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## **A STUDY OF THE WHOLE BIBLE**

### **THE BOOK OF EXODUS**

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#### **An Overview**

The book of Exodus received its name because it records Israel's departure from Egypt. The book recounts how God graciously delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt, traces their journey through the wilderness, and describes in detail the covenant God made with them at Mount Sinai. In telling this story, Exodus highlights the supreme faithfulness and mercy of God, and contrasts this with Israel's repetitive grumbling, rebellion, and sin. In so doing, this book presents a condensed picture of the gospel. Simply put, Exodus shows us that God saves sinners as well.

After showcasing his power and glory in freeing Israel from slavery, God gathers Israel to the foot of Mount Sinai where He communicates His will to them through the law. The instructions of the law include both requirements for how Israel is to live (chapters 20-24) and directives for how God is to be worshiped (chapters 25-31). Although Israel continues to demonstrate idolatrous tendencies, God shows Himself to be supremely merciful and faithful (chapters 32-34). The book ends with Israel constructing the tabernacle according to God's specifications, and God descending to dwell with them (chapters 35-40).

#### **Placing It in the Larger Story**

Whereas Genesis records God's promise that Abraham would become a great nation (Genesis 12:2), Exodus describes the fulfillment of that promise (Exodus 1:6-7). Moreover, God's covenant with the patriarchs, in which he promised to give their descendants the land of Canaan (Genesis 15:18; 26:3; 35:12), is the reason God delivers Israel from Egypt (Exodus 2:24).

Although God gives Israel the law and comes to dwell in their midst, ultimately Israel will not be faithful to their covenant with Him. Only in Jesus do we find a faithful Israelite who keeps God's law while simultaneously embodying God's presence with His people (John 1:14).

#### **Book of Exodus Outline**

1. Exodus from Egypt (1:1-18:27)
  - i. Israel in Egypt (1:1-11:10)
    - a. Israel's oppression and Moses' early life (1:1-2:25)
    - b. Moses' call and preparation (3:1-7:7)
    - c. The plagues against Egypt (7:8-11:10)
  - ii. From Egypt to Sinai (12:1-18:27)
    - a. Passover and exodus (12:1-13:16)
    - b. Deliverance at the Red Sea (13:17-15:21)
    - c. Journey to Sinai (15:22-18:27)

2. Covenant at Sinai (19:1-40:38)
  - i. Covenant law at Sinai (19:1-24:18)
    - a. Covenant preparation (19:1-25)
    - b. Covenant law (20:1-23:33)
    - c. Covenant confirmation (24:1-18)
  - ii. Divine Presence with Israel (25:1-40:38)
    - a. Instructions for building the tabernacle (25:1-31:18)
    - b. Covenant violation; intercession, and renewal (32:1-34:35)
    - c. Construction of the tabernacle (35:1-40:38)

### **Key Verse**

“You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples” (Exodus 19:4-5a).

### **Glossary of Terms**

*Covenant: A binding agreement between two parties, typically involving a formal statement of their relationship, a list of stipulations and obligations for both parties, a list of witnesses to the agreement, and a list of curses for unfaithfulness and blessings for faithfulness to the agreement.*

*Tabernacle: The tent where God dwelled on earth and communed with his people as Israel’s divine king.*

*Patriarchs: The earliest ancestors of Israel, primarily Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.*

