

EXODUS

Eden to Exile Leader's Guide

John D. Morrison, PhD

OT LEADER'S GUIDE

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OT Leader's Guide: Exodus

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Published by Lakewood Baptist Church

2235 Thompson Bridge Road

Gainesville, Georgia 30506

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OT19

Greetings! Welcome to our journey through the Old Testament from Eden to Exile! I am so excited about what we are going to learn together and how we are going to grow together as we read God's Word together in these next twelve months.

Our reading the New Testament in a year as a church was a much broader and deeper success than we ever imagined. We saw God work in individuals and in relationships as his Word was made a daily priority. God tells us that his Word is powerful to accomplish his purposes (Isaiah 55:10-11), and we saw that on full display last year.

We believe that all of God's Word is, as Paul tells us, "able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). It is our commitment as a church to the whole counsel of God that has led us to read the Old Testament this year.

I am even more excited about this year because of a new and added "twist." Each week you'll read from the Old Testament, but you'll also find a devotional for the end of the week written by a member of our Lakewood Team. These devotionals will draw the connection between what you read each day and the New Testament. We are about to discover more regarding the unity of the Scriptures. God's Word tells us the one story of salvation freely offered through Jesus Christ.

Please keep current and encourage others to read along with you. I would love to hear your thoughts and impressions as you reflect on each day's reading. Please email me at tsmiley@lakewoodlife.org

We are blessed as a ministry to have such a talented, gifted, and doctrinally sound staff who each have the competency to lead us into a deeper understanding of God's Word. As you read their devotional thoughts and commentary, consider letting them know how their words have impacted your daily walk of faith.

Enjoy our journey from Eden to Exile!

Dr. Tom

INTRODUCTION

Genesis ends with Israel's family living and prospering in Egypt, and Exodus begins with Israel the nation still in Egypt. On one hand, we find the Israelites were still thriving as the story of the Exodus begins: "But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them" (1:7). Yet, all was not well; "Now there was a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph" (1:8). This new Pharaoh together with the rest of the Egyptians feared this ever-growing foreign population among them (1:12). As a result, the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites and ordered that their male offspring be killed (1:13, 16).

Out of this oppression, the Lord's people began to call out to him, and Exodus is the story of how he rescued his people. In reading this account, it is easy to focus in on the various characters: Moses the hesitant leader, Pharaoh and his hard heart, and the grumbling people in the desert. As much as these characters captivate our attention, the story of Exodus keeps pointing us beyond the people to the God of the Exodus.

Fundamentally, Exodus tells us about the Lord who redeems his people in order to dwell in their midst. He is the God who saves, the God who is near, and the God who redeems through the blood of lambs.

As Exodus begins, God reveals himself to Moses as the God of his ancestors: "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (3:6). As in Genesis, God shows himself to be the faithful one who remembers his covenant. He hears the Israelites groans and sees their oppression because he is faithful to his promise to Abraham. "God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel — and God knew" (2:24-25).

God reveals himself as the one who is faithful to his covenant, and now in Exodus he shows himself to be the Lord who redeems. As God tells Moses who he is, he says that he is "I AM WHO I AM" — Yahweh. This is God's personal name that he reveals to Moses at the beginning of Exodus. The divine name is usually translated in our English versions as LORD. It is this name — Yahweh — that comes

to be nearly synonymous with God who redeems. Yahweh redeems his people. Yahweh is the deliverer.

The Lord delivers his people to dwell in their midst (29:45-46). From the beginning of Exodus, it is clear that the Lord is a God who is near his people. He hears their groaning and sees their suffering. However, as he redeems his people he dwells in their midst in a special way. He travels with them as a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire. Then, much of the book is spent detailing the construction of the Tabernacle because it is in this tent that the Lord will dwell among his people. He redeemed them from slavery in Egypt so that they would be his people and he would be the Lord who dwelt among them.

This deliverance came through the blood of lambs. Lambs were sacrificed and their blood spread on the doorposts so that the angel of the Lord would pass over the Israelites' houses and only the firstborn of the Egyptians would be killed. The Lord redeemed Israel his first born (4:22) through the blood of lambs.

