

Exodus 1:1-2:25

Overview - The Setting: Growth and Oppression of Israel in Egypt

Here you find the two primary narratives that comprise the setting for the exodus: (1) the multiplication and subjection of the Israelites under Pharaoh, including infanticide in a vain attempt to control their population (ch. 1); (2) enter Moses, an Israelite who grows up as a privileged Egyptian but sides with his own people (2:1-15). Years later, as an escaped elderly outlaw settled in Sinai (vv 16 – 22), he is a most unlikely candidate for the role of deliverer of Israel (vv 23 – 25), picking up a central motif from Genesis.

Date	Text	Key Word / Verse
Sept 1	Exodus 1	
Sept 2	Exodus 2:1-10	
Sept 3	Exodus 2:11-25	

Small Group Resources

- **Sermon Option**
 - Re-watch the two Exodus Bible Project videos
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jH_aojNJM3E
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNpTha80yyE>
 - Small Group questions are provided in the Sunday, Sept. 4 bulletin
- **Reading Schedule Option**
 - Week 2 (pages 11-18) from “Exodus: A 12 – Week Study” by Matthew R. Newkirk

Exodus 3:1-6:27

Overview – The Call and Commission of Moses

Watch for several important features in this narrative: God's revelation of himself to the unsuspecting Moses, including the disclosure of his name (Yahweh, “the one who causes to exist”; translated in small capitals [LORD] in most English versions); God’s repeated announcement that he had seen the misery of his people in Egypt and intends to deliver them by his mighty power; Moses’ is fourfold “thanks but no thanks” response to the call; And his first encounter with Pharaoh, which leads to increased oppression and Israel’s rejection of Moses. The startling episode in 4:24-26 reminds us that Moses as an Israelite father had not even circumcised his own son, so poorly was he prepared for this task.

Date	Text	Key Word / Verse
Sept 5	Exodus 3	
Sept 6	Exodus 4:1-17	
Sept 7	Exodus 4:18-31	
Sept 8	Exodus 5	
Sept 9	Exodus 6:1-12	
Sept 10	Exodus 6:13-27	

Small Group Resources

- **Sermon Option:**
 - Small Group questions are provided in the Sunday, Sept. 11 bulletin
- **Reading Schedule Option:**
 - Week 3 (pages 19-26) from “Exodus: A 12 – Week Study” by Matthew R. Newkirk

Exodus 6:28-15:21

Overview – The Miraculous Deliverance from Bondage

This narrative is in four parts, each blending into the next. Watch for them as you read. First is the confrontation with Pharaoh (6:28-11:10), which begins with Aaron's staff becoming a serpent and swallowing those of the Egyptian sorcerers (perhaps echoing the curse of the serpent in Eden), followed by nine plagues and the announcement of the tenth; each of these strikes at the heart of Egyptian idolatry and arrogance.

The second part versus is a careful weaving together of the institution of the Passover and that actual narrative of the tenth plague. The reason for the instruction here is that the Passover meal is to be an annual celebration in which the momentous event of deliverance is recounted. Notice also the foreshadowing of redemption through the shedding of blood, which in the New Testament happens when God's "firstborn" sheds his blood (Col. 1:15-20), as he assumes the role of the lamb and thus lives out the narrative in reverse.

Part 3 is the account of the exodus itself (12:31-14:31). Note especially how reminders of the first two parts are carefully woven into this narrative: it begins with additional Passover regulations and the law of the firstborn; the actual crossing of the Red Sea involves one final confrontation with Pharaoh - and ends with the demise of his whole army. Here also you are introduced to the *grumbling* motif (14:10-12; cf. 5:21) that will become the main theme of the next section of narrative.

Part 4 is the celebratory song of Moses, Israel, and Miriam (15:1-21). Note that it begins as a celebration of the triumph of God the warrior over Pharaoh and his gods (vv. 1-12) and concludes by anticipating the same victory in the conquest of Canaan (vv. 13-16) and Yahweh's future settled presence in Zion (vv. 17-18; cf. Ps 68). It may be helpful to note how often this aspect of God's victory continued to be celebrated in Israel's hymns (Neh. 9:9-11; Pss 66:5-7; 78:12-13; 106:8-12; 114:3,5; 136:10-15).

