

EXODUS

REDEMPTION : THE STORY



WEDNESDAY NIGHT TEACHING
Jim Rossi & Rebekah Townsend

WEEK 8

EXODUS 28-29; 30:22-33; 32-34; 39-40



NORTHPARK
Community Church

NORTHPARKCHURCH.ORG/EXODUS

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

Exposition Exodus 28-29; 30:22-33; 39

Session 8A – The Holy Priesthood

Israel → “a kingdom of priests” (Ex. 19:6)

The Aaronic priesthood →

The priests → serve in the tabernacle →

→ Represent God to the people (Lev. 10:8-11; Deut. 33:10; Mal. 2:7)

Israel failed → the spiritual leadership deteriorated (Ezek. 8)

The Lord punished His people → the Babylonians

(Lam. 4:13)

God wants His church → “holy priesthood” / “royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:5, 9)

God’s people → *“proclaim the praises of Him who called [them] out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9)*

I. PRIESTS ARE CHOSEN TO SERVE GOD (28:1, 3, 41; 29:1, 44)

Lord’s words → “to minister unto Me” → “serve as my priests” → six times in Ex. 28-29 → Exodus 30:30; 40:13, 15; Leviticus 7:35

the priests → first obligation → to minister to the Lord →

(Mal. 1:6-2:9)

God chose Aaron / sons to minister in the priesthood → sovereign grace →

God save sinners → an act of His grace →

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you” (John 15:16)

Nadab and Abihu → disobeyed the Lord → killed (Lev. 10)

Aaron died → Eleazer his successor (Num. 20:22-29) → Ithamar’s descendants → continued in priestly ministry → (Ezra 8:1-2)

God’s people today → remember first obligation → to please the Lord and serve Him

Jesus restored Peter → *“Do you love me?” (John 21:17)*

A. A part of pleasing the Lord was wearing the priestly garments

The high priest, the priests, and the Levites → the garments God designed

God provided garments → three reasons →

1. They gave the priests “dignity and honor” (Ex. 28:2)
2. They revealed spiritual truths → relating to their ministry
3. If the priests didn’t wear them → they might die (Ex. 28:35, 43)

II. PRIESTS CHOSEN TO SERVE THE PEOPLE (Ex. 28:6-30; 39:2-21)

The high priest wore seven pieces of clothing →

1. Undergarments (Ex. 28:42-43)
2. A white inner robe (“coat” Ex. 28:39; 39:27; Lev. 8:6-7)
3. A blue robe over that, with bells and pomegranates on the hem (Ex. 28:31-35; 39:22-26)
4. The ephod, a sleeveless garment of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet, held together by a jeweled clasp on each shoulder (Ex. 28:6-8; 39:1-5; Lev. 8:7)
5. A girdle (like a belt) at the waist (Ex. 28:8)
6. A jeweled breastplate held in place on the ephod by golden chains attached to the shoulder clasps (Ex. 28:9–30; 39:8-21)
7. A white linen turban (“miter,” 28:39) with a golden plate on it that said “HOLY TO THE LORD” (Ex. 28:37)

A. The ephod and girdle (Ex. 28:6-14; 39:2-7)

“Ephod” → simple sleeveless linen garment → (1 Sam. 2:18; 2 Sam. 6:14)

Ephod and girdle → white linen → embroidered with blue, purple, and scarlet threads

The girdle → waist sash or belt →

The ephod → two pieces → jeweled golden clasp → girdle

The significant thing →

Six tribes of Israel → engraved on two onyx stones on the shoulder clasps →

Two onyx stones → two important facts →

1. The tribes of Israel → precious in the sight of God
2. Called → to serve God's people

The church → faithful as a holy priesthood → must serve Christ →

Jesus said, *"I am among you as the One who serves"* (Luke 22:27) → (John 13:12-17)

"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others"
(Phil. 2:4)

B. The breastplate (Ex. 28:15–30; 39:8-21)

The breastplate → beautifully embroidered fabric → 9" square → two golden chains → shoulder clasps

On the breastplate → twelve beautiful jewels → the tribes of Israel

The stones → the tribes as they marched (Ex. 28:21; Num. 10)
"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth"
(1 John 3:18)

Servants of God → *"I have you in my heart"* (Phil. 1:7)

Variety of stones on the breastplate → variety of people → all precious to God →

The tribes → own distinctive viewpoint → personality →

Quick to go to battle → stayed home (Judg. 5:13-18)

Easy to work with → liked to argue (Judg. 8)

