

The Bible Notebook

EXODUS

The Drama of Redemption

Outline and Notes

By

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“Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of My people in Egypt, and have heard them crying out because of their oppressors, and I know about their sufferings.

“I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and to bring them from that land to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey” (Ex 3:7-8, HCSB).

STUDY THE BIBLE

Around 1970, I prepared an outline, with some notes, on the Book of Exodus. In preparing a study to be used for the Southern Baptist Winter Bible Conference (January Bible Study), I find that I will be teaching this material to a totally different culture in America. Children come to school using language they hear every day at home that would have shocked their grandparents. The culture in which I grew up could not imagine the time when one would ask a seventh grade student about his older sister, and expect him to say, "Oh, she moved in with her boy friend." Teachers today expect language about body parts and body functions to be blurred out in classroom or in the school cafeteria today. The same language would have gotten older teachers kicked out of school if they had used those words, but many of the younger teachers use the same language. One father of a small child lamented the fact that he could not permit his daughter to visit her friends from church because of the kind of movies the other parents permit in their homes.

Language that would have been considered immoral, obscene, and offensive in my youth have been incorporated into movies, music, and television programs today. My wife is a teacher and my older son is the juvenile prosecutor for the District Attorney's office where he lives. When I first taught the Book of Exodus the classroom teacher took care of discipline problems in the classroom, and if a student gave her too much trouble she sent him to the principal's office. Today, the vice-principal in charge of discipline at a large high school, confers regularly with district attorney's office to be sure that discipline at school and probation out side of school can be coordinated. The unthinkable has become thinkable.

What is the answer? To some, the answer seems to be that we should reinvent the church to keep it more in line with the times. For others, the answer might be to rewriting the by-laws of their church to accommodate the deacon who has been married three or four times, or the homosexual who wants to work with children in Sunday School.

What is the answer? To this writer, the answer is hard-core Bible preaching, hard-core Bible teaching, and hard-core Bible study. By hard-core, I mean getting serious about the Word of God. Study it, pray about it, trust the Holy Spirit to help with the interpretation and application of it. Those who may be tempted to water down the Scripture should remember that when the multitudes turned and followed Jesus no more, He did not water down His message. He did not tone it down to keep from offending believers or unbelievers.

What is the answer? Study and teach the Book of Exodus, making every effort to understand the history, doctrines, and spiritual lessons that are so clearly taught. Then, prayerfully make an application of the message of this book daily, at home, at work, and at play.

Paul encouraged Timothy to "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth" (2 Tim 2:15, HCSB). Those who really want to learn the Word of God must spend time with it. First, they must be convinced that they need to study the Word of God, and convincing people of that is becoming a greater challenge as

America moves deeper and deeper into the post-Christian era in her history.

Francis Schaeffer and C. Everett Koop, coauthored, *Whatever Happened to the Human Race*, a book in which they focus on many of the problems that have developed since America began moving away from a Christian world view and embraced a secular, or sociological world view. In their book, they discuss the difference between the “thinkable” and the “unthinkable”, and warn that what may be unthinkable in one generation may be completely thinkable in the next. To illustrate, the point out that

“the Hippocratic Oath which goes back 2,000 years, has traditionally been taken by graduates of American medical schools at the time of their commencement. The Declaration of Geneva (adopted September 1948 by the General Assembly of the World Medical Organization and modeled closely on the Hippocratic Oath) became used as the graduation oath by more and more medical schools. It includes, ‘I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of conception.’ This concept of the preservation of human life has been the basis of the medical profession and society in general. It is significant that when the University of Pittsburgh changed from the Hippocratic Oath to the Declaration of Geneva in 1971, the students deleted ‘from the time of conception’, from the clause beginning: ‘I will maintain the utmost respect for human life.’ Others have dropped ‘from the time of conception’ from their oath” [p. 283, Vol 5, The Complete Works of Francis Schaeffer].

