

**The Whole Truth**  
*Lesson #5*

Old Testament—Exodus #1

- Second book of the Pentateuch
- Pente=five, teuchos=scroll

**Overview**

**A. Book title, “Exodus,” derives from Greek and Latin texts**

1. Means “road out”
2. Refers to the key event of the book
3. Hebrew title= “And these are the names (1:1)

**B. Exodus can be viewed as the centerpiece of the Pentateuch**

1. Continuation of the Genesis narrative—same family, same place (Genesis 47:26-27; Exodus 1:1-5)
2. Partial fulfillment of the Genesis promises—family increase, land, and a unique relationship
3. Foundation for God’s dwelling among His people—instructions for offerings/sacrifices in tabernacle (Leviticus and Numbers)
4. Provide the framework for Moses’ final speech in Deuteronomy to new generation

**C. Division of Exodus**

**1. Divine-Focused Division (Longman II & Garland)**

- a. Divine Redemption (1-18): Exodus
- b. Divine Morality (19-24): Law
- c. Divine Worship (25-40): Tabernacle

**2. Geographical Location Division (Arnold and Beyer)**

- a. Israel in Egypt (1:1-12:36)
- b. Israel in the Desert (12:37-18:21)
- c. Israel at Mount Sinai (19-40)

## Israel in Egypt

### I. **Israel's Growth and Bondage (1:1-2:25)**

#### A. Israel a growing people (1:7)

NOTE: Remember God's promise to Abraham: Descendants/Nation

#### B. New Egyptian Leadership (1:8)

— 1<sup>st</sup> time Israel is called a people (am)—v. 9

#### C. Israel forced into slavery due to Egypt's fear (1:10-11)

1. Afflicted with hard labor
2. Built cities for Pharaoh
3. Increased intensity

NOTE: Egypt's attempt to minimize Israel's influence actually increased their multiplication (1:12)

#### D. King's edict given to Hebrew midwives (1:16)

#### E. Midwives sarcastic response (1:19)

— People continue to increase despite attempts otherwise (1:20)

#### F. King's edict to cast sons in Nile River (1:22)

#### G. The birth of Moses (2:1-10)

#### H. Moses kills an Egyptian (2:12)

#### I. Moses flees to Midian—Age 40

1. Saves daughters of Priest of Midian (Reuel)
2. Given wife—Zipporah (2:21)
3. Has son—Gershom (2:22)

#### J. Response of God to Israel's cry

1. God hears
2. God remembers
3. God looks (considers)
4. God knows (is concerned)

NOTE: Seed appears to be in jeopardy, yet God protects His promise (READ: 2:24)

## II. The Call of Moses (3:1-7:7)

### A. Burning Bush Encounter (3:1-6)

1. 80 years old (40 in Egypt/40 in wilderness)
2. Shepherd for Jethro's flock
3. Miracle: bush burning but not consumed (3:3)
4. God's presence transforms the ordinary to the extraordinary (i.e. Holy Ground)

NOTE: How we approach a holy God matters!

5. Moses called to make promise of land (3:8) reality

### B. Moses' Objections—God's Responses (3:11-4:17)

1. Inadequacy: Who am I to go to Pharaoh? (3:12 response)
2. Ignorance: What shall I say your name is? (3:14-22 response)
3. Incredibility: What if they don't believe me? (4:2-9 response)
4. Inarticulateness: I am not eloquent (4:11-12 response)
5. Insubordination: Send someone else (4:14-17 response)

NOTE: Common theme here is Moses considers his, not God's, resources.

### C. Preparing a Leader's Family (4:18-26)

1. Requested permission to depart from Jethro
2. Informed by the Lord that he was safe to return
3. God reiterated His directives (21-23)
  - a. Perform miracles before Pharaoh
  - b. Pharaoh will harden his heart and not release people
  - c. Inform him that Israel is firstborn and must be released to worship
  - d. Pharaoh's refusal will lead to death of firstborn (final plague)

### NOTE: Hardening of Pharaoh's heart

- This expression appears here for the first time
- Ten places "hardening" of Pharaoh is ascribed to God (4:21; 7:3; 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8, 17)
- Ten times Pharaoh hardens his own heart (7:13, 14, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 34, 35; 13:15)
- Pharaoh ALONE is the agent of hardening in the first sign and first five plagues—God not until sixth

(ILL)—Substance (Clay and Wax)

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4. Moses is nearly killed by the Lord

*And it came to pass on the way, at the encampment, that the Lord met him and sought to kill him. 25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast it at Moses' feet, and said, "Surely you are a husband of blood to me!" 26 So He let him go. Then she said, "You are a husband of blood!" — because of the circumcision. Exodus 4:24-26 NKJV*

- a. Very obscure and confusing three verses
- b. Unanswered questions: Why does the Lord seek the death of His servant? Which son is being referred to? How did a pagan know how to respond?
- c. Two possibilities:
  1. Moses failed to be a fatherly priest to son first—connects covenant relationship between Patriarchs and Sinai
  2. Moses' efforts to evade God's will
- d. Gentile plays important role (Rahab/Ruth)

#### D. Moses and Aaron before Israel and Pharaoh (4:27-5:23)

1. Aaron joins Moses (4:27)
2. Debriefing of God's instructions (4:28)
3. Assembled the people and performed signs (4:29-31)
4. Pharaoh refuses Moses' request (5:1-4)
5. Labor increases—no straw (5:5-19)
6. Servants bitter toward Moses (5:20-21)
7. Moses impatient with God (5:22-23)

NOTE: God's timing is the right timing—display His power

#### E. Moses' call is reconfirmed (6:1-7:7)

1. God reaffirms His covenant with Patriarchs (6:1-5)
2. God's reply to Moses (6:6-8)—“I am/will”
3. Moses discouraged by inability to persuade his own (6:9-13)
4. Genealogy of Moses and Aaron (6:13-30)
  - a. From Jacob's third son, Levi
  - b. From Levi's second son, Kohath
  - c. Moses isn't oldest

NOTE: Moses' calling gifts of grace not rights and privileges of birth

- d. Pedigree lacks moral stamina—Reuben incest, Simeon and Levi outrage against Shechem—cursed (See Genesis 49:3-9)
5. Moses and Aaron given specific callings (7:1-7)

NOTE: The miracles are for Israel and Egypt to believe—mixed multitude (see 12:38)

### **III. The Plagues (7:8-12:36)**

#### **A. The purpose of the plagues—"Egypt to know the Lord" (7:5)**

Rising up—I have let you live (Exodus 9:16)

#### **B. The 10 Plagues**

1. Water to blood (7:14-25)
2. Swarms of frogs (8:1-5)
3. Gnats (or lice)—(8:16-19)
4. Swarms of flies—Hebrews spared (8:20-32)
5. Pestilence upon cattle—Hebrew livestock spared (9:1-7)
6. Boils on animals and humans (9:8-12)
7. Hail, thunder, and lightning—(except Hebrew territory 9:13-35)
8. Swarm of locusts (10:1-20)
9. Three days of thick darkness (10:21-29)
10. Death of firstborn—Hebrews exempt if precaution (11:1-12:16)

#### **C. The Passover Preparations**