three festivals today? Please explain.

8. What does verse 18 say?

Why were they not to offer blood with the sacrifices? Yeast?

What about the fat?

What are firstfruits?

Should we bring firstfruit offers? Please explain.

Look carefully at the last part of verse 19. What does it say? What can you learn about this commandment?

9. God is finished giving Moses His laws. What does God tell Moses in verse 20?

Why is God sending an angel ahead of them?

What is the significance of God's sending the angel AHEAD of them?

What can we learn from this?

Do you think God still sends His angel among us? Please explain.

What authority does the angel have? See verse 21.

10. Verse 22 states a conditional covenant. If the people do this, then God will do that.
What are the people to do?

If the people obey, what will God do?

Where is the angel going to lead them? See verse 23.

What is God going to do with all of these -ites?

How does it make you feel when God says He will wipe all of them out?

What warning does verse 24 contain?

What idols might we find in the land today?

If Israel will worship God and not idols, what will God do? See verse 25.

11. Look carefully at verse 26. What does this tell us about children?

What is a full life span?

What does verse 27 mean to you?

What does God say He will send ahead of Israel as they confront their enemies?

What is a hornet?

Below is the hornet that one would find in Israel. Can you find out how big it is?



How would you feel if you saw a horde of these coming at you?

12. Verse 29 is interesting. Why will the LORD not drive out Israel's enemies in a single year?

What can we learn from this verse?

What phrase does verse 30 contain that explains how God does things at times?

Do you still think God does things little by little? If so, why?

13. Verse 31 gives the borders of the Promised Land. Can you locate these boundaries on a map?

When we look at Israel today, it is the smallest nation in the Middle East. Why do you think God did not give Israel a bigger portion?

Also, Israel has no natural wealth, such as oil reserves. There are vast amounts of oil all over the area. Why do you think God did not make Israel wealthy?

What does God tell Israel not to do in verse 32?

Why do you think they were not to make a covenant or treaty with the people in the land?

Does this admonition still apply to Israel today?

God explains the danger of these peoples in verse 33. What does He say?

14. What did you find most interesting in this chapter?

Exodus 24

1. What does the LORD say to Moses in verse 1?

Look back at Exodus 19:24. What does it say?

Why would God tell Moses to come up to the LORD if he is already on the mountain? Can you think of an explanation for this apparent contradiction?

Some commentaries suggest the following explanation. What was Moses doing on the mountain? What did God want Moses to do with all the laws God had given them? Now, what did God want Moses to do after delivering all those laws to the people? So, is it possible God spoke verse 1 to Moses with the understanding that this was to take place after Moses had delivered the laws to the people?

Who was Moses to bring with him this time?

Who were Nadab and Abihu?

They are to come to the mountain to worship. Who is to worship at a distance?

Where is Moses to worship?

Why do you think God allows only Moses to approach Him?

If you were one of the 70, how might you feel, watching Moses leave you behind?

Do you think there is spiritual jealousy in the church? Please explain.

How can we guard against these feelings of jealousy when God honors someone over us?

2. What is the people's reaction when given God's laws?

Do you think the people are serious? Please explain.

What did Moses do afterwards?

Do you keep a journal? Do you have a daily devotional? Do you write down things the Lord tells you? Please explain your answers.

What might be a benefit from writing down everything the LORD tells us?

Moses now prepares to worship the LORD. What does he do in the second part of verse 4?

What is the difference between building stone pillars and building an idol?

Have you ever made or bought something to remind you of something the Lord has done for you? Please explain.

3. What is a covenant?

What is the difference between a covenant and a contract?

What is the first covenant mentioned in the Bible?

Covenant means "to cut" an agreement. What does this mean to you?

Look at Jeremiah 34:18. What does it say about cutting a covenant?

Read Genesis 12:1-3. In this covenant between God and Abraham, what was Abraham's responsibility? What was God's?

Read Genesis 15:7-21. How did God cut a covenant with Abraham?

From these scriptures, we can see that making covenants often involved the shedding of blood. In our history, we find references to blood brothers. What does this term mean to you?

4. Now, let's return to verse 5. Whom does Moses select to present the offerings?

Why do you think Moses chose young men instead of the elders?

What type of offerings did they make to the LORD?

What did Moses do with the blood from the offerings?

After sprinkling the altar with blood, what does Moses do?

How did the people respond to the reading?

How do you think people would react to the reading of the entire Book of the Covenant?

What is the difference between reading the word and hearing the word read?

Do you think we still read aloud the books of this covenant? Please explain.

5. What does Moses do with the blood in verse 8?

Why do you think Moses sprinkled the blood on the people?

Following this act, who goes with Moses to see God?

How might you have felt if you were one of the elders?

In all the times Moses visited with God, we do not receive any description of God. However, how is God described when the seventy see God?

Now, verse 11 is interesting. What does it say?

Why would God raise His hand against the Israelites?

What does the last part of verse 11 say?

Where did the food and drink come from?

6. What does verse 12 say?

Where were Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the seventy if God now tells Moses to come up to Him?

What was God going to give Moses?

Who goes with Moses?

What do you know of Joshua so far?

Why does Moses allow Joshua to remain by his side?

What does this tell us about training people in Christ?

What does Moses say to the seventy?

Moses makes an interesting statement to the seventy at the end of verse 14. What does Moses say?

Who might get involved in a dispute?

Why would Moses make such a statement?

The seventy are still on the mountain of God. How or why would they get into a dispute? Please explain.

7. Verse 15 tells us that the cloud covered the mountain. What do you think the cloud is?

What does verse 16 say?

What does it mean to you that the glory of the LORD settled on the mountain?

How long did the cloud cover the mountain?

When the Israelites looked at the mountain, what did they see?

Would it scare you to go up a mountain that looked like it was engulfed in fire? Please explain.

What is the relationship between Jesus and fire? See if you can find any scriptures to support your answer.

What does Moses do in verse 18?

How long was Moses on the mountain?

What other 40 day events can you find in the Bible?

Exodus 25

1. The first time Moses went up the mountain, God gave him the law. What does God say to Moses in verse 2?

What does it mean to you to take up an offering?

What is the difference between an offering and a tithe?

Honestly, what is your reaction when we take up an offering in church?