Let’s face it, that which is thinkable today would have been unthinkable fifty years ago. What has happened to our society, our culture? Schaeffer said, “Humanism has replaced Christianity as the consensus of the West” [Schaeffer and Koop, p. 284].

‘The Bible teaches that man is made in the image of God and therefore is unique. Remove that teaching, as humanism has done..., and there is no adequate basis for treating people well.... The loss of the Christian consensus has led to a long list of inhuman actions and attitudes which may seem unrelated but actually are not. They are the direct result of the loss of the Christian consensus.

INTRODUCTION

Exodus is the second book of the Bible, the second book of the Law (Torah, Pentateuch). In this study it is assumed that Moses is the human author, but the important thing to remember is that God is the divine Author. The Book of Exodus is the miraculous story of the Lordship of God over history, over nature, and over Cultures, over man. It is the story of divine redemption, and from beginning to end we find foreshadows of Jesus and the Cross. The deliverance from bondage would

be associated, not only with the actual deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt, but a picture of the redemption we find in Jesus from the slavery to sin and death.

It is absolutely essential that we “get it right” here, and that we understand that the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) is the foundation for the rest of the Bible. If you throw out Creation by the Creator, you might as well throw out Eschatology (the study of last things) because if you do not have a Creator at the beginning you cannot have a Judge at the end. Why try to figure out all the imagery of Revelation? And, if you do not have a Creator or a Judge, why do we need a Redeemer in the middle? You might as well throw out the Gospels as well. With that in mind, let us connect a few of the dots in the Scripture.

THE FALL. The first major recorded even following Creation was the Fall. The late Francis Schaeffer used to drive home this point in personal letters, books, and lectures. As he said, nothing has been normal since the Fall. Before the Fall, Adam and Eve lived in a paradise called Eden, where they walked in the cool of the day with their Creator, talked with Him, had fellowship with Him. They were “with” Him in a special and unique sense. They lived in His presence. The Fall ended that. Adam and Eve died when they disobeyed God. They were driven from His presence, but only after God promised the possibility of redemption (Gen. 3:15).

THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD. God did not withdraw His presence from the world, not His provisions for man. However, from the time of the Fall onward, God’s presence was symbolized in various ways for a very long time. Following the Exodus, Yahweh told Moses to build Him a tabernacle (tent, dwelling place). He had two million people living in tabernacles, tents, shacks, or possibly sleeping out under the stars. The Tabernacle was a reminder that God was with His people. His presence was symbolized in other ways as well (pillar of clouds, pillar of fire, parting of the Red Sea, water from a rock). Above all, the Lord promised that His presence would be above the covering (mercy seat) of the Ark of the Covenant, between the two Cherabim.

The Tabernacle continued to symbolize the presence of the Lord with his people throughout the wilderness wanderings, the Conquest of Canaan, the Period of the Judges, and into the Period of the Kings. Then the day came when Yahweh gave specific instructions for the construction of a Temple, which would then be the symbol of His presence with His people. However, the Israelites in time placed greater value in the Temple than the Lord of the Temple. The Lord commanded Jeremiah to say to His Chosen People: “This is what the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Correct your ways and your deeds, and I will allow you to live in this place. Do not trust deceitful words, chanting: This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord” (Jer 7:3-4). The Lord warned the people over and over that if they did not repent and obey Him the temple would be destroyed and they would be taken into captivity for seventy years. They refused to listen, preferring to believe that the presence of the Temple would force God to defend them. Little did they understand that God can build another Temple. That Temple, the Second Temple (built under the leadership of Zerubbabel and dedicated in 516 B.C.) did not house the Ark of the Covenant, however. Speculation about the Ark of the Covenant continues today but one possibility is that it was destroyed for the gold, and the Lord told Jeremiah that the people were not to rebuild it.

