

## INTRODUCTION

Look at the bigger picture

What do we observe and what do we learn from our observations?

This is God's story, and what is He trying to communicate to us through the book of Exodus?

*Take a minute to quiet our hearts, and ask God 'what do you want to show me?'*

Is it an attribute of God He wants to show Himself to you tonight?

Is it an area of your life or your mindset that God wants to change?

Is there an area of bondage or a stronghold in your mind that He wants to free you from?

*Exodus is the story of God, who is like no other, who rescues and redeems Israel, who wants to make Israel His prized possession, and who wants to dwell among His people Israel*

Exodus is divided into three parts:

Israelites in Egypt enslaved // Israelites in the wilderness // Israelites at Sinai

Look at Genesis to set the scene:

*Gen 12:1-3*

*Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.*

*Gen 15:13*

*Then the Lord said to Abram, 'Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgement on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.*

We see this promise and prophetic story unfold in the book of Exodus

## CHAPTERS 1-4

Background / set the context

- Play clip from Prince of Egypt 'Deliver us'
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOFNI2T61yl&list=PL\\_3etkLCVKTqB54lf7nIAyZVNbHWZEW76](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOFNI2T61yl&list=PL_3etkLCVKTqB54lf7nIAyZVNbHWZEW76)
- Play from 40secs to 2:03
- Read chapter 1 – what are some of the key things that stand out for you?
- Joseph and his brothers and all that generation died but Israel grew, were fruitful and increased greatly, multiplied and became strong
- New king of Egypt came in power and feared the Israelites because they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong
- Afflict them with heavy burdens
- They were oppressed
- Ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves
- Made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick
- Made them work as slaves
- Kill all new born sons

- This was the environment which they lived in their whole entire life – they didn't know anything else!
- Question to ponder on: What's the impact it would have had on the Israelites? Think about some of the fruit we'd see from living in this kind of environment for hundreds of years?
  - *Wrong mind-sets*
  - *Sense of hopelessness*
  - *Despair and depression*
  - *Skewed worldview*
  - *NO reason to live*
  - *Accept your condition and live with it*
  - **Broken spirit Exodus 6:9**
    - *Maybe you've been crushed in your spirit that even when God speaks a promise over you it's hard to accept or believe because you've been so broken from your past*
- Application: What are some of things we've been enslaved to or enslaved to today? When we think of slavery, we tend to think physicality but what about the non-physical?
  - *Fear*
  - *Addictions*
  - *Ungodly mind-sets*

*Personal: For a long time I battled with the fear of man, fear of being rejected, fear of not being like. Hard for me to say 'no' to people because of this fear I carried with me. This stemmed from my past and a not so good experience of my childhood in the church. Caused me to fear man especially people in position of authority*

We have the benefit of knowing the story, and the end result, but for these people they had no idea of what the outcome would be!

- *So we READ 2:23 - During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And 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.*
- God had a plan to rescue them from their misery and his name was Moses
- Read chapter 2:1-10
- What do we learn about Moses' upbringing?
  - Born into the priesthood family
  - Hebrew (Levite)
  - Raised by his mother for 3 months Acts 7:20
  - When the child grew older she brought to Pharaoh's daughter
  - He knew who he was because he went out to his people (Hebrews) and looked on their burdens

- Read chapter 2:11-19
- *Moses was 40 years old when decided to visit his fellow Israelites Acts 7:23*
- **Question: What are some of the character traits we see in Moses?**
- Character traits – wants to see justice, rescuer, deliverer, protector
- He had a heart for his people and wanted to rescue them
- Kills the Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew
- *He thought that this his own people would realise that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not Acts 7:25*
- He flees to Midian again we find these qualities manifest when rescues Reuel's daughters from the shepherds
  
- Burning Bush experience
- Moses is 80 at this stage – *Now when 40 years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush - Acts 7:30*
- Give short description of Moses encounter with God - God promises to Moses that He will deliver the people out of the land and bring them to a much better place, and says I am sending you
  
- Highlight chapter 3:11-4:13
- What are Moses' excuses?
  - *Who am I? 3:11*
  - *What shall I say your NAME is? 3:13*
  - *They will not listen to me 4:1*
  - *I am not eloquent slow of speech 4:10*
  - *Send someone else 4:13*
  
- **Observation: what do we notice of God's response to Moses' excuse/questions?**
- Moses focused on him, but God was saying FOCUS ON ME
- God is a God of patience and gracious
- Even when God follows through, shows Moses signs and wonders, demonstration of His power, yet he still chooses to give excuses
  
- **Question: What excuses do we give to God when He commands us to do something?** It's so easy to look at Moses and almost judge him for his lack of faith!
  