God gives us an interesting fact about offerings. What condition does He put on the offerings in verse 2?

What does 2 Cor. 9:7 say?

Can you give an example when your heart prompted you to give?

2. What offerings is Moses to receive from the people?

Where did they get gold, silver, and bronze?

What does verse 4 say about the offering?

What can you learn about the importance of blue cloth? Purple cloth? Scarlet cloth?

What does this tell you about the Israelites?

What can you learn about the importance of fine linen?

Why do you think God asks for goat's hair?

3. Why were ram's skins valuable?

Why do you think God wanted them dyed red?

The NIV version of the next verse says the Israelites were to bring the "hides of sea cows." Another name for this type of animal is a dugong. What is a dugong or sea cow?

Where would the Israelites, who are wandering in the wilderness, get the hides of sea cows?

Other versions do not read sea cows. Can you find out what other versions of this verse read?

How do you account for the difference in the type of animal listed in this verse?

What is acacia wood?

What other items are they to bring for the Tabernacle? (See verses 6 & 7.)

4. According to verse 8, what are the people to build?

What is a sanctuary?

What does God mean that He will dwell among them?

This is God's main purpose in having them build the tabernacle. Would you be excited if God said this to use today?

Can you think of any reason or reasons why some might not like God living among us?

Read verse 9. What do you think is the most important word in this verse? Please explain.

What does it mean to you that the tabernacle is to be made according to a pattern?

5. Beginning with verse 10, the LORD begins giving specific instructions. What is the first item they are to make?

How long is a cubit?

Therefore, what are the dimensions of the chest?

What are they to do after the chest or ark is done?

What does it mean to overlay it?

Where would the Israelites get pure gold?

According to verse 12, what else are they to make for the ark?

Where are the rings to be attached? If you were making this ark, where would you attach the rings?

How were they to carry the ark?

What were they to do with the poles when the ark was at rest?

Find some pictures of the ark. Do these images agree with your interpretations of the ark?

Do you find any differences in the pictures? If so, why?

6. According to verse 16, what were they to put into the ark?

What items do you think are in the ark, if it is still intact today?

After the ark is completed, what are they to make?

What other name is given to the atonement cover?

What does "atonement" mean?

Why does God call the cover the Atonement Cover or the Mercy Seat?

Describe the cover?

What are cherubs?

What are the cherubim doing?

7. Verse 22 is the key verse pertaining to the ark. What does God say in verse 22?

What does it mean to you that God will meet them between the two cherubim?

What is God going to do when He meets the Israelites?

Why do you think God did not choose to meet the Israelites in a bigger, more imposing place?

What does this tell us about God?

What is significant about the fact that the ark can be carried from place to place?

Why do you think God wanted men to carry the ark instead of having it placed in a special wagon or cart?

8. What are the Israelites to make next?

How big is the table?

What features does it have in common with the ark?

The table is to have a rim a "handbreadth" wide. What is a handbreadth?

According to verse 29, what else are they to make for the table?

What is to be placed on this table?

What is the bread of the Presence?

Why is the word "presence" capitalized?

9. Following the making of the table, what are the Israelites to make?

According to verse 31, what is the lampstand to resemble?

What is the significance of the buds and blossoms?

What is the significance of the lampstand being made of one piece?

How many branches was the lampstand to have? How were they to be divided?

Can you locate a picture of almond flowers?

How many cups in all are to be on the lampstand?

According to verse 37, how many lamps was the lampstand to have?

What is significant about the number 7?

Where will the lamps cast their light?

Why does God specifically say the lamps are to light the space in front of the lampstand?

How much gold is to be used to make the lampstand itself?

How much is a talent?

How much would the lampstand weigh?

10. What instructions does God give Moses and the people in verse 40?

Why is it important that they make the tabernacle according to the pattern God has given them?

What does it mean to you that the tabernacle is a pattern? A pattern for what?

Are we to follow a pattern today? Please explain.

If so, how important is it that we follow this pattern exactly?

Exodus 26

1. Can a physical building affect your worship? Please explain.

What physical objects or setting can help your worship? Please explain.

When planning a building, do you think its dimensions should have some significance? Please explain.

2. The directions for making the tabernacle continue. How are they to make the ten curtains?

Are the colors significant? Please explain.

What does it mean that the curtains are to be of finely twisted linen?

What size are the curtains to be? What size is that in our measurements?

How many curtains are to be joined together? How long would that section be?

How are the curtains to be jointed together?

How are the loops in the curtains to be joined together?

For what were these curtains to be used?

After reading the first five verses, what do you see as the biggest challenge in making these curtains?

3. Look carefully at verse 6. What does God say about joining the curtains together?

What is significant about God's wanting the individual curtains to form a unit or a "whole"?

The tabernacle was to be a pattern. What would these curtains represent?

4. In verse 7 God instructs them to make a second curtain. What were they to use to make this one?

How many curtains were they to make?

What were their dimensions to be?

What was to be done with the sixth curtain on one section?

How do the clasps for this curtain differ from the first curtain?

Why do you think these clasps were made of bronze while the others were made of gold?

What was to be done with this second curtain?

What was the purpose of the additional length of this curtain? (See verses 12 & 13.)

Verse 14 mentions two more curtains. What was the third covering made of? The fourth?

Why do you think the tabernacle was to have four coverings?

What do you think each layer represents?

5. What are the dimensions of the frames of the tabernacle?

According to verse 17, what is each frame to have?

The south side is to have how many frames?

Therefore, how long is the south side of the tabernacle?

How many silver bases are they to make for the south side?

Based on the number of frames and bases, what would one frame look like?

How many frames did the north side have?

6. How many frames made up the west end? (See verse 22 and 23.)

How long was the west end?

Verse 22 refers to the west end as the "far end." Why do you think it is called the far end?

What was special about the two corners for the west end?

What does verse 24 mean to you?

7. What are the crossbars mentioned in verse 26?

How many crossbars were they to make?

What were they to make them out of?

What else were they to do to the crossbars?

8. Now comes the assembly of the tabernacle. How many posts were they to use in verse 32?

How long would this section of the curtain be?

According to verse 33, what portion of the tabernacle would these posts and curtain make?

What was the Holy Place? The Most Holy Place?

What was to go inside this section of the tabernacle?

