

Broad Outline of the Message of Exodus

By Roger Cotton

Exodus

God delivered His people, Israel, through His prophetic, leader, Moses, and established them as His covenantal, theocratic, nation, through His revelation at Sinai. This included establishing among them the place of His presence—His throne—on earth, the Tabernacle.

I. Exodus 1-18 The Exodus and Journey to Sinai

God delivered His people, Israel, from Egypt with a great demonstration of His power, through His chosen, prophetic, leader, Moses, and led them to Sinai.

- A. 1:1-13:16 Preparation for the Exodus Through Ten Plagues
 - 1. 1-4 Bondage and Raising up a Deliverer—Moses
 - 2. 5:1-7:7 Initial Confrontation with Pharaoh and Further Revelation
 - 3. 7:8-13:16 The Ten Plagues
 - a. 7:8-10:29 The nine plagues
 - b. 11:1-13:16 The Tenth plague—the Passover, and future instructions
- B. 13:17-15:21 The Exodus
 - 1. 13:17-14:31 Crossing the Red Sea
 - 2. 15:1-21 The Song of the Sea
- C. 15:22-18:27 The Journey to Sinai
 - 1. 15:22-26 Bitter water and the LORD their healer
 - 2. 15:27-16:36 No food and manna from heaven
 - 3. 17:1-7 No water and striking the rock
 - 4. 17:8-16 Attack of the Amalekites and The LORD as their Banner
 - 5. 18:1-27 Jethro's rejoicing and advice
 - a. 18:1-12 The testimony of what God had done for Moses and Israel
 - b. 18:13-27 Jethro's advice concerning Moses' leadership

II. Exodus 19-40 The Covenant at Sinai and the Tabernacle—the Place of His Presence

God established the People of Israel as His unique, covenantal, theocratic, nation, through His revelation at Sinai, to continue His Promise-Plan of salvation for the world through them. He gave them His laws for their constitution as a nation. Then, He established the place of His presence—His throne—on earth, the Tabernacle, among His people, Israel. In the process He dealt with the Golden Calf apostasy/threat to the relationship and to His presence among them.

A. 19-24 The Covenant at Sinai

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1. 19 Awesome revelation
2. 20 The heart of the covenant relationship—the Ten Commandments
3. 21-23 The first collection of laws—how to live together as His people
4. 24 The sealing of the covenant with communion

B. 25-40 The Tabernacle and the Golden Calf Apostasy

God established the place of His presence—His throne—on earth, the Tabernacle, among His people, Israel. In the process He had to deal with the Golden Calf apostasy/threat to the relationship and to His presence among them.

1. 25-27 Establishing the special place of His presence His way
2. 28-30 Respecting the representatives of His Holy Presence
3. 31 Concluding the preparation of the establishment of His presence
4. 32 Loss of His presence through apostasy out of impatience leading to idolatry
5. 33-34 Valuing His presence among them
6. 35-40 Consummation of His presence among them
 - a. 35-39 Carrying out the instructions
 - b. 40 His presence filling the Tabernacle

Detailed Outline of the Message of Exodus

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I. Exodus 1-18 The Exodus and Journey to Sinai

God delivered His people, Israel, from Egypt with a great demonstration of His power, through His chosen, prophetic, leader, Moses, and led them to Sinai.

A. 1:1-13:16 Preparation for the Exodus Through Ten Plagues

God uses pain and His power to motivate people in the delivering of His people from bondage.

1. 1-4 Bondage and Raising up a Deliverer—Moses

God continued to carry out His salvation Plan for the world through His Promise to Abraham by developing His people in the pressure of Egypt. “Remembering His Promise” means He chose to act on it in His perfect timing. The LORD keeps His Word. His people, Israel, lived out the principles physically, of humanity’s spiritual situation of bondage from which only God can deliver. The Exodus deliverance from the bondage of Egyptian slavery is an ideal spiritual metaphor and type—an historical event demonstrating the same spiritual principles as Christ fulfills.

God's usual method is to work through and speak through a person whom He calls and prepares, here epitomized by Moses. Human beings should not question their adequacy for God’s callings but realize He is the source of their enabling. God's leaders must also be examples of obedience.