Lord loved all → high priest had to minister to all

Helping people → meeting their spiritual needs → is ministry →

A "holy priesthood" → a "royal priesthood" → a "loving priesthood"

In breastplate → "the Urim and Thummim" ("lights and perfections") → determine God's will (Ex. 28:30; Num. 27:21; 1 Sam. 30:7-8)

The priests' duty (Deut. 33:8; Ezra 2:63; Neh. 7:65)

We have the Word of God (Ps. 119:105)

The Word of God → the God of the Word → His character → His desires → His purposes →

God's Word → precepts & guidelines → warnings → promises → and principles →
→ God → willing to direct us (John 7:17; Ps. 25:8-11)

III. PRIESTS MUST SERVE IN THE FEAR OF GOD (Ex. 28:31-43; 39:22-31)

A. The blue robe (28:31-35; 39:22-26) → under the ephod →

1. *Seamless* → Lord's seamless robe → (John 19:23)
2. *The collar* → would not tear
3. *The hem* → pomegranates → golden bells hanging

B. The turban (28:36-38; 39:27-31) → worn only by the high priest → other priests wore linen bonnets

front of the turban → golden plate → *"Holiness to the Lord" ("Holy to the Lord")*

Levitical system →

"Be holy, for I am holy" → frequent command (Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7, 26; 21:8) → repeated in 1 Peter 1:15-16 →

First step toward happiness → holiness →

Holy turban / its gold "crown" → identified with the sins of the people → (Ex. 28:38)

(1 Peter 2:5) →

Lord → no special garments needed → He is holy → no sin

The priests warned → they might die → (Ex. 28:35, 43) (Heb. 12:28)

“Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling” (Ps. 2:11)

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due Me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the Lord Almighty” (Mal. 1:6)

The priests would die → failed to wash at the laver (Ex. 30:20-21) → used different incense (Lev. 16:13)

Priests didn't obey the laws → clean and unclean → in danger of death (Lev. 22:1- 9)

IV. PRIESTS MUST BE CONSECRATED TO GOD (Ex. 29:1-37; 30:22-33)

A public consecration service →

A. The priests were washed (Ex. 29:4; Lev. 8:6)

Raising the tabernacle → Exodus 40 → dedication of the tabernacle → the consecration of the priests (Ex. 40:12-15)

Sin in the Bible → disease (Isa. 1:4- 6) → darkness (1 John 1:5-10) → drowning (Ps. 130:1-4) → death (Eph. 2:1, 5; John 5:24) → dirt → defilement (Isa. 1:16, 18; Jer. 4:14; 2 Cor. 7:1; Heb. 9:14; James 1:21; 4:8)

Aaron and his sons → washed all over →

“A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean” (John 13:10)

(1 Cor. 6:9-11)

B. The priests were clothed (Ex. 29:5-6, 8–9, 29-30; Lev. 8:7-9, 13)

Moses clothed → Aaron / sons → linen tunics and bonnets → official “uniforms” → Wearing of garments → a picture of the character / life →

Lay aside the filthy garments → wear beautiful “garments of grace” (Eph. 4:17-32; Col. 3:1-15)

Christ → gave us a robe of righteousness → (Isa. 61:10; 2 Cor. 5:17, 21)

C. The priests were anointed (Ex. 29:7, 21; Lev. 8:10–12, 30)

Special oil (Ex. 30:22-33) → priests → tabernacle → furnishings

Prophets, priests, and kings → anointed → a symbol → the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:17-19; Isa. 61:1-3)

Picture of unity (Ps. 133:2) →

“Would God that all the LORD’s people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!” (Num. 11:29)

Trust Jesus Christ → Savior and Lord → received an anointing (1 John 2:20, 27; 2 Cor. 1:21-22)

John’s emphasis → teaching ministry of the Spirit →

Paul’s emphasis → encouragement and stability → the Spirit → “down payment” of future glory

D. The priests were forgiven (Ex. 29:10-14)

A bull was slain → sin offering (Lev. 4; 8:14-17) →

This sacrifice → repeated each day for a week (Ex. 29:36-37) → cleansing of the priests → sanctifying of the altar →

Jesus Christ → our sin offering → forgiveness (Isa. 53:4-6, 12; Matt. 26:28; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; Rev. 1:5-6)

E. The priests were completely dedicated to God (Ex. 29:15–18; Lev. 8:18–21)

Burnt offering → completely given to the Lord → total dedication (Lev. 1)

The high priest / associates → devote themselves wholly to the work of the ministry →