What was to go outside the curtain on the north side?

What was to go on the south side?

9. What was to comprise the entrance of the tent?

How many posts were to be used?

Exodus 27

1. What is the purpose of an altar?

Can you find when and where the first altar was made?

Do we have altars in the church today? If so, what purpose do they serve?

What are the dimensions of the altar?

Verse 2 mentions horns. Where are they located?

What can you learn about the significance of these horns?

Look at Leviticus 4:7. What does it tell us about the horns?

They were to overlay the altar with what?

2. What utensils were to go with the altar?

For what were they to be used?

According to verse 4, what were they to make next?

Where was this grate to be placed?

How was the altar to be moved?

What does verse 8 tell us about the altar?

3. Now comes the courtyard. How long was the courtyard?

How were they to make the curtains?

How many posts and bases were to be made? What was the span between the posts?

What was the length of the west end of the courtyard?

How many posts was the west end to have?

Describe what the east end was to look like?

4. According to verse 16, what was the entrance to the courtyard to be made of?

How many posts and bases were to comprise the entrance?

How high were the curtains of the courtyard to be?

What does verse 19 tell us?

5. Where were the Israelites to get the oil for the lamps?

What can you learn about pressing olives?

What can you learn about the lamps in verse 21?

Who was responsible for keeping the lamps burning?

Where are the lamps to be located?

6. Each item in the tabernacle is a pattern that is to point to Jesus Christ. How is the altar a pattern for Jesus?

How are the lamps a pattern?

What about the gate or entrance?

Exodus 28

1. How easy is it for you to talk about God with your family? Please explain.

What is the biggest hindrance when it comes to sharing Jesus with a family member?

Do you think it would be easy or difficult to minister alongside your sibling? Please explain.

2. Whom does God tell Moses to get?

What is a priest to you?

Why was Moses to make special clothes for Aaron and his sons?

How can clothes give one dignity and honor?

What type of clothes do you think a priest or pastor should wear to bring honor and dignity to his/her position?

What does the word "sacred" mean to you?

3. Who was to make these special garments?

Verse 3 says that God will give these skilled men wisdom so they can make these garments. Why wisdom?

What garments are they to make for the priests?

What is an ephod?

What colors are they to use in making these garments?

4. Of what were they to make the ephod?

Why do you think God wanted it to be so colorful?

What does verse 7 tell us about the ephod?

What does it mean that the waistband was to be one piece with the ephod?

5. What are onyx stones?

What were they to do with the stones?

What names would appear on the first stone and in what order?

On the second stone?

Verse 11 tells us that they had gem cutters during this time. Does this surprise you? Explain.

After carving the names, what were they to do with the stones?

Where were the stones to be fastened once finished?

What does it mean to you that Aaron was to bear the names of the tribes of Israel on his shoulders?

What implication does this hold for pastors today?

Read Isaiah 6:9. What does this verse mean in light of God's instructions concerning the onyx stones?

What are the final touches to the ephod?

6. According to verse 15, what was to be the purpose of the breastpiece?

How do you make decisions?

How do you think decisions should be made in the church?

What was the size of the breastpiece?

What was to be mounted on the breastpiece?

What were the twelve stones to symbolize?

What was the purpose of the braided chains and rings described in verses 22-27?

Why do you think God wanted the breastpiece connected to the ephod using the waistband?

Read I Cor. 3:11-13. Do you think Paul was referring to the priest's breastpiece in this passage? Please explain.

7. What does verse 29 tell us?

What is the significance of Aaron's bearing the names over his heart?

What is the significance for priests or pastors today?

How do you carry someone on your heart before the Lord?

8. What were the Urim and the Thummim?

What do these two words mean?

Where was the priest to place these two items?

Why did God want them kept over the priest's heart?

For what were the Urim and Thummim to be used?

What is the relationship between making decisions and the heart?

9. Describe the robe mentioned in verse 31.

Why do you think the robe was to be of one piece?

Why was it to have a collar?

What other garment was made of one piece of cloth with no seams?

What was to go on the hem of the garment?

When was Aaron to wear this robe?

What was the purpose of the bells?

What do you think the people felt when they heard the bells?

10. Next, they were to make a gold plate. What were they to engrave on it?

Where was the plate to be attached?

Why do you think it was attached to the turbin?

What does verse 38 tell us?

What does it mean to you that Aaron was to bear the guilt of the people?

In what way does this aspect of Aaron's responsibilities remind us of Jesus?

Aaron was to wear the plate on his forehead. Compare this to Ephesians 6:17. What do these mean to you?

11. What was Moses to do when Aaron and his sons were clothed in these garments?

What does "anoint" mean to you? "Ordain"? "Consecrate"?

Why was Moses to do this?

Should we do the same for our ministers? Please explain.

12. What were the linen undergarments to cover?

Why do you think God wanted Moses to make linen undergarments?

Why were they to be made of linen?

What would happen if the priests did not wear these undergarments?

Read Ex 20:26 and Isaiah 47:3. What do these verses have to do with these undergarments?

When God says He will reveal our nakedness, what does He mean?

13. What has this chapter on the priests' clothes revealed to you, if anything, about Jesus?

About the way we are to approach worship?

Exodus 29

1. We have spoken about this before, but was the main responsibility of Aaron and his sons as priests?

Verse 1 contains more information about consecrating them before they could serve as priests. Serve whom?

When we think of a priest, minister, or pastor, do we usually see them as ministering to people or to God? Please explain.

Why do you think God has called Aaron and his sons to serve Him instead of the people?

2. Consecrate means the following: sanctify, prepare, dedicate, be hallowed, be holy, be sanctified, be separate, set apart. Why do you believe God wanted the priests to be consecrated?

In what way do we today consecrate leaders in the church, or do we? Please explain.

What were they to use in verse 1?

Why were they to make cakes without yeast but with oil?

What are they to do with the bread and cakes?

Why do you think God wanted cakes and bread made with flour as an offering?

After this, what was Moses to do in verse 4?

What do you think the washing was to symbolize?

Following the washing, what was to happen next?

3. What does verse 7 say?

What does it mean to you to anoint someone?

Read James 5:14. Does this apply to us today? Please explain.

Have you ever been anointed with oil? Please explain.

Why do you think the sons were not dressed and anointed until after Aaron?