The Name of God, represented by “the LORD,” is YHWH in Hebrew and is associated with the verb “to be,” and with the covenant revelation of His personal presence with His people to fulfill His Promise of salvation. God wants to reveal Himself to His people, care for them, and enjoy fellowship with them as His children forever.

2. 5:1-7:7 Initial Confrontation with Pharaoh and Further Revelation

Sometimes God’s message makes things more difficult for His people. But through these situations He reveals Himself further.

3. 7:8-13:16 The Ten Plagues

Through the plagues the LORD showed He is lord—the supreme power—over all nature and all supposed gods. Furthermore, He is personally present with His

people to care for them.

In His dealings with Pharaoh God showed the seriousness of hardening one's heart to God's mercy and sovereignty. The Bible teaches both the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of people for their choices.

a. 7:8-10:29 The nine plagues

God's presence is with His people and makes all the difference from the rest of the world.

b. 11:1-13:16 The Tenth plague—the Passover, and future instructions

1) 11 Set-up for the final plague

2) 12 The Passover—instructions and event

Memorials are important in relationships for appreciating the history of who we are and why. Ritual can be a significant experience of what God has done and wants to do for us. The Passover lamb pointed forward ultimately to Christ.

3) 13:1-16 Instructions on giving the first-born to the LORD as a reminder-sign

God's people must always remember they owe their very lives to Him and the substitute He provides.

B. 13:17-15:21 The Exodus

This awesome God-event was the defining moment in Israel's history—their salvation.

1. 13:17-14:31 Crossing the Red Sea

Ultimately, God's people must stand in silence and total helplessness and accept His gift of salvation. The LORD led His people into an extreme situation where He would receive all the glory for their deliverance as He dramatically defeated the enemy.

2. 15:1-21 The Song of the Sea

There is no being that can compare to the LORD. His people should rejoice in who He is, what He has done for them, and what He is doing with them. God's purpose is not just to bring His people out of bondage but to bring them in to eternal fellowship with Him and to their "place" of fulfilling His mission to the world.

C. 15:22-18:27 The Journey to Sinai

In spite of the complaining and fears of human forgetfulness, the LORD continued to lead His people and provide for them, along with tests to develop their faith. They needed to learn that His presence with them is not always seen but will be for them what they need if they will trust and obey.

1. 15:22-26 Bitter water and the LORD their Healer

2. 15:27-16:36 No food and manna from heaven
3. 17:1-7 No water and striking the rock
4. 17:8-16 Attack of the Amalekites and The LORD as their Banner
There will be ongoing battles with the world but God's people must keep focused on Him.
5. 18:1-27 Jethro's rejoicing and advice
 - a. 18:1-12 Rejoicing at the testimony of what God had done for Moses and Israel
 - b. 18:13-27 Jethro's advice concerning Moses' leadership
God's leaders must not assume they are to do it all, but need to delegate.

II. Exo. 19-40 The Covenant at Sinai and the Tabernacle—the Place of His Presence

God established the People of Israel as His unique, covenantal, theocratic, nation, through His revelation at Sinai, to continue His Promise-Plan of salvation for the world through them. He gave them His laws for their constitution as a nation. Then, He established the place of His presence—His throne—on earth, the Tabernacle, among His people, Israel. In the process He dealt with the Golden Calf apostasy/threat to the relationship and to His presence among them.

A. 19-24 The Covenant at Sinai

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1. 19 Awesome revelation and calling
God's people are to live His calling to be His people to carry out His mission to the world. They are to be His agents in this world to bring others to Him. They must realize how special they are to Him, and treat very seriously His holiness and their sinful, separated, condition of unworthiness for His holy presence, apart from the grace of Christ. God's people should respond to Him with deep reverential awe as well as loving Him as their perfect, heavenly, Father.
2. 20 The heart of the covenant relationship—the Ten Commandments
The LORD reveals His character and values in application to the lives of His people in the laws. They address His people corporately and individually. The Ten Commandments are the basic expectations of the covenant.
The principles are:
Be exclusively loyal to the LORD—He is the only God and Savior.
Do not image Him less than He has revealed Himself to be.
Honor Him and be in harmony with Him in all you do and say—especially in prayer.
Rest in Him, spiritually, in faith, daily, and show your trust through a weekly rest.
Respect those who represent Him and His authority, beginning with your parents.
Respect human life as made in His image, and His authority over it.