New Testament Connection

Yahweh who redeemed his people in Exodus is the same Lord of the New Testament who redeems his people from the power of sin and death. In Exodus, we come to know that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is Yahweh. As we turn to the New Testament, this same Yahweh reveals that he has from eternity past been Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — Yahweh himself — is our Triune God who is three-in-one and one-in-three.

The Lord shows himself in the New Testament to be the God who delivers. He redeems from slavery to sin and death. He frees his people from the oppression of sin, and he does so in order that he might dwell with them. In the New Testament as in Exodus, God redeems his people to dwell among them. God came to his people and 'tabernacled' among them in the person of Jesus Christ (John 1:14). He is the God who is near: who hears the cries of his people and sees their oppression under sin. He is God with us, Immanuel (Matt. 1:23).

In Exodus, the Lord delivered through the blood of lambs, in the New Testament, the Lord delivers through the blood of his Son — "Christ our passover lamb" (1 Cor. 5:7). Christ is more than just the lamb of deliverance from the power of sin. He is also the lamb who

delivers from the penalty of our own sin, for he is “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). Christ our Lamb frees us from the power and the penalty of sin through his shed blood on the cross.

EXODUS 1-5

OT19 WEEK 14

Discussion Questions

- Ex. 1 | What has become of Jacob's family in Egypt? How have they been both blessed and oppressed?
- Ex. 2:23-25 | What do these verses teach us about God? How do these truths encourage you?
- Ex. 3 | What do we learn about God in this passage? How does he reveal himself? How does he identify himself to Moses?
- Ex. 4:11-17, 21 | As these verses describe Moses's refusal to obey God, who do we see is finally going to bring about the deliverance of God's people? Is it Moses or God? Seeing that God is the one who works through his servants, how should we be encouraged when we're tempted to try to refuse to obey him?
- 4:22 | The notion of Israel as God's firstborn son is prevalent throughout this book. What does this particular image show about how the Lord views and relates to Israel? Consider looking up how the NT makes use of the idea of firstborn.
- 5:2 | Compare Pharaoh to the Hebrew midwives in 1:17. What does a proper "fear of the Lord" look like? How does such fear free us from the fear of others?
- 5:22-23 | How would you describe Moses's attitude here? How can Moses's doubts encourage us?

Frequently Asked Questions

4:24-26 | Why does the Lord want to kill Moses after he has just commissioned him?

This is a notoriously difficult passage to understand, but the centrality of circumcision in the account is clear. Most likely, the Lord has come to kill Moses because Moses failed to circumcise his son. The Lord has remembered his covenant promises to Abraham and his family, and so Moses must remember the conditions of the covenant set forth in Genesis 17:9-14.

The importance of circumcision comes up again in Exodus 12:43-49. Circumcision, which is the seal of God's covenant promise with his people in the OT, must be observed together with the Passover.

God's gracious covenant promises require covenant obedience. Here in Exodus 4, the Lord demands Moses's obedience to the covenant conditions. His sons must be circumcised.

On a broader scale, this passage demonstrates how seriously the Lord takes obedience. As J. A. Motyer explains, "The Lord treats obedience with a seriousness that is in marked contrast to our casual and self-excusing way." Disobedience leads to death, even of God's chosen servant. To serve the Lord, we must obey him.

While the importance of circumcision in particular and obedience in general are clear, Zipporah's words, "a bridegroom of blood," are incredibly difficult to interpret. One commentator, Brevard Childs, remarks, "The significance of Zipporah's words remains one of the most enigmatic parts of the story, and the attempts to unravel its mystery are almost legion." Interpreters offer few compelling options, but it is evident from 4:26 is that she says these words in relationship to circumcision. What is clear from this passage is that Zipporah intervened and saved her husband's life. While we do not know how she knew what to do, she clearly knew that circumcision was the answer, and it was because of her action that the Lord spared Moses.