4. Following the consecration of the priests, what were they to do next?

Why were they to lay their hands on the head of the bull?

After slaughtering the bull, what were they to do?

Why do you think God wanted them to take all of the fat and other coverings and burn them?

Where were they to burn the rest of the bull?

Why was all of the bull to be burned? (See verse 14.)

5. The bull was the first offering. What was the second?

What are Aaron and his sons to do with this offering?

After slaughtering the ram, what were the priests to do with it?

Why do you think God wanted them to was the inner parts before burning it on the altar?

What was this offering?

6. What was the third offering?

Again, they were to lay their hands on this ram as well. Following that, what were they to do with the second ram?

What was Moses to do with the blood of this ram?

Why do you think God wanted him to put blood on their right lobes, right thumbs, and right big toes?

What significance does this hold for us?

What does verse 21 say?

Why would God want these new, magnificent garments sprinkled with blood?

7. Following all of this, the priests are consecrated. This was a lengthy process. As we said earlier, much of what God does is to separate Israel from the rest of the nations. What does this lengthy process have to do with this separation?

If you had been Aaron, what do you think would have been going through your mind as Moses prepared you for service this first time?

How would all of these events cause you to focus on God instead of the position or the people?

Do we go through a similar process when we become part of God's royal priesthood? See 1 Peter 2:9.

What does it mean to you that you are God's priest?

Can you recall a time when you stood between someone else and God and acted as the intermediary?

Read 2 Cor. 5:18-20. What does this have to do with our being priests?

How did Aaron and his sons reconcile the people to God?

How are we to reconcile people to God?

8. The first ram was to have been totally burned before the LORD. What parts were they to take in verse 22?

For those of you who are cooks, why do the best cuts of meat have fat in them?

What do you notice about the parts of the ram listed in this verse?

What else are they to gather in verse 23?

What are Aaron and his sons to do with these items?

What is a wave offering?

What happens after they wave these items before the LORD?

Verse 25 states that the burnt offering will be a "please aroma" to the LORD. What does this mean to you?

Can we bring sacrifices that are a pleasing aroma to the LORD today?

Why would the smell of a burnt offering be a pleasing aroma to God?

According to verse 26, who gets the breast of the ram?

9. According to verse 28, what portions are to be a regular share for Aaron and his sons?

Why do you think God provided for Aaron and his sons when He did not specify any other group or person? See Deu 18:1; Leviticus 7:5; and Joshua 18:7.

Do these verses have any implications for us today? Please explain.

What does verse 29 and 30 tell us?

How would you feel if you were next in line to be the High Priest after seeing all of these preparations?

10. According to verse 31, where are Aaron and his sons to eat the sacred meal?

Why do you think they were to eat it at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting?

What were they to do with any leftovers?

How long was this entire ordination process to last?

What else was to be done on each day of the ordination? (See verse 36.)

Why do you think so many animals had to be sacrificed for this one ordination service?

What does verse 37 tell us about the altar?

Read Matthew 23:19. What do Jesus' words mean in light of this passage about the altar?

What is the meaning for us?

11. According to verses 38-41, what else were they to do?

What do you think the people were thinking doing this ordination process?

God tells Moses that this burnt offering made at the entrance is to apply to all generations to come. What will God do when these sacrifices are made?

What does it mean to you that God, the Creator of everything, will meet with us?

What does it mean to you for God to dwell among us?

God says that Israel will know that He is their God. How?

What would God have to do for this nation before the people would know that He is the LORD our God?

Exodus 30

1. Next, they were to make an altar of acacia or shittim wood. For what were they to use this altar?

Have you ever burned incense or scented candles? If so, why?

Why do you think God wanted them to burn incense?

What was the size of this altar?

Where was this altar to be placed?

Read Luke 1:11; Rev 5:8; and Rev 8:3-5. What do they tell us about incense? About prayer?

2. What does verse 7 say?

Why do you think the high priest was to burn incense every morning and evening?

What warning does verse 9 contain?

When was the only time something other than incense was to be burned on this altar?

3. How do you feel about paying taxes?

What purpose do taxes serve?

What does verse 12 say?

What do you think about the idea that they had to pay a "ransom" to the LORD?

What would happen if they did not pay this ransom?

What was a shekel? A sanctuary shekel?

What does verse 13 call this ransom?

How would you answer someone if he asked you what a tithe was?

How would you answer if he asked why one should tithe?

According to verse 14, who was to pay this tax or ransom?

How much was the ransom?

Specifically, what does verse 15 say?

Why do you think God specifically forbade the rich from paying more? The poor from paying less?

Do you think it fair that every Israelite, no matter how rich or poor, was to pay the same amount? Please explain,

Today, what is the "price" of salvation, for the very rich and for the most poor?

For what do you think the ransom was to be used?

4. According to verse 17, what was the next item to be made?

Where was the basin to be placed?

What was the purpose of the basin?

What does the washing of the feet and hands symbolize?

How often are the priests to wash their hands and feet?

What does verse 20 say will happen if they do not wash?

Read Eph 5:25-27; James 4:7-8; John 13:6-10.

As members of God's royal priesthood, in what way or ways are we to wash our hands and feet?

5. The LORD now returns to the anointing of Aaron and his sons. What does God say about the anointing oil in verse 31?

What does it mean to you that the oil was to be sacred?

What is the difference between something that is holy and something that is sacred, if any?

What does verse 32 say about the anointing oil?

What does verse 33 say?

What does it mean to you that someone would be cut off from his people?

In verses 34-36, God gives the formula for this incense. Why, if no one was to duplicate it, did God make the formula known?

What can you learn about the spices?

Again, what does God say in verse 38?

Read 2 Cor 2:14-16

Exodus 31

1. We now learn how Israel was able to make the tabernacle according to the pattern God had given them. Whom has chosen for this task?

What does it mean to you to be chosen by God?

Read John 15:19. What does this verse mean to you?

What does God say He is going to do for Bezalel?

Do you think being creative, being artistic can be a spiritual gift? Please explain.

If you Bezalel, how do you think you would have felt once given this gift?

According to verses 4 & 5, what was he able to do?

Whom did God choose to help Bezalel?

To whom else does God impart the skills to make the tabernacle?