Romans 12:1-2 and 1 Timothy 4:15

F. The priests → marked by the blood (Ex. 29:19-22; Lev. 8:22-24)

Moses offered a ram → peace offering → “the ram of consecration” (Ex. 29:22)

Moses sprinkled blood on the altar → Aaron / sons → anointing oil →

Blood → speaks of sacrifice, → priests → became “living sacrifices” (Rom. 12:1)

G. The priests were fed (Ex. 29:22-28, 31-34; Lev. 8:25-29)

Filling the priests’ hands → “food basket” (Ex. 29:2-3) the altar (Ex. 29:22-28)

The priests → waved these gifts (Ex. 29:24, the “wave offering”) → fellowship meal (Ex. 29:31-34)

Offerings → tithes → priests’ compensation (Lev. 8:28-36) →

Some priests later → selfish / carnal → (1 Sam. 2:12-17; Mal. 1:6-14)

V. PRIESTS MUST MINISTER DAILY (Ex. 29:38-46)

Week of ordination ceremonies → priests remain in the tabernacle →

Follow schedule → outlined in the law →

A meal offering → mixed with oil (Lev. 2:1-16; 6:14-23) → a drink offering → poured on the altar (Num. 15:1-13)

Meal offerings → a token portion of the flour →

The flour and wine →

Symbolically → fruit of labor to God → thanking Him → strength to work → food to eat (Deut. 8:6-18)

Wine poured out → lives poured out (Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6)

The Lord → would find delight in dwelling in the tabernacle → and blessing His people

Session 8B - A Broken Heart and a Shinning Face

I. GUILT: GOD'S PEOPLE BREAK THE LAW (Ex. 32:1-33:11)

Three times → the Hebrew people had promised to obey God (Ex. 19:8; 24:3, 7; and see 20:19)

→ Unable to keep their promises (Deut. 5:28-29) →

A. The great sin (Ex. 32:1-6)

Moses → "a great sin" (Ex. 32:21, 30-31) →

1. It was a great sin → because of who committed it →
2. It was great → because of when / where committed it →
3. It was a great sin → because of what they had already experienced of the power and mercy of God →

Sin provoked God to anger (Deut. 9:7) →

Why commit such an evil act →

1. Impatient with Moses → (Deut. 9:11-12) →
2. Didn't immediately turn to God for help → warn the people → (Ex. 24:14) → (Ex. 32:22-24) → (Deut. 9:20)
3. Israel's lust for idols → born in Egypt → still in their hearts → (Josh. 24:14; Ezek. 20:4-9; 23:3, 8)

Aaron fed appetite → gave people what they wanted

Thought they needed an idol → needed faith in God →

Exchanged glory of God → for image of animal (Ps. 106:19-23) → (Rom. 1:22-27)

B. The great test (Ex. 32:7-14)

Moses to be tested →

God called Israel → *"your people whom you brought out of Egypt"* →

God made a covenant (Gen. 12:1-3) →

The Lord took a different approach →

Moses loved his people →

Moses wasn't worried about his own future →

God had a right to be angry (Ex. 32:10-12) →

Human terms to describe divine actions → God "repented"

Hebrew word → "to grieve, to be sorry" (Gen. 6:6; 1 Sam. 15:29) → God's change of approach → (Jer. 18:1-12; 19; 26)

God's character doesn't change →

C. The great discipline (Ex. 32:15-33:11)

God in His grace →

God in His government →

Gal. 6:7-8

God forgave David's sin → (2 Sam. 12:1-14)

A tragedy → to reap the consequences of forgiven sin

1. Moses → disciplined the people (Ex. 32:15-29)

a. Moses came down the mountain → Joshua joined him (Ex. 24:12-13)

Moses was angry (Ex. 32:19, 22) → tempered by love →

b. Moses turned to the people →
"Who is on the Lord's side?" (Josh. 24:15 and 1 Kings 18:21)

An opportunity → for all Israel to repent →

(Matt. 10:34-39; Luke 14:26-27) →

Paul → a warning about rebelling against God (1 Cor. 10:1-12)

c. Moses destroyed the golden calf → (Ex. 32:20) → (Deut. 9:21)

d. Moses returned to God → (Ex. 32:30-34; 34:28; Deut. 9:18-20)

2. God → disciplined the people (Ex. 32:35-33:11)

a. God's first discipline →

→ *"there is sin leading to death"* (1 John 5:16–17)

b. God's second judgment → (Ex. 33:1-6; Ex. 23:20–23) →

"You are a stiff-necked people" (Ex. 32:9; 33:3, 5)