- **Observation: Look at the contrast in chapter 2:11 versus chapter 3:11**
- What change took place in Moses?
  - 2:11 – we see Moses' selfish ambition, arrogant?, self-reliant, doing things his own way rather than completely relying on God for strength and direction
  - 3:11 – lacking confidence, unsure of himself, I can't mentality
- **Question: What was God's purpose for Moses of being in the wilderness keeping his father-in-law's flock?**
  - Test us
  - Humble us
  - Refine us
- Jesus was led in to the wilderness to be tested!

- God will often use the wilderness experience to humble us, that's what he did with Moses (recognise we can't do it, only God can)
- God is always in the process of humbling us, to the point where we can say 'I can't do it, but I know in Christ I can do all things'
- 40 year period of shepherding his father in law's sheep – period of humbling, wrestling, questioning, humility, recognising his own weaknesses and flaws
- In the end Moses go out of obedience to meet with Pharaoh

#### CHAPTERS 5-12

- Showdown of power God vs gods of Egypt about to begin
- Before looking at the plague share how Moses appears to Pharaoh and tells him exactly what God had told him, but Pharaoh increases the hardship/suffering of the Israelites and the people respond harshly to Moses.
- Moses response to God - Read 5:22 – *Then Moses turned to the Lord and said 'O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? Moses complains*
- *Why? Moses thought that Pharaoh would respond and let Israel free*
- What do we learn? Our ways are not God's ways often we think that we know we know God is going to operate and it's usually our way
- God does have a plan but not how Moses thought it was going to pan out – God was going to demonstrate his power
- *So God says in 6:1 – Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land'*
- Showdown of power God vs gods of Egypt about to begin
- What is the ten plagues about?
- *Read: 5:1-2 - Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness. But Pharaoh said 'WHO IS THE LORD that I should obey his voice and let Israel go?*
- It is God's' response to Pharaoh's QUESTION - WHO IS THE LORD?
- *Read 7:4 - I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgement. The Egyptians shall know that I AM THE LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt.*
- It is God's great acts of judgement against every Egyptian god
- It is a demonstration of God's power so that the Egyptians will know that I AM THE LORD
- *The plagues God brought against Egypt had a definite strategy and purpose. Each of them confronts and attacks a prized Egyptian deity. The plagues show the Lord God to be greater than any of the deities of Egypt*
- 10 plagues – Go through the plagues quickly
- Encourage students to read the plagues and imagine what it would have been like for the Egyptians to have experienced these acts of judgment let alone what the Israelites would have witnessed
- *Question: Have you ever experienced or seen the power of God/miracle of God in your own life? If there's time, ask people to share in their group a story?*
- THE PASSOVER

- *For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night...the blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt 12:12*
- What is the significance of the Passover?
- *The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. AT the end of 430 years on that very day, all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt 12:40*
- Ponder: 430 years of living in Egypt, freedom from slavery...how would you feel after that many years?

#### CHAPTER 13-18

- SO the Israelites experienced the demonstrative power of God in the form of acts of judgment/ plagues against the Egyptian gods
- They experienced God as all powerful when they were in Egypt
- God revealed himself as that
  
- Now we come into the next stage of their journey where they are now removed from the land of slavery of which they've only known and now into the wilderness
- God is still with the Israelites and reveals to them in different ways
  
- WILDERNESS
- What was the wilderness journey about? What do we learn and pick up?
- *The direct route to Canaan would have brought them to the Promised Land in a fortnight. For a disorganised multitude of liberated slaves the Sinai detour not only had a military advantage but also provided time and opportunity for organisation (have map of their route)*
  
- Ex.6 God spoke to Moses and said...I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians...I will TAKE YOU TO BE MY PEOPLE, AND I WILL BE YOUR GOD AND YOU SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD WHO HAS BROUGHT YOU OUT FROM UNDER THE BURDENS OF THE EGYPTIANS.
  
- *\*\*Israel lived in the land of slavery for hundreds of years, their source, their dependence was on Egypt for everything, their provision, their housing, their comfort in a sense, and God was trying to remove this way of thinking, and to show them that God was their source, their provider, their protector*
  
- *FIRST: 16:12 - ...then you shall know that I am the Lord your God*
  
- *The LORD went BEFORE them in a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night so that they could travel Ex 13:21-22 - **God leads and guides them***
  
- *Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel Ex.14:19 - **God protects them***
  
- *And the Lord showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet 15:2*

- *Behold I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day 16:4 - **God provides them with food and water***
- *God's method of provision is designed to teach them obedience and daily dependence upon God*
- And YET Israel GRUMBLED and complained against the Lord, EVEN THOUGH the Lord continued to provide for his people
- Count how many times the word grumble comes up
- What does this say about our God?
- ***SECOND: 16:4 - ...that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not***
- *How easy to look back at what we had and then complain when we feel like God has withdrawn Himself from us or when we are going through the wilderness*
- Maybe you feel you're going through the wilderness, a time of testing your heart?
- Share a time when you were tested...