Verses 7-11 list all the things they are to make. What do you see as some of the most challenging tasks?

What can we learn about spiritual gifts and working together from these verses?

2. Why do people repeat themselves?

Can you think of any instances where Jesus repeated Himself? Why does He do this?

What does God say to the Israelites AGAIN in verse 13?

What is keeping the Sabbath a sign of?

What does it mean to you that we are to keep the Sabbath?

What does God say must happen to anyone who desecrates the Sabbath?

What does desecrate mean to you?

According to verse 17, what is the significance of the Sabbath?

3. This ends God's conversation with Moses. How long had Moses been on the mountain communing with God?

What does God do next?

How do you picture the tablets of the Testimony?

How were the tablets written?

What does I Cor. 3:2 & 3 mean to you?

Exodus 32

1. How good are you at waiting?

What do you think would happen to most people if authority figures were removed?

2. How long has it been since the Israelites left Egypt?

Since that time, what demonstrations of God's power did they personally witness?

How long had Moses been on the mountain?

What was going on in the Israelite camp while Moses was on the mountain?

According to verse 1, what did the Israelites do when Moses did not return?

What do they think had happened to Moses?

How do you explain this seemingly sudden shift in their allegiance to God?

3. Look carefully at verse 1 again. Whom did the people approach about making them new gods?

What characterizes the gods they want to make?

God told the Israelites that He would go before them as a pillar of fire at night and a cloud by day. Why do you think they wanted to substitute a god they had to carry for God Who went with them?

After personally witnessing all that God had done, why do you think Aaron listened to the people?

What excuse did the people use to convince Aaron to take the place of his brother Moses?

How can we guard ourselves against peer pressure?

4. What is Aaron's response in verse 2?

Some early scholars argue that Aaron did not willingly agree to the people's demands. They state that his asking for jewelry was an attempt to make them think he was on their side. How do you feel about this explanation?

Ironically, where did the people get the golden jewelry that they were going to use to make a god?

Do people today take God's gifts and misuse them? Please explain.

5. How did the people respond when Aaron asked for their gold?

What did Aaron do with all of the gold?

How long do you think this process took?

Since this was not a quick endeavor, Aaron had plenty of time to think about what he was doing. What do you think he was thinking all that time?

What do you believe he was thinking about his brother Moses?

What shape did they make the idol?

Why do you think they made it in the shape of a calf?

Notice the people cried that this god was the one who brought them up out of Egypt. What can we learn from this statement?

At the same time they are making this calf, God is meeting with Moses, giving him the law. One of God's commandments was they were not to make any graven image. Yet, God does not stop them. Why? What does this tell us about God?

What do the people declare once the calf was made?

According to this statement, do you think the people made a new god or a representation of God?

Do people do the same thing today? Do they make substitutes for God that they can carry around? Please explain.

6. Aaron is not finished. In verse 5, what does he do once the calf is complete?

Notice the word Aaron uses for LORD is YHWH, which is God's name. What does this tell us about Aaron?

How do you think Aaron could believe that the calf and God were the same?

How do the people respond to Aaron's instructions?

Notice, the sacrifices they offer to the calf are the same ones they were to offer to God. Read Isaiah 6:3 and Isaiah 42:8. How do they relate to this event?

Verse 6 says the people ate, drank, and indulged in revelry. What do you think this means?

The word used for revelry also means play. The Hebrew definition says it is a verb that means to laugh or to mock. It may also have sexual overtones. So, how are the people "worshipping" their god?

7. Finally, God tells Moses what is going on. What specifically does God say to Moses in verse 7?

When dealing with Pharaoh, God called the Israelites "my people." Now, He calls them Moses' people. Why the change?

Does this mean that God will disown us if we disobey Him?

If you were Moses, how would you feel when God said, "Your people have become corrupt?"

What else does God say about the people in verse 8?

God is not finished. What does He say to Moses in verse 9?

What does it mean to you to be stiff-necked?

What does God say in verse 10?

What does it mean to you that God wanted to be left alone?

What did God plan to do with the Israelites?

Do you think God still gets this angry? Please explain.

If so, what do you think it would take today for God's anger to burn against us?

8. Imagine you are Moses. God has used to free these people. They have witnessed God's power and deliverance. God has defeated their enemies. He is taking them to the Promised Land. He has given them His laws. And now look at what they are doing. How might you react if you were Moses?

If God told you to leave Him alone, would you? Please explain.

Moses does not leave God alone. Did he disobey God?

What did Moses do when God said He was going to destroy them?

In what way has Israel become Moses' people?

What does Moses argue to God in verses 11-12?

Of what does Moses remind God in verse 13?

What is the benefit, if any, of reminding God of His promises?

As a result of Moses' intercession, what does God decide to do?

Verse 14 says, in some versions, that God repented and did not destroy Israel. How do you react to the word "repented"?

What does God decide to do as a result of Moses' intercession?

9. According to verse 15, Moses is carrying two tablets. What does it say about these two tablets?

Does your Bible say anything about why Moses was carrying two tablets?

What does verse 16 tell us about these tablets?

How do you react to the fact that you can read the words written by God's own hand?

10. Where has Joshua been all this time?

We know that God sustained Moses during these 40 days. Where did Joshua get food and water all this time?

What can we learn about Joshua from his waiting for Moses all this time?

What would have been the hardest part for you had you been Joshua?

How does Joshua interpret the noise coming from the camp?

What does Moses say to Moses?

Why do you think Moses does tell Joshua what God had said about the people?

Why are the people singing?

If it had not been for Moses' intercession, the people would have been destroyed. Yet, they are singing. What does this tell us about them?

Do you see similarities between the way people act today? Please explain.

11. God told Moses the people were rebelling. Yet, Moses was still not prepared for the sight that awaited him. What did Moses see as he approached the Israelite camp?

Verse 19 contains the same phrase as verse 10. What phrase is repeated?

Do you find yourself getting angry, really angry, at the behavior of people today? Please explain.

What did Moses do in his anger?

Do you think Moses' breaking the tablets was a rash act or was it a deliberate act? Please explain.

What did Moses do with the golden calf?

Read Deu. 9:21. How long do you think it took Moses to turn that calf into powder?

Why do you think the people did not stop him?