(Ex. 3:7-10) →

c. The third judgment →

God met with Moses → (Num. 12:1-8; Deut. 34:10)

II. **GRACE: GOD'S SERVANT INTERCEDES (Ex. 33:12-34:28)**

A. **God's presence with the nation (Ex. 33:12-17)**

Moses reminded the Lord of His promise → (Ex. 15:13-18)

Moses' appeal → on the grace of God →

The Hebrews → God's people → Moses → God's servant

God was present with them →

Moses knew the ways of God (Ps. 103:7) →

B. **God's glory revealed (Ex. 33:18-23)**

True servant of God → concerned about the glory of God →

Moses and the Hebrews → saw God's glory →

C. God's forgiveness granted (Ex. 34:1-28)

Moses obtained God's promise → to accompany the people →

Replace the tablets → renew the covenant

God proclaimed the greatness of His attributes (Ex. 34:5-7) →

Moses → repeated at Kadesh-Barnea (Num. 14:17-19) →

Hebrews → used them in Nehemiah's day (Neh. 9:17-18) →

Jonah → quoted them outside Nineveh (Jonah 4:1-2) →

Faith → hearing and receiving God's Word (Rom. 10:17) →

Moses by faith → *"pardon our iniquity and our sin"* (Ex. 34:9)

Moses wasn't guilty of disobeying God → identified with the sins of the people → Ezra and Daniel (Ezra 9; Dan. 9)

The Lord forgave → *"iniquity and transgression and sin"* (Ex. 34:7) →

God renewed the covenant → forgave His people → a new beginning

God repeated elements of the covenant → laws about idolatry (Ex. 34:12-17)

Israel in Promised Land → easy to compromise →

→ Make agreements with them →

→ Join in their feasts →

→ Intermarrying / adopting their pagan ways

Canaanite idolatry → immoral → pagan →

Israel → the channel of blessing to the world →

A faithful remnant →

God's grace →

III. **GLORY: GOD'S PRESENCE DWELLS WITH THE PEOPLE** (Ex. 34:29-35; 39:32-40:38)

Exodus → Opens → Moses seeing God's glory (Ex. 3:1-5) →
→ Closes → glory of God descending →

Israel → people of God → the tabernacle → consecrated by the glory of God (Ex. 29:43-44)

A. **God's glory reflected (Ex. 34:29-35; 2 Cor. 3)**

Moses → fasting and praying → in the presence of God → saw a glimpse of God's glory

Moses → put on a veil → the glory was fading (2 Cor. 3:13)

2 Corinthians 3 →

1. The glory of the Mosaic legal system → fading away →
The glory of the gospel of God's grace → more glorious
(2 Cor. 3:7-11) (Acts 15:1)
2. The lost Jews of Paul's day → hearts covered by a veil of unbelief →
They couldn't see the glory of Christ (2 Cor. 3:14-16)
3. Moses' experience → Christians →
By faith see the glory of Jesus Christ in the Word →
Experience a spiritual transformation (Cor. 3:17-18)

Read the Bible → meditate on it →

- When the child of God →
- Looks into the Word of God →
- Sees the Son of God →
- Transformed by the Spirit of God →
- Into the image of God →
- For the glory of God →

B. God's glory resident (Ex. 39:32-40:38)

The people of Israel → no idea →

Greatest need today → intercessors → (Isa. 59:16; 62:1; 64:1-7)

The tabernacle completed → Moses inspected →

The word *commanded* → 18 times → Exodus 39 and 40 → workers did what God had told them to do →

Moses → faithful servant → did all God told him to do (Heb. 3:1-6) →

The work approved → building constructed (Ex. 40:1-8, 17-19, 33)
Chapter 40 → dedication of the priests → described in Exodus 28-29 →

Moses → checked it → anointed it →

Everything according to the pattern (Ex. 25:8-9, 40; Heb. 8:5; 9:9)

After all dedicated to the Lord → the glory of God filled the tabernacle →

Ex. 40:35 Moses could no longer enter the Tabernacle because the cloud had **settled** down over it, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.

The Hebrew "settled" → **shekinah** → "the abiding presence of God." (Ex. 24:16 and 25:8)

the glory that once dwelt in the tabernacle → departed from it → priests and people sinned (1 Sam. 4:21-22) →

Ichabod → "the glory is gone"

Solomon dedicated the temple → God's glory → came to dwell (1 Kings 8:10-11) → again their sins → drove God's glory away (Ezek. 8:4; 9:3; 10:4, 18; 11:23)

The glory of God came to earth → in the person of Jesus Christ (John 1:14)

John 1:4 So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unending love and faithfulness. And we have seen **his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.**

Septuagint → *settled* → Exodus 40:35 → Luke 1:35 → "overshadow"

Luke 1:35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will **overshadow** you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.