If that is the right interpretation, the city of Jerusalem would be the symbol of the Lord's presence with His people for a long period of time. There would come a time when the presence of the Lord would no longer be symbolized: it would be realized. John, who was an eyewitness, was inspired to write: "The Word became flesh and **took up residence among us**. We observed His glory, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14, HCSB, bold added by this writer). The Word is Jesus, who is introduced to us in John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John says that Jesus, who is one with God, "took up residence among us". When God told Moses to build him a tabernacle in the wilderness, He was symbolically saying, "I am taking up residence with you." That which was symbolized in the wilderness is realized in Jesus. He lived among the Chosen People for 33 years.

It gets even better! Jesus promised that after He returned to heaven He would send the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, to indwell all believers at the time of their salvation. Right now, today, all born-again believers in Jesus Christ are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The presence of God is not symbolized, it is realized right now. Today!

It gets even better than that! John was blessed with the Revelation of Jesus Christ after he was exiled to Patmos. The Revelation offers hope until Jesus returns for His church. In chapter 21, there is a promise we should not miss, and it completes this story:

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and **the sea existed no longer**. I also saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look! **God's dwelling is with men, and He will live with them**. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God" (Rev 21:1-3, HCSB, bold added by this writer).

The promise that all believers will spend eternity in the presence of the Lord in Heaven could not be stated any more clearly. There is one interesting point that we should not overlook, and that is the reference to the sea. In Revelation 4, we see the picture of the throne room of heaven, and in that passage there is a statement that might be easily overlooked: "Also before the throne was something like **a sea of glass**, similar to crystal" (Rev 4:6, bold added by this writer). Please note that in chapter four there is a sea of glass before the throne, but in chapter 21 the sea no longer exists. In the OT, God's presence with His people was symbolized. In Jesus, His presence is realized, but when we are with him in Heaven we shall see Him as He is because we will have been glorified and we will have a capacity to see Him that is lacking in the most godly person today.

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT. What happened to the Ark of the Covenant? Was it destroyed, or did a group of Levites hide it before Babylon breached the walls of the city in 586 B.C.? I have read about the secret African group that is supposed to have been guarding the Ark of the

Covenant since it was committed to their care somewhere around 586 B. C. I also remember the excitement generated by the movie, *The Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Theories continue to come to the surface that generate interest. For example, The *Word Net Daily* electronic newsletter of September 9, 2008 carries an article by David Flynn in which he claims to have deciphered the mystery:

In "Temple at the Center of Time: Newton's Bible Codex Deciphered and the Year 2012," by David Flynn, a book that has skyrocketed up the best-seller charts before its official release later this month, says his studies of the Temple Mount strongly suggest the Ark will be found at Mount Nebo in Jordan.

The discovery would be the greatest archeological find ever – as has been suggested in popular movies such as "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

In "Temple at the Center of Time," Flynn makes the case that the Temple Mount, the home of the Jewish temples, was not just a place of religious worship. It is also is a roadmap to future events – a kind of prophetic landmark whose significance is only now revealed through the development of satellite imagery.

The book asserts it has "deciphered Isaac Newton's greatest paradox: None other than 'the unified field theory' of Bible prophecy."

Sir Isaac Newton was not only a great thinker in physics, the book explains, but had extensive knowledge of the Scriptures with a special interest in prophecy. Newton believed there was a hidden code, a type of time-encrypted language. He believed the key to deciphering this code was the Temple of Solomon. He wrote extensively on the length measurements of the Temple and suggested it intersected time and dimension, serving as a prophetic and supernatural structure.

According to Flynn, although Newton never cracked this code, he was on the right track and was limited only by the lack of sophisticated satellite technology [Word New Daily, Sept. 8, 2008, an excerpt].

