

THE BIG READ (26)

Jesus in Exodus

A. Introduction

1. Every book of the Bible has one dominating theme – Jesus is the Christ.

“Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’”
(Luke 24:45-47)

Jesus is the Christ who will suffer and die.

Jesus is the Christ who will rise from the dead on the third day.

Jesus is the Christ who will forgive the sins of all who repent.

Jesus is the Christ who will be preached to the nations.

2. The Old Testament that Jesus read contained the same 39 books as our English Bibles but was arranged in a different order.

It had three sections – the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings.

“Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” (Luke 24:44)

The Law (of Moses) contains the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

The Prophets contains the books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings (Former Prophets) and Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the book of the Twelve (Latter Prophets).

The Writings (or Psalms) contains Ruth, Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, and Chronicles.

3. The second book in the Law part of the Old Testament, Exodus, continues the story that began in Genesis.

The name Exodus means departure or the way out and refers to the main event of the book.

The name in Hebrew is “And these are the names of”, which comes from the opening words of the book.

“And” shows the book is a continuation of previous story.

“These are the names of” connects the book with Genesis, where this opening phrase first appears.

“These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt.” (Exodus 1:1)

“These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt.” (Genesis 46:8)

B. Getting Started with Exodus

1. Four hundred years had passed between the end of Genesis and the start of Exodus, in that time:

A family of 70 has become a nation.

“The descendant of Jacob numbered seventy in all.” (Exodus 1:5)

“But the Israelites were fruitful and multiplied greatly and became exceedingly numerous, so that the land was filled with them.” (Exodus 1:7)

Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them." (Exodus 2:23-25)

God calls Moses to lead His people out of Egypt.

"And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." (Exodus 3:9-10)

God demonstrates His power over Pharaoh and the gods he represents (every one of the plagues was an attack on a particular god worshipped by the Egyptians).

"Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me, or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no-one like me in all the earth.'" (Exodus 9:13-14)

God freed His people from slavery.

"During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested. Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me." (Exodus 12:31-32)

God led His people in the desert.

"So God led the people around by the desert road towards the Red Sea." (Exodus 13:18)

God defeats Pharaoh and his army.

"Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing towards it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen – the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore." (Exodus 14:26-30)

God provides for and protects His people as they travelled to Mount Sinai.

"Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day." (Exodus 16:4)

"I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." (Exodus 17:6)

3. After rescuing Israel from slavery in Egypt, God makes a covenant with His people.

God promises Israel that if they keep the covenant they would be His treasured possession, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

"Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all the nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." (Exodus 19:5-6)

God gives 10 Words for His saved people to obey – these 10 Words explain what it means for God to be their God and for them to be His people – distinguishing them from the other nations.

"And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have..." (Exodus 20:1-3)

In Exodus 20:22-23:33 (the judgments), the 10 Words are applied to a number of practical situations.

Israel committed themselves to obeying God's law during a covenant making ceremony.

"When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." (Exodus 24:3-7)

4. In the final section of Exodus, God comes to dwell in the midst of His people by giving instructions for the construction of the tabernacle.

God told Israel to build the Tabernacle so that He might dwell in their midst.

"Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you." (Exodus 25:8-9)

This was the reason why God rescued His people from Egypt.

"Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. They will know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God." (Exodus 29:45-46)

But Israel almost threw this privilege away by worshipping a golden calf.

"Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way." (Exodus 33:3)

God shows mercy and compassion to His rebellious people and says He will dwell with them.

"Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." (Exodus 33:15-17)

When the construction of the Tabernacle is finished, God comes and dwells in the midst of His people.

"Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle." (Exodus 40:34-35)

D. Jesus in Exodus

1. Jesus is the God who reveals Himself to Moses.

Jesus is the angel of the LORD in the burning bush.

"Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up...Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:1-2, 13-14)

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:58)

Jesus did signs to show the people who He was.

"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will

be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians." (Exodus 6:6-7)

"Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the LORD." (Exodus 10:1-2)

"This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him." (John 2:11)

2. Jesus is the true and better Moses.

He was protected after His birth.

He made a journey into and out of Egypt.

He went through water into the wilderness where He was tested.

He taught God's law.

He intercedes for His people.

He is willing to die for the sake of the people.

3. Jesus is the true and better Passover Lamb.

He has been sacrificed so that God's judgment would pass over all who trust in Him.

"The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

"Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast – as you really are. For Christ our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." (1 Corinthians 5:7)

4. Jesus is true and better Tabernacle.

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (John 1:14)

5. And Jesus is also...

The Pillar of Fire.

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

The Manna from Heaven.

"For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." (John 6:33)

The Rock struck at Horeb.

"They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ." (1 Corinthians 10:4)