Had you been in that crowd, dancing before the calf, how might you have felt when you saw Moses approaching the camp after 40 days?

12. Now comes one of the more interesting exchanges in the Bible. Why does Moses question Aaron and not one of the other elders?

What does Moses ask his brother Aaron?

Look carefully at Aaron's answer. Whom does Aaron blame?

What is ironic about Aaron's answer in verse 22?

Aaron continues his explanation. According to Aaron, what happened?

Look at the last part of verse 24. What is your reaction to Aaron's answer?

Can you think of a time when you tried to explain your actions to God? Were your explanations any more sensible?

What can we learn about Aaron from this exchange?

Do you wonder why God chose Aaron to be the first High Priest? What does this tell us about God?

13. What does verse 25 tell us about the people?

Where do you think the Israelites learned this behavior?

Do you see any of the world's ways infiltrating the church today? Please explain.

According to verse 25, whom does Moses hold responsible for the people's rebellion?

From this picture, what can we learn about the importance of having Godly leaders?

After Pharaoh's army was destroyed in the Red Sea, how did Israel's enemies view Israel?

Now, as Israel dances around the golden calf, how do the enemies view Israel?

14. This time for action has come. What does Moses say to the people in verse 26?

Why do you think all the Levites came to Moses?

What can we assume about the tribe of Levi from their actions?

What does Moses command the Levites to do?

How many people were killed that day?

Who do you think were among the 3,000 killed?

What does Moses proclaim in verse 29?

How do you react to this praise heaped on the Levites after they killed 3,000 brothers, friends, and neighbors?

15. The next day Moses addresses the people. What do you think the people were thinking during the Levites retribution? What do you think camp was like that night as 3,000 lay dead around the camp?

What does Moses say to the people?

Why would Moses want to intercede for such a rebellious people?

Moses goes back up the mountain to speak with God. Who is in charge in the camp?

This episode gives us an excellent example of the gift of intercession. What do you think is the greatest characteristic of this gift?

Can you remember a time when you interceded for a person or a group? What were you feeling at the time? What motivated you?

Moses makes an amazing statement in verse 32. What does Moses tell God?

About what book is Moses speaking? (Look at Psalm 69:28 and Daniel 12:1)

Do you think Moses is serious? Please explain.

16. How does God respond to Moses' request?

Read Ezekiel 18:4 & 20. How do these verses help explain God's answer to Moses?

How do these verses apply to us today?

What does God tell Moses to do in verse 34?

What does it mean to you that God will punish when the time for punishment comes?

Verse 35 adds one more important piece of information. What happens next to the people of Israel?

Had you been in that camp, what would have caused you more fear, the Levites going through camp with swords or a plague sent by God? Please explain.

17. This chapter is probably one of the most studied. What have you learned from this chapter?

What lessons does it hold for our nation?

What does it reveal about God?

Do you see any parallels between ancient Israel in this chapter and our nation today? Please explain.

Exodus 33

1. Following the episode with the golden calf, God once again tells Moses it is time to leave. What can we learn from the fact that God is still leading Israel?

What does God tell Moses to do?

Why do you think God always mentions Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

What message from God is Moses to give the Israelites?

What does God say He will do in verse 2?

What can you learn about these people groups?

2. Whom is God sending with Israel as they set out for the Promised Land?

How does God describe the Promised Land?

Why do you think God describes the land as flowing with milk and honey?

Read Isaiah 59:2. How does this relate to the Israelites?

Why was God not going with them?

How might you have felt had you been in that crowd when God said He was not going with you anymore?

3. What was the people's reaction when they heard this news?

Do you think the people's sorrow was heartfelt? Please explain.

What did the people do as a sign of their sorrow?

Why do you think they did not put on any ornaments?

How might we as a nation show God our sorrow?

4. What does it mean to you to be stiff-necked?

What other people or peoples in the Bible would you consider stiff-necked?

Would you consider this nation to be stiff-necked? Please explain.

According to verse 5, God tells the Israelites to take off their ornaments. Verse 6 says they stripped off all their ornaments. What is behind the LORD's command and the people's response?

Does this mean we are not to wear "ornaments" today? Please explain.

5. What does verse 7 tell us Moses did?

Why do you think Moses erected this tent outside the camp?

What did Moses call the tent?

According to verse 7, anyone inquiring of the LORD could go to this tent. What does this mean to you?

Now, according to verse 8, who went inside the Tent of Meeting?

What did the people do when Moses approached the tent?

Moses' actions give us a picture of an intercessor. Based upon this description, how would you describe the role of an intercessor?

6. What happened when Moses entered the tent?

When Moses would say to the people, "The LORD says...", how would the people know Moses was telling the truth?

Today, how can we know if someone truly heard from the Lord?

What does it mean to you that the LORD spoke to Moses?

According to verse 10, what did the people do when Moses entered the Tent of Meeting?

Why do you think they worshipped at the entrances of their own tents and not all together?

7. Verse 11 contains an amazing description. What does it say about the conversations Moses and God had?

Look ahead to verse 20. What does it say?

If no one can see God's face and live, then how did God speak to Moses face-to-face?

What type of relationship did Moses have with God?

This verse also says that Moses spoke to God as a man speaks with whom?

How do you speak with your friends?

Do you believe this relationship was unique to Moses, or can we too speak to God as one would speak to his friend?

8. According to verse 11, Joshua is referred to as Moses' "young aide." However, most believe Joshua to be in his fifties. Why would he be referred to as young?

What else do we learn about Joshua in this verse?

Why do you think Joshua did not leave the tent of meeting and not go with Moses?

How would you describe Joshua?

What qualities would you like to see in a young person before moving him/her into leadership?

9. Moses is not finished talking to God as one would talk to a friend. Remember, God told Moses He was not going with them any more, or He might destroy them. Again, Moses does not like this answer. What does Moses say to God in verse 12?

Why do you think Moses reminded God of what God had said? Would God ever forget?

Have you ever done this (remind God of something He said or promised)?

Does it seem rude or disrespectful for Moses to ask God for details? Please explain.

10. Verse 13 begins with what some call the biggest little word in the English language: "If." What is the "if" portion of Moses' statement?

What is the "then" portion of his statement?

In what ways are we taught God's ways that we might know Him?

What are some of God's ways that you have learned?

