

# EXODUS

REDEMPTION : THE STORY



WEDNESDAY NIGHT TEACHING  
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**WEEK 1 | EXODUS 1-4**



**NORTHPARK**  
*Community Church*

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# READINGS FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Please read the following section prior to the Wednesday night Bible study. This will prepare you for the study and group discussion.

You may read any version. Most of the studies will utilize the NLT and NIV.

## THE BOOK OF EXODUS READINGS

Week 1	September 8	<b>Exodus 1-4</b>
Week 2	September 15	<b>Exodus 5-10</b>
Week 3	September 22	<b>Exodus 11:1-15:21</b>
Week 4	September 29	<b>Exodus 15:22- 18:27</b>
Week 5	October 6	<b>Exodus 19-24</b>
Week 6	October 13	<b>Exodus 25-27; 30-31</b>
Week 7	October 20	<b>Exodus 28-29</b>
Week 8	October 27	<b>Exodus 32-40</b>

## **Introduction to Exodus**

### **Session 1A**

#### **I. Title**

Ve'elleh shemot → "Now these are the names of"

"Exodus" → transliteration of Greek → "exit," "way out," or "departure"

#### **II. Date and Writer**

Moses → 1525 to 1405 B.C. → 17:14; 24:4; 34:4, 27-29)

38 years wandering in the wilderness → Israelites' failure to enter the land from Kadesh-Barnea → Num. 13-14; ca. 1443-1405 B.C.

Mosaic authorship → unhesitatingly affirmed →

Moses → followed God's instructions →

Moses → "wrote down all the words of the Lord" (24:4) →

→ The battle with Amalek (17:14)

→ The Ten Commandments (34:4; 27-29)

→ The Book of the Covenant (20:22 – 23:33)

#### **III. Scope**

Exodus → about 431 years of history →

→ From the arrival of Jacob and his family in Egypt (ca. 1876 B.C.)

→ To the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness of Sinai (ca. 1445 B.C.)

Exodus 1:1-7 → a review of Jacob's family

364 years → between the death of Joseph → the building of the tabernacle

Exodus 3-40 → only two of those years → year before → year after the Exodus

The Exodus event → the focus of this book

The Israelites → lived in Egypt 430 years (12:40)

#### **IV. Purpose**

"The purpose of the Book of Exodus is to celebrate God's gracious deliverance of His chosen people Israel from Egyptian slavery to the freedom of covenant relationship and fellowship with Him." (Eugene H. Merrill, in *The Old Testament Explorer*, p. 41)

#### **V. Genre**

Mixture of literary genres → narrative, poetry, legal, and cultic

→ Theological instructional history

#### **VI. Importance**

→ Frequent reference in OT to the Book of Exodus

The deliverance of Israel out of Egypt → parallel in importance to the resurrection of Christ

#### **VII. Message**

Yahweh → the sovereign God who provides deliverance →

Teaching of Exodus → threefold:

- The sovereignty of God,
- The salvation of man
- The methods by which the sovereign God effects man's salvation

**A. *Exodus teaches the sovereignty of God:***

"Sovereignty" → Yahweh is the ultimate ruler of the universe

→ He has all power

→ Allows certain freedoms → within certain limits

→ Seen in His superiority over all the "gods of Egypt"

→ His great power → miracles → 10 plagues → liberation of the Israelites → adoption of them as His special people

The sovereignty of God → and the responsibility of man

**B. *Exodus teaches the salvation of man:***

Genesis → the need for salvation

Exodus → God's method of salvation → consequences of salvation

→ God provides salvation for man.

