



Overview for Exodus

Purpose: To provide the account of Israel's deliverance from Egypt and establishment as a nation, and to reveal God's covenant with and requirements for His people

Author: Commonly accepted to be Moses, based upon the internal testimony of the book

Date Written: 1450–1410 B.C. during the desert wanderings of the Children of Israel, before they entered the Promised Land

Time Span Covered: From when Jacob and his sons entered Egypt, to the completion of the Tabernacle in the wilderness

Setting: Egypt, Mount Sinai, and the area between Mount Sinai and Canaan, the Promised Land

Key People: Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Pharaoh, and Joshua

Summary: The Book of Exodus is the second of five books of the Law (known as the Pentateuch). It contains the history of Israel from the birth of Moses to the completion of the Tabernacle in the wilderness. It can be separated into three definite time periods: the Israelites under bondage (Exodus 1:1 through 12:36), wandering in the wilderness (Exodus 12:37 through 18:27), and at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:1 through 40:38).

The word *exodus* literally means “departure” or “a way out.” According to Exodus 12:40, the Children of Israel spent 430 years dwelling in the land of Egypt, and during that time period, the descendants of Abraham had grown to include over two million people. At the beginning of the book, the Children of Israel were living as slaves under severe bondage, having taskmasters who were instructed to afflict them. By the conclusion of the book, the people had journeyed out of Egypt to Mount Sinai, following the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, and were living in freedom.

Aside from God himself, Moses is the central figure of the Book of Exodus, which relates more miracles than any other Old Testament book. The

first recorded miracles revolve around Moses. He was miraculously spared from death as an infant when Pharaoh's daughter found him in a basket along the banks of the Nile River. Through the intervention of Miriam, Moses' sister, he was returned to his own mother who nursed him for Pharaoh's daughter.

After Moses reached adulthood, he slew an Egyptian in response to the injustices being heaped upon his people, the Israelites. When he realized his deed was known, he fled to the desert of Midian, where he lived for about forty years. Then God called him at the burning bush, commissioning him to lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt. The once-confident prince feared the assignment, but during the final forty years of his life, God proved to Moses what He could do through him.

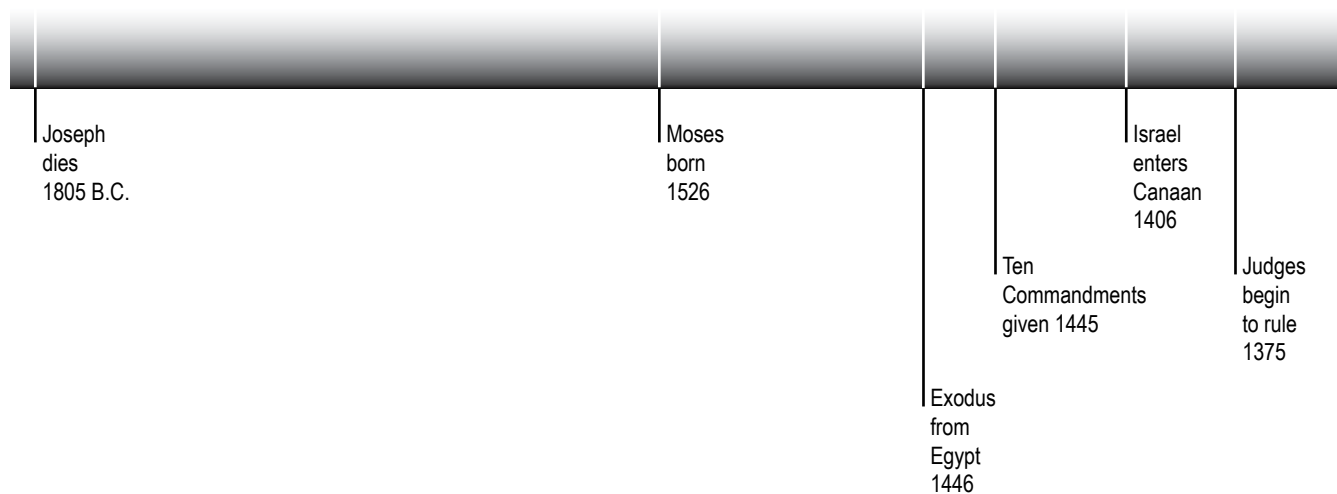
Through the mighty power of God, the enslaved Children of Israel became an independent nation in one night. The powerful acts of God had been manifested to the Children of Israel and the Egyptians through a series of ten plagues. With the final plague, God instituted the Passover as an annual observance to remind future generations of Israelites of their miraculous deliverance from Egyptian bondage. The blood of the lambs shed that night foreshadowed the redemption that would later be provided for mankind through the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

God established a covenant with Israel in which the nation of former slaves was set apart as God's holy nation. He revealed His changeless and universal moral law at Mount Sinai through the Ten Commandments. He also established His civil and ceremonial law for Israel through specific requirements for worship and daily living. The priesthood and the Tabernacle in the wilderness were among the visible features that distinguished Israel as a special people of God, set apart from the idolatrous and ungodly nations around them.

Throughout this segment of Israel's history, God provided for His people's physical and spiritual needs, but He also sent judgment for their disobedience and unbelief.

Timeline

Some dates are approximate, as reference materials differ.



Outline

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A complete amplified outline of this book is available on our website at www.apostolicfaith.org.*

- I. The oppression of Israel in Egypt (1:1 — 11:10)
 - A. The bondage of Israel (1:1-22)
 - B. The deliverer for Israel (2:1 — 4:31)
 - C. The struggles with Pharaoh (5:1 — 11:10)
- II. The redemption of Israel from Egypt (12:1 — 15:21)
 - A. The Passover (12:1-36)
 - B. The journey (12:37 — 15:21)
- III. The migration of Israel to Sinai (15:22 — 19:2)
 - A. The wilderness of Shur (15:22)
 - B. Marah (15:23-26)
 - C. Elim (15:27)
 - D. The wilderness of Sin (16:1-36)
 - E. Rephidim (17:1 — 18:27)
 - F. The arrival at Sinai (19:1-2)
- IV. The revelation of the Law to Israel (19:3 — 24:11)
 - A. The setting (19:3-25)
 - B. The commandments (20:1-26)
 - C. The ordinances (21:1 — 23:33)
 - D. The covenant ratified (24:1-11)
- V. The construction of the Tabernacle (24:12 — 40:38)
 - A. The setting (24:12-18)
 - B. The instructions for the building (25:1 — 31:18)
 - C. The delay in the building (32:1 — 34:35)
 - D. The construction of the building (35:1 — 40:38)