Respect marriage and the family and do not violate the commitment.
Respect what belongs to others and their well-being.
Respect the reputation of others, value justice, and speak the truth.
Do not let your selfishness rule you and hurt others; deal with your heart attitudes and desires and trust the LORD to provide.
Our horizontal relationships must not be separated from our vertical relationship with the LORD.

3. 21-23 The first collection of laws—how to live together as His people
The LORD gave His people His instructions for how to live together as His nation—His theocracy. They applied the principles of the Ten Commandments, which are summarized as loving God and loving others. His people were to be a model for all communities of people showing how God intended people to function together with Him and one another.
The following are the major principles taught in these laws:
- Deal with conflicts among you.
 - Be just and fair—make the penalty match the crime.
 - Hold people accountable for their actions based on attitude of the heart.
 - Require the guilty person to make things right with the ones wronged—to make restitution.
 - Seek truth.
 - Show respect for all human life as made in the image of God.
 - Value people far more than things.
 - Protect the dignity of each individual.
 - Care about the well-being of others.
 - Show compassion, mercy, generosity, for the vulnerable.
 - Speak truth in love.
 - Care about the well-being of all God's creatures.
- Also, there are things God's people are to do and are not to do because of the testimony they give of who the LORD is and His way of salvation. He must not be associated with evil.

4. 24 The sealing of the covenant with communion—a taste of heaven
The LORD wants His people to come up to Him, experience His intimate fellowship, and lead others to Him. He has provided the way through the ultimate sacrifice for sin, the life/blood of His Son.

- B. 25-40 The Tabernacle and the Golden Calf Apostasy
God established the place of His presence—His throne—on earth, the Tabernacle, among His people, Israel. In the process He had to deal with the Golden Calf apostasy/threat to the relationship and to His presence among them.

1. 25-27 Establishing the special place of His presence His way
The LORD is to be honored as King and His presence taken very seriously.
He wants to personally meet with His people. The message of the Tabernacle

is that there is only One Way to the presence/forgiveness/eternal fellowship with the One Holy God—the Way He provides, ultimately through Christ.

2. 28-30 Respecting the representatives of His Holy Presence
God was preparing the world for the One Mediator, Jesus Christ.
3. 31 Concluding the preparation of the establishment of His presence
God empowers His workers. Rest is an important testimony.
4. 32 Loss of His presence through impatience leading to idolatry
Delay is one of the most challenging tests. God deals with unfaithfulness very seriously. He is passionate about our relationship. Each person is accountable for his or her actions and faith responses. God's leaders intercede for others.
5. 33-34 Moses valuing God's presence among them
Further revelation of who the LORD is, His Name, and His Glory, are given here in response to Moses' plea. Moses modeled the privilege provided in the New Covenant of direct communion with the LORD (the prophethood of all believers). God's people must value knowing Him more and more deeply.
6. 35-40 Consummation of His presence among them
 - a. 35-39 Carrying out the instructions
God's people have their part to do. They must obey His Word.
 - b. 40 His presence filling the Tabernacle
The culmination of all we do must be the experience of His presence among us.

CONCLUSION

- God wants to deliver us from bondage and establish us as His people, individually and corporately, by His presence with us and among us.
- God wants us to know Him as awesome in power and holiness and yet intimately personal, loving, and good.
- God wants us to take sin very seriously, as destroying us, and as costing the life of His Son.
- We need to submit to, depend on, and trust in God's sovereignty and yet make responsible choices knowing we will be held accountable.
- We need to let the challenges of life develop our faith and character and intimacy with God so that we learn more and more to simply trust and obey.
- We need to learn leadership principles from the life of Moses.
- We need to see our relationship to God like the agreements and expectations of a marriage.
- The healthy, godly, life is living out our love and gratefulness to God by choosing words and acts that reflect His values and character, and thus that treat people His way, valuing every person as made in His image.
- There should be nothing more important to us than the presence of God in our lives.
- We must let God lead us into the “place” of ministry and mission in this world that He has for us as His agents.