#### CHAPTER 19-40

- *Ex.19:5 - Now therefore if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation*
- **AND ALL THE PEOPLE ANSWERED TOGETHER AND SAID, 'ALL THAT THE LORD HAS SPOKEN WE WILL DO' Ex.19:8**
- God gives the Ten Commandments and the laws for the people to live by
- **ALL THAT THE LORD HAS SPOKEN WE WILL DO, AND WE WILL BE OBEDIENCE Ex.24:7**
- God makes a covenant with his people and Moses calls the elders sets before them all these words that the Lord had commanded
- Moses speaks to the people and consecrates them
- The law was given for Israel to live properly and by this they were distinct from all the other nations
- Having been in bondage in an idolatrous environment, Israel now was to be a people wholly devoted to God. By an act unprecedented in history, it was suddenly changed from the status of slavery to that of an independent nation
- Expansion of the moral laws and additional regulations for holy living were designed to guide the Israelites in their conduct as God's holy people
- These laws for Israel can better be understood in the light of the contemporary cultures in Egypt and Canaan. E.g. marriage of brother and sister, which was common in Egypt was forbidden. Pure food laws and restrictions concerning the slaughter of animals were designed to keep the Israelites from conforming to some of the Egyptian customs associated with idolatrous rituals

- God gives Moses instructions on how to build the tabernacle CHAPTER 25
- The tabernacle was a moveable 'tent of meeting' that God commanded Moses to build. God wanted to dwell among his people. He wanted to have fellowship with them and be able to communicate with them
- *And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it 25:8*
- Following the ratification of the covenant Israel was commanded to construct a tabernacle so that God might 'dwell in their midst'. In contrast to the many temples in Egypt, Israel had one sanctuary. Detailed instructions are given in Ex.25-40
- The enclosure for the tabernacle was commonly called the court Ex.27:9-18; 39:9-20
- Eastern half of this court was the worshipper's square – here the Israelites made his offering at the altar of sacrifice (brazen altar). The altar was portable
- Beyond the altar stood the laver where the priests washed their feet in preparation for officiating at the altar of sacrifice or in the tabernacle
- Western half of this court stood the tabernacle proper divided into two parts:
- Beyond the veil was the holy of holies where the high priest was permitted to enter on the Day of Atonement
- Three pieces of furniture were set in the holy place: the table of showbread, the golden candlestick (lampstand) and the altar of incense before the veil separating the holy place from the holy of holies Ex.40:22-28
- The table of showbread
- The golden candlestick every evening the priests filled these lamps with olive oil to provide light throughout the night
- The golden altar primarily used for the burning of incense stood in the holy place before the entrance into the holy of holies
- The ark of the covenant or testimony was the most sacred object in the religion of Israel
- This and this alone had its special place in the holy of holies
- The cover of this chest was called the mercy seat – represented the presence of God
- Within the ark were deposited the 10 commandments, a pot of manna, and Aaron's rod that blossomed

- *While on Mt. Sinai, Moses received the Ten Commandments (Ex. 19:1–20:21), various other regulations (20:22–23:19), and basic instructions for the invasion of Canaan (23:20–33). He was also given the blueprint for the tabernacle (24:15– 30:38), that portable sanctuary where God would dwell among His people until a more permanent house could be built in Jerusalem (1 Chron. 22). The tabernacle and its associated furniture and services are extremely important to both the Old and New Testaments, and we will explore their significance over the next few weeks.*
- *In order to understand the purpose of the tabernacle, we need to go all the way back to the beginning of Genesis. We read in 3:8 that the Lord used to walk with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden during "the cool of the day," signifying the close, intimate fellowship they enjoyed with the Creator before sin caused everything to fall apart. Having sinned, Adam and Eve were banished from Eden and the immediate presence of our holy God (vv. 22–24), and since that day the goal of salvation has been to restore that face-to- face communion between the Lord and His people. This is seen in the*

*promises to the patriarchs where God promised not to leave Jacob until He accomplished what He said He would do (28:10–17).*

- *The tabernacle was the vehicle through which God manifested His presence among Israel between Sinai and the construction of Solomon's temple. Because it was constructed like a portable tent, the tabernacle could travel with the people into the Promised Land (Num.1:47–53). During their journey, at those times when the Israelites stopped for a time, the tabernacle would be erected in the center of the nation's camp and the people would see that the Lord dwelt among them (chap. 2).*
- *Today's passage records God's entrance into the tabernacle (Ex. 40:34–38). No longer would He meet Israel at the top of Sinai but His presence would be visible in the midst of the camp. Now the people had a tent where they could meet the Creator.*
- *Yet even though the tabernacle was a step forward for God's people toward one-on-one communion with Him, it still did not go far enough. Sin had not yet been atoned for, and only a select few could enter into the tabernacle and enjoy the Lord's glorious presence*
- *The Lord in his glory had actually come to dwell amongst his people. This is the supreme significance of the tabernacle*