Now, between David Flynn and Indiana Jones, is it possible that we will soon have all the answers we need? What about those theories that the Ark was destroyed by the Babylonians? Read what the Lord told Jeremiah to tell the Israelites before they were taken into captivity in Babylon:

"I will give you shepherds who are loyal to Me, and they will shepherd you with knowledge and skill. When you multiply and increase in the land, in those days"—the Lord's declaration—"no one will say any longer: **The ark of the Lord's covenant.** It will never come to mind, and no one will remember or miss it. **It will never again be made.** At that time **Jerusalem will be called, The Lord's Throne,** and all the nations will be gathered to it, to the name of the Lord in Jerusalem" (Jer 3:15-17, HCSB, bold added by this writer).

Personally, I believe this may well be the key to the mystery. The Ark of the Covenant had been the great symbol of God's presence with His Chosen People for centuries, but when they returned from Babylon under Zerubbabel to build a new temple, there would be no Ark of the Covenant in the Most Holy Place. From that time until the coming of the Messiah, Jerusalem would be the symbol of His presence. Now, having said that, if someone "discovers" the Ark of the Covenant on Mt. Nebo, or on that hidden island in Africa, and they can convince both Jewish and Christian scholars that it is authentic, I will rejoice with them.

THE REDEMPTION OF THE LORD. Every division in the Tabernacle was a testimony to the saving presence of the Lord, a testimony to, and a promise of His redemption. The Holy Place contained sacred furniture and other things necessary for sacrifices, and in the Most Holy Place the high priest entered one time a year to make atonement from himself and for the people. This was in a real sense the a promise of One who was coming who would be the Perfect High Priest as well as the once and for all time sacrifice for the sins of the world. He is the superior High Priest, and the once-for-all sacrifice for our sins. Look at the way the writer of Hebrews compares the earthly high priest who had to offer a sacrifice for his own sins as well as those of the people:

"**For every high priest taken from men** is appointed in service to God for the people, to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. (2) He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. (3) Because of this, **he must make a sin offering for himself as well as for the people.** (4) No one takes this honor on himself; instead, a person is called by God, just as Aaron was. (5) In the same way, the **Messiah did not exalt Himself to become a high priest**, but the One who said to Him, You are My Son; today I have become Your Father, (6) also said in another passage, **You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.**

(7) During His earthly life, He offered prayers and appeals, with loud cries and tears, to the One who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. (8) Though a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. (9) After He was perfected, **He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,** (10) and He was declared by God a high priest "in the order of Melchizedek" (Heb 5:1-10, HCSB, bold added by this writer).

THE REDEEMER. As one reads the Book of Exodus it will help imagine that we might be able to put the entire sacrificial system, complete with the high priest, supporting priests, sacrifices, offerings, and the Ark of the Covenant, and put all of this on a DVD, and then turn project that onto a screen, we would see Jesus - Christ crucified, buried, raised from the dead, ascended to the Father, seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us, ready to return for His bride, the church. To illustrate this, all we have to do is read the passage in Numbers 21 about the Lord sending poisonous serpents to bite the people who had rebelled against Him, and then read it in the Gospel According to John:

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life. ‘For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life’ (John 3:14-16).

GREAT EVENTS IN HISTORY. There was a time when I enjoyed passing the time by recalling the greatest generals in history, or the greatest Kings in history. I might list most anything, but one of my favorite exercises was listing the greatest men (or women) in history, or the greatest happenings in the history of the world. You may prepare your own list, or amend this one, but consider these from the Bible:

(1)	CREATION	(Adam and Eve)
(2)	THE FALL	(Adam and Eve)
(3)	THE FLOOD	(Noah)
(4)	CALL OF ABRAHAM	(Abraham)
(5)	INCUBATION FO A NATION	(430 years in Egypt)
(6)	THE EXODUS	(Moses, 14th Century B. C.)
(7)	CONQUEST OF CANAAN	(Joshua)
(8)	PERIOD OF THE JUDGES	(Samson, Gideon, Deborah, Samuel)
(9)	TRANSITION TO KINGS	(Samuel, the pivotal character)
(10)	PERIOD OF THE KINGDOM	(David, whose star still adorns the flag of Israel)
(11)	DIVIDED KINGDOMS	(Israel, Jeroboam I; Judah, Rehoboam)
(12)	DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL	(Sargon II of Assyria, 722 B. C.)
(13)	BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY	(Jeremiah, the great prophet of the era)
(14)	MESSIANIC HOPE	(Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah)
(15)	RISE AND FALL OF NATIONS	(Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome)
(16)	JESUS CHRIST	(Incarnation, life, crucifixion, resurrection)
(17)	PENTECOST	(Coming of the Holy Spirit)
(18)	ACTS 1:8 IMPLEMENTED	(Peter, John, Paul, and millions more)
(20)	RETURN OF CHRIST	(John 14:1-6; 1 & 2 Thessalonians; Revelation)

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. The Book of Exodus is an action packed historical narrative, but it is much more than that. As we study Exodus we will be able to relate its message to the message of the New Testament. I like to think that when we read about the sacrificial system handed down by Yahweh at Sinai, if you could capture all of it on a DVD and insert the disk into a player, what you would see on the screen is Jesus on the Cross. If you could capture the Law, which was given through Moses on that Mountain of Fire on a DVD and play it back, we would have a picture of Jesus, the Law Giver, seated on a mount in Galilee, delivering the Sermon on the Mount. He would be saying, “You have heard from them of old....but I say unto you...”

We will see countless lessons on faith, faithfulness, obedience, respect for the rights of others, the

ethical treatment of animals, honesty, integrity, and the many laws fulfilled in the Two Great Commandments spelled out by Jesus: That we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and that we should love our neighbor as we love our self. We learn about righteousness, as well as sin and judgment.

We learn that there is but one God: many gods who are not gods, but one God who, in the words of Francis Schaeffer, is *The God Who Is There* (the title of his first book). Significantly, *He Is There and He Is Not Silent*" (the title of his third book).

This study guide was first prepared in the early seventies and edited in 1978, with the layperson in mind. For that reason, the basic outline was prepared using only the Scripture. Many quotes in the early edition are from the NASB, KJV, and the TEV, but in this revision the primary additions and changes will be in the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HVSb).

Previous study guides were prepared after weeks, and even months of research and study. After my notes were completed, a digest of my research material was prepared and printed for others to use. In time, I rewrote some studies and then wrote numerous volumes, which in time were included in The Bible Notebook, verse by verse commentaries now posted on the Pastor Life.Com web site (edited by Dr. Mike Minnix, Georgia Baptist Convention).

NOTE: I was attending a board of trustees meeting for LifeWay Christian Resources in Glorieta, NM, a few years ago when Tim Vineyard, Vice President over the Technology Division at LifeWay, unveiled *The Bible Navigator*, a new program developed by his team. Tim and his leaders within the Technology Division are constantly upgrading The Bible Navigator. The Bible Navigator features many translations of the Bible (including the HCSB), dictionaries, atlases, commentaries, and other resources. I would recommend the Bible Navigator to any serious student of the Word of God. There are other very good programs as well.

PART ONE

Oppression in Egypt, 1:1-2:25

- I. The Descendants of Jacob Had Become Numerous and Strong, 1:1-7.
 - A. There were seventy in the family when they settled in the land of Goshen.
 - B. After 400 years there were possibly as many as 2 million Israelites in Egypt.
- II. The Number and Strength of the Israelites Was Alarming to the New Pharaoh, 1:8-22.

A. The Israelites were forced into slavery to break their spirit through hard labor.

B. Extreme measures were taken to control the population.

III. The Birth and Deliverance of Moses Shows that God Was Preparing to Deliver Israel, 22:1-10.

A. Moses' mother put him in a basket and hid him in reeds at the river's edge.

B. He was discovered by Pharaoh's daughter and rescued.

C. His own mother was enlisted to nurse him.

D. Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and reared him with all the advantages of royalty.