Mary → Holy of Holies → glory of God dwelt in the person of God's Son

Body of every true believer → temple of God (1 Cor. 6:19-20) → local church (1 Cor. 3:10-23) → church universal (Eph. 2:20-22)

Solomon finished the temple → glory of God moved in →

God finishes building His church → He will move the church out →

Share God's glory → in heaven → for all eternity! (Rev. 21:23)

Rev. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light.

God → doesn't live in buildings (Acts 7:48-50)

God → dwells in His people → our responsibility to glorify God →

Individually (1 Cor. 6:20) →

Collectively (1 Cor. 14:23-25) →

God's glory → in our midst →

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Session 8B

1. The people wanted the golden calf because they were impatient. What sorts of situations tempt you to become impatient with God?

2. What are the main insights, encouragements, or warnings that you have gotten out of your study of the book of Exodus?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION THIS WEEK

Questions to consider on your own, during the week:

Exodus 28-29; 30:22-33: 39; Exodus 32-34: 40

1. The first obligation of the priests was to minister to God. What did that mean? What does it mean for God's people to do this today?
2. What was important about the onyx stones the priest wore on his shoulders? How can believers today serve in that way as the priests served? Give an example.
3. From studying the breastplate of the high priest, what can be learned about ministry today?
4. Why did the high priest carry the Urim and Thummim?
5. Wiersbe says, "The first step to happiness is holiness." Why is that the case? Can you see this evident in the life of anyone you know?
6. What encourages you to fear the Lord? What gets in your way?
7. The cleansing of the priests' hands and feet pointed toward what kind of cleansing that we need?
8. Who has been anointed with the Spirit of God? What is gained from the anointing?

9. Why was the making of the golden calf such a great sin?
10. What should the leaders have done when approached with the request for an idol?
11. Why is it not always a good thing to meet the “felt needs” of people?
12. What does it mean that God “repented” or “changed His mind” (Ex. 32:14)?
13. Why did God record the history of Israel’s relationship with God? (See 1 Cor. 10:11–13.)
14. In what manner have you glimpsed the glory of God?
15. In the great declaration of His attributes, God proclaims that He will “by no means leave the guilty unpunished.” What does this mean?
16. How did Paul apply the event of Moses wearing a veil over his face?
17. What are the main insights, encouragements, or warnings that you have gotten out of your study of the book of Exodus?

Selected Bibliography – Exodus

Jim Rossi

- Anders, Max. *Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers: Holman Old Testament Commentary*, Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2002.
- Childs, Brevard S. *The Book of Exodus: The Old Testament Library*, The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1976.
- Cole, R. Alan. *Exodus: An Introduction and Commentary*, Intervarsity Press, London, 1973.
- Currid, John D. *A Study Commentary on Exodus 1-18, Vol. 1*, Evangelical Press, Carlisle, 2000.
- Currid, John D. *A Study Commentary on Exodus 19-40, Vol. 2*, Evangelical Press, Carlisle, 2000.
- Enns, Peter. *Exodus: The NIV Application Commentary*, Zondervan, 2000.
- Exell, J. S. *Homiletical Commentary on the Book of Exodus*, Funk and Wagnalls Co., London, 1892.
- Hamilton, Victor P. *Exodus: An Exegetical Commentary*, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, 2011.
- Kroll, Woodrow. *Exodus: God's Plan, God's People*, Crossway Books, Wheaton, 2008.
- Langston, Scott M. *Exodus Through the Centuries*, Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA, 2006.
- Merida, Tony. *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in Exodus*, B&H Publishing Group, 2014.
- Moberly, R.W.L. At The Mountain: Story and Theology in Exodus 32-34, *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series*; 22, JSOT Press, Sheffield, 1983.
- Motyer, J. A. *The Message of Exodus*, IVP Academic, Downers Grove, 1974.
- Myers, Carol. *Exodus (NCBC)*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2005.
- Perrin, Nicolas. *Finding Jesus in The Exodus: Christ in Israel's Journey from Slavery to the Promised Land*. Faith Words, New York, No Date.
- Ryken, Philip Graham. *Exodus: Saved for God's Glory*, Crossway Books, Wheaton, 2005.
- Wells, Bruce. *Exodus: Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2009.
- Wiersbe, Warren N. *Be Delivered: Finding Freedom by Following God*. David C. Cook, Colorado Springs, 1998.