EXODUS 6-10

OT19 WEEK 15

Discussion Questions

- Ex. 6:1-9 | How does the Lord reassure Moses in the face of his doubt? How can you also look to God's faithfulness in the past and his promises for the future to encourage yourself in times of doubt?
- Ex. 7:5 | Throughout Exodus, one of God's motivation for his actions is expressed in the terms of this verse. He acts in order that "they shall know that I am the Lord." Why is this one of the Lord's motives for acting? Why is it right for the Lord's fame to be spread over all the earth?
- 7:14-10:29 | The First Nine Plagues
 - *The Role of the Plagues:* Why did the Lord use so many plagues to accomplish his plan? What does the drawn-out process reveal about his character? Consider how 2 Peter 3:9 describes the Lord.
 - *Pharaoh's Hard Heart:* Read 9:34-10:2. Who hardened Pharaoh's heart? How is Pharaoh's rebellion a picture of all sin? Consider Romans 1:18-32 and notice the repeated phrase: "and God gave them up. . ."

EXODUS 11-15

OT19 WEEK 16

Discussion Questions

- Ex. 12-13 | How did the Israelites exercise faith during the Passover?
- Ex. 13:1-2, 15-16 | Why did God require that all the firstborn sons be consecrated to him and all the firstborn animals be sacrificed? How were these rituals meant to remind them of their status (4:22) and of God's great redemption (13:15)? How does Jesus as the firstborn (Col. 1:15; Rev. 1:5) guarantee the status of his people (Rom. 8:29; Heb. 12:23)?
- Ex. 13:17-22 | Why did God not take the Israelites the most direct route? How were they reassured of God's presence? How have you seen God's grace at work in a delay? How as a believer are you reassured of God's presence with you?
- Ex. 14:4 | What was the Lord's goal in this deliverance? Why is the Lord concerned with his glory being made known and that people all over the world would know that he is the Lord? People will recognize these truths either by experiencing his judgment or his redemption. How should we as the church be working so that people know the Lord and his glory in redemption rather than in the judgment that is to come?
- Ex. 14:31 | What did this miraculous deliverance cause in the Israelites? How can you look back on God's work in your life in order to grow your fear of him and faith in him?
- Ex. 15:25b-26 | When did the Lord give his statute and rule? Did he give the rule as a condition for deliverance? What were the consequences for disobedience? What do these truths teach us about our obedience as Christians?

EXODUS 16-20

OT19 WEEK 17

Discussion Questions

- Ex. 16:1-2 | Notice how quickly the people respond to their deliverance with grumbling. Are you prone to grumble against the Lord despite all he has done for you in Christ? How can you cultivate a heart of thankfulness rather than bitterness?
- Ex. 16:4-12 | How does the Lord graciously respond to their grumbling? Look at John 6. What does it mean for Jesus to be the true bread from heaven?
- Ex. 17:1-7 | Again, the people grumble and God provides. What does this account teach us about the Lord? What does Paul mean in 1 Cor. 10:1-5 that those in the desert “drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ”?

Paul seems to be bringing together two biblical themes and combining them into one. Jesus describes himself as the one from whom “living water” will flow (John 4:10; 7:38), which is something Jeremiah ascribes to the Lord himself (Jer. 2:13; 17:13). Paul combines this idea of Jesus as the source of living water with the frequent biblical notion that the Lord is our Rock (for example, Ps. 18:2). Paul’s goal in bringing these images together is to show that Jesus was present with the Israelites during the Exodus, and in that time, he judged those who turned to idolatry and sexual immorality. Paul warns the church in Corinth that those who turn from Christ to such evil practices today will be judged by the same Christ. Paul highlights these truths from Israel’s past as warning that the church today would not be captivated by evil (1 Cor. 10:6).

- Ex. 18:10-11 | How did God’s deliverance of Israel affect those even outside of Israel? How should God’s redeeming us help point others to the redemption that can only be found in Jesus Christ?
- Ex. 18:13-23 | Jethro’s advice is good advice on the value of delegation for any enterprise. Consider particularly your life of faith. How are you working to develop / disciple other people to serve in your particular area of ministry? If you’re not currently

discipling anyone, pray for the Lord to bring someone into your life and begin to look for someone you can pour into.

- Ex. 19:4-6 | Consider 1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:6 and 5:10. What privileges come with NT believers being able to share in such an identity? What responsibilities?
- Ex. 20:1-2 | Consider when these commandments come in relation to Israel's redemption. Are these rules God's requirements for redemption or are they meant to be a response to his gracious work? How can viewing God's law as extension of his grace to us shape how we view obeying him?