Date	Text	Key Word / Verse
Sept 12	Exodus 6:28-7:24	
Sept 13	Exodus 8-10	
Sept 14	Exodus 11-12:30	
Sept 15	Exodus 12:31	
Sept 16	Exodus 12:31-14:31	
Sept 17	Exodus 15	

Small Group Resources

- **Sermon Option:**
 - Small Group questions are provided in the Sunday, Sept. 18 bulletin
- **Reading Schedule Option:**
 - Week 4 (pages 27-34) from "Exodus: A 12 – Week Study" by Matthew R. Newkirk

Exodus 15:22-18:27

Overview – The Journey to Mount Sinai

The first thing you meet after Israel's great deliverance is a series of three episodes in the desert in which the people grumble against Moses and thus test God (15:22-17:7); these episodes foreshadow many such moments throughout the rest of the story. This is followed by their first encounter with opposition along the way (17:8-16), which also anticipates further encounters of this kind, as well as the future leadership of Joshua. The story of Moses as he takes Jethro's advice about shared leadership, especially for judging (ch. 18), not only prepares for the later organization of the tribes but also for many of the laws in the Book of the Covenant (21:1-23:19; e.g., 21:6, 22: 22:8-9).

Date	Text	Key Word / Verse
Sept 19	Exodus 15:22-27	
Sept 20	Exodus 16:1-18	
Sept 21	Exodus 16:19-30	
Sept 22	Exodus 17:1-7	
Sept 23	Exodus 17:8-16	
Sept 24	Exodus 18	

Small Group Resources

- **Sermon Option:**
 - Small Group questions are provided in the Sunday, Sept. 25 bulletin
- **Reading Schedule Option:**
 - Week 5 (pages 35-42) from "Exodus: A 12 – Week Study" by Matthew R. Newkirk

Exodus 19:1-24:11

Overview – The Covenant at Sinai

The prelude (ch. 19) is especially significant to the narrative. Note how it begins (vv. 3-6). Here God combines his deliverance of Israel “on eagles’ wings” (v. 4) with the call to obedience and his adoption of them as his own treasured possession (much of the language in these verses is picked up by New Testament writers with reference to the church). The rest takes the form of a great theophany, with the reminder of the awful distance between the holy and living God and his people.

Note also that God speaks the Ten Commandments (the “Ten Words” 20:1-17) directly to the people (20:18-21) - a sign of their primacy. Here fundamental responsibilities to both God and neighbor are addressed in proper order (first “vertical”, then “horizontal”). When the people plead for indirect communication with God, the first order of business is to repeat the injunction against idolatry (20:22-26).

The Book of the Covenant (chs. 21-23) gives specifics as to what the Ten Words mean in practice. Note that they primarily cover various aspects of societal living - treatment of slaves/servants (standing first in order and in stark contrast to their conditions in Egypt), compensations and penalties for injuries, property law, rape, fairness in dealings with others, and worship. They conclude with a promise of divine guidance and the eventual conquest of Canaan, predicated on the people's obedience to the covenant (23:20-33). The covenant is ratified by Israel's consent, the sprinkling of blood, and the theophanic meal for Israel's elders in the presence of God (24:1-11).

Date	Text	Key Word / Verse
Sept 26	Exodus 19	
Sept 27	Exodus 20	
Sept 28	Exodus 21	
Sept 29	Exodus 22	
Sept 30	Exodus 23	
Oct 1	Exodus 24:1-11	

Small Group Resources

- **Sermon Option:**
 - Small Group questions are provided in the Sunday, oct. 2 bulletin
- **Reading Schedule Option:**
 - Week 8 (pages 59-66) from “Exodus: A 12 – Week Study” by Matthew R. Newkirk

Exodus 24:12-31:18

Overview – Instructions regarding the Tabernacle

As you read these instructions, keep in mind the reason for their many and very precise details - that the Tabernacle will be the place of God's presence among them. This is not only said expressly (25:8, 22; cf. Lev 16:2), but it also accounts for the order of the instructions. The ark, where Yahweh dwells between the cherubim (25:22; cf. Lev 16:2), stands in the first place, followed by the table on which will sit “the bread of the Presence (25:30). All the rest of the furnishings, including the bronze altar and the priests’ attire, are predicated on the primary reality that Yahweh has chosen to dwell here on earth in the midst of his people. Note, for example, that the rest reason for the priests’ attire is “to give him them dignity and honor” (28:2, 40). And when you come to Leviticus, you will see that the reason for the bronze altar is for sacrifices, so that the priests may approach Yahweh on behalf of the people. Note how this section ends with the renewal of the Sabbath commandment, which is related especially to Yahweh’s “rest” (repeated here because this is God's gift to former slaves who worked all day, every day of the week).