Major expressions of faith → worship and obedience

Worship and obedience → God-ward → man-ward expressions of faith

→ Opposite of idolatry and self-assertiveness

God's instruction for obedience → the Mosaic Law

His instruction for worship → the tabernacle

"Worship" → putting God at the center of life (cf. Rom. 6:12-13; 12:1-2)

Worship → nationally and personally

Importance of placing Him at the center of life → the *Ark of the Covenant* → in the center of the tabernacle, → the tabernacle in the center of the Israelite camp

Obedience → God → the center of all parts of life

***C. Exodus teaches the methods by which the sovereign God effects man's salvation:***

God's method of dealing with the human race → a pattern → the nation of Israel

God created the nation of Israel → for all to see how glorious it can be to live under God's government

Israel → a demonstration to the world → wonderful life under the rule of Sovereign Yahweh (cf. Ex. 19:5-6)

God's method → revealing Himself

The special privilege → receiving the revelation → a blessing to the whole world

Israel → demonstrate how good it is to live under God's "kingship"

Revelations of God in Exodus → 3:4-16; 6:2-8; 19:3-6; 20:1-7; 24:1, 9-11; 34:5-8; and 40:34-35

The revelations → enrich the concept of God

The revelations →

The Mosaic Code → reinforces the main point of revelation → the character of God → Exodus 20 - Numbers 10

God's method of dealing with individuals → providing opportunities and choices

Examples → Moses and Pharaoh

Pharaoh → a strong, worldly-wise leader → acted by sight rather than by faith

→ Chose not to trust God → story of tragedy

Moses → a strong, wise leader → acted by faith rather than by sight → (Heb. 11:27)

→ Chose to trust and obey God → story of triumph

God → worked with both → encouraged them to do His will

Moses → developed into a noble character →

Pharaoh → sank into destruction → refused to submit to God

Exodus teaches → individuals are personally responsible under God → choices determine destinies

New Testament evidence → John 1:12; 3:16, 36; 5:24; 6:29, 40, 47; 20:31; et al.

Divine sovereignty → does not negate human responsibility

Charles Haddon Spurgeon → "I never try to reconcile friends"

These revelations → sovereignty and freedom → harmonize

Many people → try to understand divine revelation → human reason

The other option → let revelation sit in judgment on what is reasonable → faith

The words of Paul → (Rom. 12:2)

God → in His infinity → revealed only a portion of total reality

Mankind → in fallen finiteness → only understand a portion of what He has revealed

In nature → He has revealed His power and deity → (Ps. 19; Rom. 1)

In Scripture → God revealed His plan of salvation

Humble ourselves before God → submit our reasons to His revelation

Genesis → the importance of faith in God for success in life

Exodus → true faith manifests itself in worship of God and obedience to God

# Exposition of Exodus

## Session 1B

### Wanted: A Deliverer - Exodus 1-4

#### I. THE DELIVERER NEEDED – Ex. 1:1–22

##### A. *Blessing - Ex. 1:1–7*

God's covenant promise to Abraham → Gen. 12:1–3; 15:5; 17:2, 6; 22:17

600,000 men → Ex. 12:37; 38:26 → nearly two million people

##### B. *A new pharaoh →*

1. *Step #1 - Afflict the adults → Ex. 1:8-14*
2. *Step #2 - Kill the Jewish boys at birth → Ex. 1:15–21*
3. *Step #3 - Drown the male babies → Ex. 1:22*

#### II. THE DELIVERER BORN - 2:1–10

Amram and Jochebed → Moses' parents →

Moses → great man of faith →

Miriam → sister → the oldest

Aaron → brother → three years older

Jochebed → obeyed the letter of the law →  
→ trusted the providence of God →

The princess → adopted Moses →

Moses → Egyptian → "born" or "son"

Hebrew → "to draw out" (of the water)

### III. THE DELIVERER PREPARED - Ex. 2:11–25

Moses → forty years → Acts 7:23 → served in Egyptian bureaucracy

#### A. *Education*

What did that involve?

Egypt → highly developed civilization

#### B. *Failure – Ex. 2:11–14*

Moses → knew that he was a Hebrew →

Moses and the Egyptian →

Moses' failure → to help free the Jews →

#### C. *Solitude and humble service – Ex. 2:15–25*

Moses → a fugitive → fled to Midian → Gen. 25:1–2

Reuel → priest of Midian

Moses → married Zipporah → Gershom → Eliezer

Reuel (“friend of God”) → known as Jethro →

Israel → God's special flock

Moses → His chosen shepherd

#### **IV. THE DELIVERER CALLED – Ex. 3:1—4:17**

Moses → forty years a shepherd in Midian → Acts 7:23; Ex. 7:7

God calls people who are busy →

Gideon → threshing grain (Judg. 6),

Samuel → serving in the tabernacle (1 Sam. 3),

David → caring for sheep (17:20),

Elisha → plowing (1 Kings 19:19–21)