EXODUS 21-25

OT19 WEEK 18

Discussion Questions

- Ex. 21:23-25 | Why is this a good and fair principle for the foundation of laws? How are the laws God establishes in Exodus freeing for his people?
- Ex. 22:21-24 | What do these verses reveal about God's care for the marginalized? Has God's concern for people in these situations changed? How should NT believers seek to live in line with God's character as revealed in these particular OT laws?
- Ex. 22:27-33 | How do you see the Lord's provision and wisdom in this plan? What do we learn about God from these verses?
- Ex. 24:15-18 | What do we see about the Lord in these verses? How can he both holy and live among his people? In the NT, how does Christ resolve the tension between God's holiness and his presence among a sinful people?
- Ex. 25:21-22 | What makes the Ark of the Covenant of particular importance in the Tabernacle? What happens here? As believers in Christ, how can we now meet with God? Consider Eph. 3:12 and Heb. 4:16.

EXODUS 26-30

OT19 WEEK 19

Discussion Questions

- Ex. 25-31 | The Tabernacle. Consider that these seven chapters and 37-40 discuss the construction of the Tabernacle. That's over 1/4 of the book of Exodus. What does the amount of instruction written on the Tabernacle reveal about God's concern for how he is worshipped and how he is approached? Does the way I approach the worshipping Lord reflect a similar respect and reverence? Do I seek the Lord's instructions for how I am to worship him or am I more concerned with my own preferences? Is my first priority in worship honoring the Lord or my own personal experience?
- Ex. 25-31 | The Tabernacle. Why was the Tabernacle so central to the Exodus? What was its importance to the people of God? How are believers assured of God's presence with us?
- Ex. 29:46 | Here again, the Lord states why he redeemed his people from slavery in Egypt. How do the reasons for that redemption correspond to the reasons for our own redemption in Christ?

EXODUS 31-35

OT19 WEEK 20

- Ex. 31:1-11 | How did the Lord work in Oholiab and Bezalel to serve him? Why is the Holy Spirit necessary for us to live and to work in a manner that honors the Lord? How can you use the abilities God has given you for his glory?
- Ex. 32:1-10 | What a contrast between chapters 25-31 and chapter 32! Look at 32:4-6. Who does Aaron say they are worshipping with this golden calf? We may not be tempted to craft a physical idol to worship the Lord, but how are we in danger of fashioning an image of God in our thoughts that runs contrary to Scripture? Where do we try to conform God to our image rather than be conformed to the image of his Son (Rom. 8:28)?
- Ex. 32:11-14 | How does Moses appeal to God's character and to the covenant in this prayer? How can we model our prayers on Moses's?
- Ex. 33:14 | How does being in God's presence bring us rest? What is such rest in his presence like?
- Ex. 33:17-23 | Reflect on how Jesus is the glory of God. See John 1:14 and Hebrews 1:3. Then compare Isaiah 6:1-7 with John 12:41. What does Jesus as the glory God mean for our worship of him?
- Ex. 34:6-7 | How does the Lord describe himself in this passage? How can the Lord be forgiving and yet not let the guilty go unpunished? How does the cross of Christ answer that question?

EXODUS 36-40

OT19 WEEK 21

- Ex. 35:20-29 & 36:5-7 | What inspired such generosity on the part of God's people? How can you reflect such generosity in your own life? Are you being stingy with yourself or your finances where God is calling you to give freely? Reflect on the 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 and Philippians 4:10-20 about our even greater motivation for giving from an NT perspective.
- Ex. 36-40 | Why are so many of the instructions for the Tabernacle repeated? What does this repetition tell us about the Tabernacle's importance? Reflect again on Ex. 29:45-46. What was the goal of God redeeming out Egypt and how was the Tabernacle central to that? What is the goal of our own redemption in Christ?
- Ex. 39-40 | What was the role of the priests? What steps were taken to demonstrate their special responsibilities? What steps were taken to set them apart and to ensure they were ritually clean? In Heb. 4:14-16, Jesus is called our great high priest. How does Aaron's priesthood as described in these chapters help us understand Jesus's work as our priest? Why is Jesus a better high priest?
- Ex. 40:34-38 | How would you summarize these final five verses of Exodus? Consider Habakkuk 2:14 and Revelation 21:22-26. In the new creation, what does the Bible say the Lord's glory will fill? How does such a future hope lead us to work for the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ around the world?



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