Date	Text	Key Word / Verse
Oct 3	Exodus 24:12-25:40	
Oct 4	Exodus 26	
Oct 5	Exodus 27	
Oct 6	Exodus 28	
Oct 7	Exodus 29	
Oct 8	Exodus 30-31:18	

Small Group Resources

- **Sermon Option:**
 - Small Group questions are provided in the Sunday, Oct. 9 bulletin
- **Reading Schedule Option:**
 - Week 9 (pages 67-74) from “Exodus: A 12 – Week Study” by Matthew R. Newkirk

Exodus 32:1-34:35

Overview – Rebellion, covenant Breaking, Covenant Renewal

Note the contrast: While Moses is atop Sinai receiving instructions from the place of Yahweh's dwelling among them, his brother is below, leading the people in constructing and worshipping idols (32:1-26) – although not that they are allegedly worshipping Yahweh (v. 5). Punishment (32:27-29) is followed by Moses' intercession for the people, thus securing God's promise that his own Presence will accompany them and thus distinguish them from all other peoples (32:30-33:23). This is the significance of including the brief narratives about the Tent of Meeting (33:7-11) and the (foretaste) vision of God's glory and the (foretaste) vision of God's glory (33:18-23). In chapter 34, the covenant is renewed (vv. 1-28; a brief condensation of the Book of the Covenant [chs. 21-23] is included) in the context of another significant theophany. The language of Yahweh's self-revelation in verses 4-7 is one of the more important moments in the biblical story and is appealed to throughout the rest of the Old Testament. The concluding narrative - having to do with Moses emerging from the tent of meeting with a face that radiates God's glory (34:29-35; cf. 2 Cor 3) - anticipates the glory that will descend on the tabernacle when it is finished (40:34-38).

Date	Text	Key Word / Verse
Oct 10	Exodus 32	
Oct 11	Exodus 33:1-6	
Oct 12	Exodus 33:7-11	
Oct 13	Exodus 33:12-23	
Oct 14	Exodus 34:1-28	
Oct 15	Exodus 34:29-35	

Small Group Resources

- **Sermon Option:**
 - Small Group questions are provided in the Sunday, Oct. 16 bulletin
- **Reading Schedule Option:**
 - Week 10 (pages 75-82) from "Exodus: A 12 – Week Study" by Matthew R. Newkirk

Exodus 35:1-39:43

Overview – The Construction of the Tabernacle and Its Furnishings

This lengthy repetition of the matters from chapters 25 - 31 serves further to highlight the significance of the Tabernacle as the place of Yahweh's presence. Note that the order changes slightly so that the Tabernacle will be in place before the symbol of the Presence (namely, the ark) is constructed. But it begins with the Sabbath command (35:1-3). Even something as important as the construction of the tabernacle must not supersede the gift of the Sabbath.

Date	Text	Key Word / Verse
Oct 17	Exodus 35:1-29	
Oct 18	Exodus 35:30-36:7	
Oct 19	Exodus 36:8-38	
Oct 20	Exodus 37	
Oct 21	Exodus 38	
Oct 22	Exodus	

Small Group Resources

- **Sermon Option:**
 - Small Group questions are provided in the Sunday, Oct. 23 bulletin
- **Reading Schedule Option:**
 - Week 11 (pages 83-90) from "Exodus: A 12 – Week Study" by Matthew R. Newkirk

Exodus 40

Overview – The Tabernacle is Set Up and the Glory Descends

Note how this final event in Exodus follows the preceding pattern: Instructions on setting up the tabernacle (vv. 1-16), followed by the implementation (vv. 17-33). All of this so that the glory of Yahweh - the same glory that had so impressed the Israelites when it was seen on Mount Sinai - might fill the Tabernacle (v.34; cf. 1 Kgs 8:10-11), taking the form of a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night (v. 38), a constant visible reminder of God's presence with his people.

Date	Text	Key Word / Verse
Oct 24	Exodus 40	
Oct 25	Exodus 40:1-16	
Oct 26	Exodus 40:17-33	
Oct 27	Exodus 40:34-38	
Oct 28	Exodus 40	

Small Group Resources

- **Sermon Option:**
 - Small Group questions are provided in the Sunday, Oct. 30 bulletin
- **Reading Schedule Option:**
 - Week 12 (pages 91-96) from “Exodus: A 12 – Week Study” by Matthew R. Newkirk