

EXODUS – INTRODUCTION

God's promise to Abraham concerning making a great nation and delivering them from bondage is fulfilled in the Book of Exodus (*Gen. 12:2, 15:13-14*). Therefore, Exodus is a logical sequel to the Book of Genesis.

From Exodus 12, the beginning of the departure from Egypt to the end of the Book, chapter 40, we relive about a year in the lives of the people of Israel. (*cf. Exodus 12:51, 40:17*).

I. THE TITLE OF THE BOOK: “EXODUS”

- A. Book known by the Hebrews by the first few words of the Book: “*Now these are the names*”, or “*Names*”.
- B. In the Greek Septuagint (LXX) the main theme of “*going out*” or “*departure*” is focused upon giving the Book the title: “*Exodus*” (*cf. Ex. 7:4*).

II. AUTHOR OF THE BOOK: MOSES

- A. Throughout the Book, Moses is writing concerning events and teaching that are unfolding (*Exodus 17:14, 24:4, 34:27*).
- B. Jesus attributes the Book of Exodus to Moses (*Mk. 12:26*)
- C. Following Moses' death, Eleazar, the priest, or Joshua may have completed or compiled the facts of the Book (*cf. Exodus 16:35, 40:38*)
- D. Moses' life unfolds in three equal parts:
 - 1. Forty years in Egypt (*cf. Acts 7:23*)
 - 2. Forty years of exile in Midian (*Acts 7:30, Exodus 7:7*)
 - 3. Forty years leading Israel in their wilderness wandering (*Deut. 34:7*).

III. TIME OF THE EXODUS

- A. Israel would sojourn and be afflicted in Egypt approximately 400 years according to God's promise (*Gen. 15:13*), and to be more exact, 430 years according to *Exodus 12:40*. Calculating from another perspective, the departure out of Egypt was 480 years before the building of the Temple in the fourth year of Solomon's reign (*I Kings 6:1*). If Solomon built the Temple in his fourth year or 966 B.C., then the exodus from Egypt took place around **1446 B.C.** Pharaoh Amenhotep II (1450-1425 B.C.) would therefore be in power at the time of the Exodus.
- B. Other Biblical chronologists pinpoint the time of the Exodus around **1290 B.C.** during the rule of Pharaoh Rameses II (1304-1236 B.C.). This is partly based upon archaeological findings at Tell Maskhutah of a gateway sign which reads, “*I built Pithom*” which is attributed to Rameses II, and a tablet at Beth-Shean which states that Rameses II built “*Raamses*”. These were the store cities built by Israelite slave labor in *Exodus 1:11* leading up to the Exodus.

IV. THEME AND PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

- A. Theme: *The Faithful God Delivers* (Gen. 12:1-3, 50:25, Exodus 13:19, 3:7-8, 12:51, 40:36-38)
- B. Book manifests God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promise to the Patriarchs – Great nation – about 2 million (cf. Ex. 1:5, 12, 12:37; Num. 1:46).
- C. Book records the demonstration of God's power in the world (Ex. 11:9).

V. FEATURES OF THE BOOK

- A. Eight prominent subjects keyed with the following words:
 - 1. Bondage (Ex. 1)
 - 2. Moses (Ex. 2-6)
 - 3. Plagues (Ex. 7-12)
 - 4. Passover (Ex. 12)
 - 5. Exodus (Ex. 12-18)
 - 6. Commandments (Ex. 19-24)
 - 7. Idolatry (Ex. 32-34)
 - 8. Tabernacle (Ex. 25-32, 35-40)
- B. Book records event that begins time for the nation of Israel – Passover (Ex. 12:2, 16:1, 19:1)
- C. Geographically, the Book is divided in three parts:
 - 1. Israel in Egypt (Ex. 1-12)
 - 2. Israel to Sinai (Ex. 13-19)
 - 3. Israel at Sinai (Ex. 20-40)
- D. God gives His Law through Moses to His people (Ex. 19-24)
- E. Attention is given to the planned preparation and then building and erection of the Tabernacle (Ex. 25-31, 35-40).

VI. OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

- A. Israel Delivered From Egypt (1-13:19)
 - 1. Conditions of slavery (1:1-22; 5:1-22)
 - 2. Birth, education and call of Moses (2:1-4:31, 6:1-7:13)
 - 3. The plagues (7:14-11:10)
 - 4. The Passover (12:1-13:19)
- B. Israel Journeys to Mount Sinai (13:20-19:2)
 - 1. Miraculous deliverance (13:20-15:21)
 - 2. Trying events along the way (15:22-19:2)
- C. The Covenant Established with Israel (19:3 – 24:8)
- D. Preparation and Building of Tabernacle (24:9-40:38)
 - 1. Detailed preparation (24:9-31:18)
 - 2. Israel's idolatry and judgment (32:1-34:35)
 - 3. Building and erecting the Tabernacle (35:1-40:38)