

The Book of Exodus

The Author, Title, and Date of Exodus

1. Author: God, through Moses (n.b. *Ex 24.4*)
2. Title is taken from the first phrase of the book
 - 1) Hebrew — *w'elleh shemoth* = “these are the names”
 - 2) Greek — ἐξόδος = “exit”
3. Date: c. 1445-1405 B.C.

The Background and Setting of Exodus.

1. Background: A sequel to Genesis. Israel is a family at the end of Genesis, which has moved to Egypt. At the beginning of the book, We find them no longer guests, but slaves, in Egypt.
2. Historical Setting — God redeems His people from Egypt and constitutes them to be a nation, His nation.
 - a. This book records God’s dealings with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’s line, in light of the covenant.
 - b. God rescues them, tests them, disciplines them, and gives them their constitution/covenant/worship with Him..

The Structure of Exodus

1. Simple structure
 - a. Chapters 1-12 — Deliverance from Egypt - Climax: Death of firstborn.
 - 1) This records God dealing with Egypt, her gods, her army, and her people - in *judgment*
 - 2) This records God dealing with Israel - in *redemption*
 - b. Chapters 13-34 — Testing in the Wilderness - Climax: Covenant made, broken, renewed
 - 1) chs. 13-24 – God tests His people, whether they will *trust and obey* God - *Covenant to obey*
 - 2) chs. 25-34 – God tests His people, whether they will *trust and obey* God - *Golden Calf, Renewal of covenant*
 - c. Chapters 35-40 — Tabernacle - Climax: The Visible Glory of God
 - 1) chs. 35-39 – Construction of the Tabernacle
 - 2) ch. 40 – Consecration of the Tabernacle and *Glory of YHWH*

The Purpose of Exodus

1. Exodus sets forth the *Redemption* of the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob from bondage and oppression, by God’s great power, in order to make them God’s covenant people, and nation, and take them into the land He promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In doing all this, God *consecrates* the nation to Himself, to *worship and represent* Him.
2. The purpose of the book of Exodus is to set forth the *formation* of God’s covenant people as a *nation*.

The Message of Exodus

1. Exodus is a record:
 - a. of God forming Israel as a theocratic nation, under YHWH.
 - b. of God giving His Law to His people, as the charter/covenant/constitution of the nation. *19.3-19*
 - c. of God revealing to His people the rituals and responsibilities associated with the worship of YHWH by His people.
2. YHWH claims and forms Israel as His own possession, *redeeming* them from their enemies, and *revealing Himself* to them in faithfulness, holiness, and loyal love.

The Themes of Exodus

1. Blessing and Curse
 - a. God blesses those that bless Abraham, and curses those who curse Abraham. *Ge 12.1-4; Ex 23.22*
 - b. n.b. chapter 23
2. Covenant/promise
 - a. Exodus is a link between Abraham and the theocratic kingdom. *1.1, 5; 3.15; 6.8; 32.13; 33.1*
 - b. God responds to Israel's cries, delivering them because of His covenant with Abraham. *2.24-25; 3.6-10, 15-17*
3. The Glory and Power of God – Plagues (*7-12*), Red Sea (*14*), Pillar of fire, Sinai (*14; 19; 24.16-17; 33-34*), Tabernacle (*40.34-35*)
4. Key Verses: *3.14 God's covenant name; 12.1-13 Passover; 33.18-34.8 Moses and God's glory*