Read Matthew 28:20. How do Jesus' words parallel Moses' desire?

How would you teach others to obey Jesus' words?

What is the last thing Moses says to God in verse 13?

11. How does God respond to Moses' request in verse 14?

What can we learn about God from His seemingly simple answer?

Moses makes another profound statement in verse 15. What is it?

What does this statement tell us about how Moses has changed since God called him out of the wilderness?

Should this be the cry of the church? Please explain.

How can we know if God is going with us?

Moses then asks two very important questions that still hold great import for us today: what are those two questions?

Why do you - or do you - think these questions are important to us?

What was God's response in verse 17?

Why do you think God was pleased with Moses?

What does it mean to you that God knew Moses by name?

12. God has responded favorably to Moses. But, Moses has a personal request now. What "demand" does Moses make?

Would it ever occur to you to make such a statement to God? Please explain.

Was God angry with Moses for Moses' making such a bold request? Please explain.

Why could God not grant Moses' request?

Instead, what does God say He will do for Moses? (See v. 19.)

What does it mean to you that God will have mercy on whom He will have mercy and compassion on whom He will have compassion?

God tells Moses that no one can look at God's face and live. Why?

Read John 1:14. How does it relate to God's words to Moses?

What do you find most amazing about this verse in John?

What does God do for Moses in vv. 21-23?

If you had been Moses, how do you think you might have felt once God placed you in that cleft?

If that had happened to you, would you want to tell everyone? Please explain.

Why do you think Moses was the only person allowed to see God's glory passing by?

Exodus 34

1. Now it is time for the second set of tablets. What does God tell Moses to do in verse 1?

Why do you think God had Moses chisel or hew them from stone instead of doing it Himself?

How do we know the second set of tablets is the same as the first?

What is the last thing God says to Moses in verse 1?

How might you have reacted to this statement?

Why do you think God pointed this out to Moses?

Read James 1:20. What does this verse have to do with Moses' situation, if anything?

Does Moses have a problem with anger? Please explain.

How do you deal with anger?

2. What further instructions does God give Moses in verses 2 & 3?

Why do you think Moses was to go alone?

What do you think was going on in Moses' mind as he carved the new stone tablets?

What happened when Moses reached the top of the mountain?

What did the LORD proclaim to Moses?

What name did God use?

3. What did Moses ask God in 33:18?

What do you think the glory of God might look like?

God shows Moses His glory. What does the LORD proclaim as He passes in front of Moses?

God does not proclaim His might, His sovereignty, or His power. Instead, what does God reveal about Himself?

Have you experienced any of these aspects of God's glory? If so, please share.

In what way or ways has God demonstrated these qualities to Moses and to Israel?

4. God tells Moses that He is a forgiving God. What will God forgive?

What does He say He will do to the guilty?

Who are the guilty that will be punished?

Read the last part of verse 7 very carefully. What does it mean to you?

Why would God "punish" or "visit" the children and their children to the 3rd and 4th generations?

In what way do the sins of parents affect the children and the grandchildren?

5. Moses is going to make another appeal to the LORD that the LORD would go with them. What did the LORD just say about Himself that would give Moses hope?

What does verse 8 say Moses does?

What does Moses say to God?

What strikes you most about Moses' statement to God?

6. In verse 10, what does God say He is going to do?

What happened to the old covenant?

What does God say He will do for Israel?

What is Israel's responsibility in this covenant? (See verse 11.)

God says He will drive out all the nations before them. Many of these nations have been part of this land for a long time. What do you think of God's intentions to remove them so Israel can have the land?

Now God tells Israel their responsibility in this covenant. What does God tell Israel in verse 12?

7. What does God say to Israel in verse 14?

We learn a new name for God, one God Himself gives. What is that name?

What does it mean to you that God is a jealous God?

Can you give examples from the Bible or from your life that show that God is a jealous God?

Do you think jealousy has a place in relationships today? Please explain.

8. What warning does God give Israel in verse 15?

Why do you think God was so against Israel's making a treaty with these peoples? What does He say will happen?

What does it mean for a nation to prostitute itself?

Do you think God still feels the same way about Israel and her making treaties? Please explain.

If Israel is not to make treaties, what impact would this have on the situation in the Middle East?

Can we, as individuals, make "treaties" with people around us? Please explain.

Do you think Christians should compromise with people of other religions? Please explain

9. What does God tell Israel in verse 16?

What does God mean when He says the foreign daughters will prostitute themselves to their gods?

Read Deut. 31:16, Jer. 3:6, and Ez. 16:38. What do these verses mean and how do they relate to this warning?

What warning is repeated in verse 17?

10. With verse 18, God's words move from the law and warnings to the celebrations of feasts.

What is the difference between a feast and a holiday?

Why do you think God told Israel to "celebrate" the feasts instead of "keep" the feasts?

What is the first feast Israel is to celebrate?

Of what does this feast consist?

11. What does verse 19 say?

What does it mean to you that the firstborn belongs to God?

What relationship is there - if any - between the first feast and the firstborn?

What does the word "redeem" mean?

In what way does God redeem us?

What does verse 20 say?

Why was Israel to redeem only the firstborn males and not the females?

Does this mean the female was not important to God? Please explain.

How hard would it be for you to keep track of all the firstborn males of all your livestock?

The last part of verse 21 is interesting. What does it say?

What does this mean?

What does it mean for us?

12. Again, God talks about our need to rest. What does He repeat in verse 21?

Why do you think our taking one day of rest per week is so important to God?

13. Read verse 22. What are the second and third feasts?

What is the Feast of Weeks?

The Feast of Ingathering?

Why do you think God created these feasts?

What is repeated in verse 23?

14. God has told Israel what they are to do. What does God say He will do beginning in verse 24?

What does it mean to you that God says He will enlarge Israel's territory?

In what ways does God enlarge our territory today?

What does God promise in the last part of verse 24?

Why do you think God made this promise?

15. Verse 25 is talking about the Passover sacrifice. How do these instructions mirror God's instructions to Israel on the night of the first Passover?

What are firstfruits?

What does God say about our firstfruit offerings?

What are some firstfruit offerings we can bring to the LORD?

What else does God tell Israel in verse 26?

Why would God give this command?