Apostles → managing their fishing business (Mark 1:16-20)

Matthew → collecting taxes (Matt. 9:9)

##### **A. What Moses saw - Ex. 3:1–4**

The burning bush →

→ A picture of what God had planned for Moses →

Moses → the weak bush →

God → the empowering fire →

Ex. 19:18; 24:17; Deut. 4:24; Judg. 13:20; Heb. 12:29

##### **B. What Moses heard - Ex. 3:5–10**

God spoke to Moses →

##### **C. What Moses did – Ex. 3:1-4:17**

Moses → argued with the Lord →

Moses → gave five reasons why he couldn't accept God's call →

##### **1. "I'm a nobody" - Ex. 3:11–12**

God had spoken → that was all Moses needed →

"I will be with you" → Josh. 1:5; Isa. 41:10; 43:5

## 2. ***“I don’t know your name” - Ex. 3:13–22***

Moses → representative of God →

God’s name → “Jehovah” (translated LORD) → Gen. 4:26; 14:22; 15:1; 25:21–22; 28:13; 49:18

Moses asked, “What does Your name mean? What kind of a God are You?”

God → the self-existent One → ***“I AM”***

Jesus → ***“I AM”*** →

→ The bread of life → John 6:35

→ The light of the world → 8:12

→ The true vine → 15:1

The elders of Israel → accept Moses as their leader →

The king of Egypt → resist God’s message →

The people of Israel → be delivered from the land →

## 3. ***“The elders won’t believe me” - Ex. 4:1–9***

## 4. ***“I’m not a fluent speaker” - Ex. 4:10–12***

Moses → completely missed the message of God’s name → God’s miraculous power →

“I AM” → all that we need →

5. ***“Somebody else can do it better” – Ex. 4:13–17***

Moses → calls Him “Lord” → refuses to obey His orders

God → appointed Aaron → spokesperson for Moses →

Lessons → God knows us →  
Knows our weaknesses →

**V. THE DELIVERER SENT – Ex 4:18–31**

Five encouragements God gave Moses →

**A. *His father-in-law’s blessing – Ex. 4:18***

Moses → permission and blessing →

**B. *The promises of God – Ex. 4:19–23***

Moses → stepped out by faith →

God → assured Moses →

God → reminded Moses →

The key to victory → faith in the Lord

**C. *Zipporah’s obedience – Ex. 4:24–26***

Moses → second son → Eliezer

Moses → firstborn → Gershom

Moses → disobedience

***D. Aaron's arrival – Ex. 4:27–28***

Aaron → companion and associate → forty years

Aaron → founder of the priesthood in Israel

***E. The nation's faith – Ex. 4:29–31***

Worship is the logical response of God's people to God's grace and goodness.



## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION THIS WEEK

### Questions to consider on your own, during the week:

1. How was Moses transformed from a compassionate but impetuous leader into one called “the meekest man on earth”?
2. What five reasons did Moses give for not accepting God’s call (Ex. 3:11-4:17)? If you heard a call from God to ministry, what reason(s) might you be tempted to use to dodge the call? (Or would you never dodge it?)
3. Someone said, “Humility isn’t thinking poorly of ourselves; it’s simply not thinking of ourselves at all but making God everything.” How do you think a person acquires true humility?
4. What encouragements did God give to Moses as he stepped out in faith (4:18–31)? Which of these would have been encouraging to you, and why?
5. Having Aaron along was an encouragement to Moses. Who is an encouragement to you as you serve the Lord? How can you be an encouragement to someone with whom you serve?
6. How would you define freedom? (For example, is it the power to choose whatever you like? The power to choose well?)
7. What special tasks did God give Israel to accomplish on the earth?
8. What steps did Pharaoh take to control the Jewish people? Why did he do this?
9. The Israelite midwives disobeyed Pharaoh’s command to kill the Jewish baby boys. When, if ever, is civil disobedience the right choice? Why?