16. God now speaks personally to Moses. What does God tell Moses in verse 27?

We were told earlier that the tablets were written by the finger of God. Why does God tell Moses to write down these words?

How long was Moses on the mountain with God?

How could Moses possibly remember all that God had told him?

What assurance do we have that we are reading the same words God spoke to Moses thousands of years ago?

How long had Moses gone without food or water?

What exactly did Moses write on the tablets?

17. What do the people notice about Moses when he comes down from the mountain this time?

What does it mean to you that Moses did not notice this phenomena?

Why was Moses' face radiant?

How much time do you spend privately with God?

How can people know when you spend time with God?



What do you notice about this picture of Moses?

This is an interesting example of how the meaning can get lost in the translation. The word for "radiant" can also be used to mean "horns." Around 400 A.D. the transcriber wrote horns for radiant. Thus, Moses was depicted as having horns. How did you react to the statue when you first saw it?

How did the people react to the radiant glow on Moses?

Why would they be afraid?

How might you react if you entered church to find someone "glowing"?

How does Moses calm the people's fears?

In what did Jesus do something similar to calm His disciples?

What did Moses do when all the people came to him?

18. What did Moses do when he finished speaking to the people?

What did he do whenever he entered the LORD's presence?

Read 2 Cor. 3:7-18. What do these verses mean to you?

How can we reflect the LORD's glory?

Do you see yourself as being transformed in the likeness of God's glory? Please explain.

What is the biggest change you have seen in yourself?

Exodus 35

1. How do you respond when someone brings you a set of instructions and tells you this is the way things are to be done?

Why do you think some people resent being told what to do?

In verse 1, whom does Moses gather together?

Why does he gather them together?

What is the first thing Moses tells the people?

Why do you think this was the first thing said?

Suppose the Lord told us to gather all of Coalgate together. What would be the first thing you would tell them?

2. Beginning in verse 4, what does Moses tell the people they are to do?

What does it mean to you to take up an offering?

Moses makes an interesting statement in verse 5. Whom does he say should bring an offering?

What does this tell us about offerings?

What are the people to bring?

Of the items listed, which would you consider to be the most valuable? The most difficult to obtain?

Where did the people get all of these items?

3. What group does Moses address in verse 10?

What does Moses mean by "skilled" people?

Had you been among the Israelites that day, would you have come forward? Please explain.

What is a tabernacle?

Verses 11-19 list all of the items the people are to make. What are some of these items?

Look at Exodus 25. How accurately does Moses relay God's instructions to the people?

What difference do you notice about Exodus 25 and this passage in chapter 35?

How do you explain this difference?

Read Habakkuk 2:2. How does that verse relate to this event, or does it?

4. What do the people do when Moses is finished speaking?

What does it mean to you that the people whose hearts moved them brought an offering?

Read 2 Cor. 9:7. What does this verse mean to you? What is its implication for us? How does it apply to the Israelites?

What type of gold jewelry did both men and women bring?

Are these items similar to any we have today?

What is a wave offering?

5. Specifically, what items did the people bring according to verse 23?

Again, why were blue, purple, and scarlet yarn so valuable?

According to verse 24, what other offerings did the people bring?

Notice, some brought gold, some silver, some bronze, and some wood. What does it mean to you that not everyone was able to give equal amounts?

Do you think one type of offering was better than another? Please explain.

Look at Mark 12:41-44. What can they teach us about this Exodus passage?

6. What did the women do in verse 25?

How do you think they spun linen during this time?

What do you think would be the difference between spinning linen and goat hair?

What did the leaders bring in verses 27 & 28?

7. Verse 29 is an amazing verse. What does it mean to you?

Whom did the LORD choose to oversee all the craftsmen?

Imagine one Sunday I announced that the LORD appointed two men to oversee the construction of the new building, and I named two people who were fairly new to the church. How might people react?

What qualifications did Bezalel and Hur have to fulfill this role? (See v. 31-33.)

What other ability did God give these men according to verse 34?

How easy or hard is it for you to teach someone about God's ways?

Does it strike you as strange that Israel would have master craftsmen and designers when they just stopped being slaves? Please explain.

8. What have you learned about giving from this chapter?

What lessons about working together can we learn?

Exodus 36-40

1. The LORD has just placed Bezalel and Oholiab in charge of the LORD's tabernacle. How would you feel if you were one of these two men?

How would one keep from becoming prideful?

How would you feel if God raised up one of your good friends, someone you had known all your life, to oversee the building of a new church?

2. According to verse 3, to whom does Moses give all the offerings?

A few weeks ago, these men had been slaves. How would you feel putting them in charge of all this wealth?

Look at Luke 16:10. How does this verse relate to this situation?

What else do we learn from this verse?

What would cause the people to continue bringing offerings morning after morning?

The people bring so many offerings, what do the skilled craftsmen do in verse 6?

What do they tell Moses?

As a result, what does Moses tell the people?

What does this tell us about Moses?

Have you ever been involved in a project where the people wanted to give? Please explain.

What do you think motivated them?

3. The rest of Exodus parallels our study of chapters 25-28. Since we went into such detail on those chapters, we will not repeat that study. However, why do you think God once again includes this material?

What can we gain by reading it again?

When building a new building for God today, should we expect to receive such detailed plans? Please explain.

4. Now, let us jump to Exodus 40:17. What does this verse tell us?

How might you have felt once you beheld the completed tabernacle?

Read 2 Samuel 6: 6-7. What happens in these verses?

According to verses 18-33, who set up the tabernacle?

Uzzah was struck down because he barely touched the Ark. Yet Moses touches it to set it in place. Why was Moses not struck dead?

What happened when Moses finished setting up the tabernacle?

What does it mean to you that the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle?

What does verse 35 tell us?

Remember, Moses saw the glory of the LORD pass by him. He was changed because of it to the point that he had to wear a veil. Yet, Moses could not enter the tabernacle because of the glory of the LORD. What can we learn from this?

5. According to verse 36, how did the Israelites know when to move and when to stay?

In what way today do we have the same guidance? In other words, how do we know when to stay and when to leave?

Read Matthew 28:20. How do Jesus' words relate to this description of the glory of God?

6. What did you gain from this study of Exodus?

Some people do not think studying the Old Testament is necessary because it is so old. Why would you suggest people study Exodus?