IV. Moses Flees to Midian, 2:11-22.

A. Moses killed an Egyptian who was abusing a Hebrew slave.

B. When Pharaoh sought to have Moses killed he fled to Midian.

1. He befriended the daughter of Jethro, priest of Midian.

2. He married Zipporah, Jethro's daughter.

3. He was 40 years old when he went to Midian and stayed there 40 years.

V. The Cry of the Israelites in Egypt Was Heard By Yahweh, 2:23-25.

[See Study # 1 at the end of this outline]

PART TWO

Yahweh Delivers His People, Chs. 3-12

I. God Calls Moses to Deliver His Chosen People from Bondage in Egypt, 3:1-4:17.

A. God speaks to Moses from the burning bush, 3:1-10.

[See Study # II at the end of this outline]

- B. God answers Moses' excuses, 3:11-13.
- C. Yahweh Identifies Himself to Moses, 3:14-17.

[See Study # III at the end of this outline]

- D. He gives specific instructions to Moses, 3:18-22.
 - E. Yahweh gives Moses miraculous power, 4:1-17.
- II. Moses Returns to Egypt as the Lord Commands, 4:18-31.
- A. The Lord sends him back to deliver Israel, 4:18-26.
 - B. Aaron is sent out to meet his brother Moses, 4:27-28.
 - C. Moses and Aaron gather the people and tell them what God had promised, 4:29-31.
- III. Moses and Aaron Go to Pharaoh to Demand the Release of the Israelites, 5:1-19.
- A. They deliver the message from Yahweh, 5:1-3.
 - B. Pharaoh responds by increasing the oppression, 5:4-19.
 - C. The people complain to Moses, who complains to Yahweh, 5:20-23.
- IV. The Call of Moses Is Reaffirmed By Yahweh, 6:1-30.
- A. He remembers the covenant, 6:1-9.
 - B. Moses is told to go back to Pharaoh, 6:10-13.
 - C. The family record of Moses and Aaron is given, 6:14-27.
 - D. God calls Moses and he protests again, 6:28-30.
- V. The Power of Yahweh Is Unleashed Against Pharaoh and Egypt, Chapters 7-11.
- VI. The Passover Is established to Honor Yahweh's Deliverance, 12:1-51.

- A. The requirements for Passover are outlined, 12:1-14.
- B. The Festival of Unleavened Bread is established, 12:15-20.
- C. The first Passover is observed in Egypt, 12:21-28.
- D. Pharaoh is finally persuaded to let God's people leave Egypt, 12:29-37.
 - 1. There were about two million Israelites who leave Egypt.
 - 2. This ended a 430 year period in which the Children of Israel lived in Egypt.
- E. Further guidelines for Passover are given, 12:43-51.

PART THREE

From Egypt to Sinai, Chapters 13-18

- I. Observance of the Festival of Unleavened Bread Is Ordered By the Lord, 13:1-16.
 - A. Dedication of the first born is demanded, 13:1-2 & 11-16.
 - B. Regulations are given for the Festival of Unleavened Bread, 13:3-10.
- II. God Provides Protection and Direction as Israel Leaves Egypt, 13:17-22.
(Pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night)

[See Study # V at the end of this outline]

- III. God's Sovereignty Over Men and Elements Manifested in the Crossing of the Red Sea, 14:1-31.
 - A. The Lord hardens the heart of Pharaoh and he pursues Israel, 14:1-20.
 - 1. The Lord proves Himself to Israel.
 - 2. He proves Himself to the Egyptians.
 - B. Yahweh parts the waters so Israel can cross on dry ground, 14:21-22.
 - C. The Egyptians follow Israel and drown when God releases the water on them, 14:23-31.

IV. The Song of Moses Celebrates the Crossing of the Red Sea and the Destruction of Pharaoh's Army, 15:1-21.

V. The Bitter Water Is Made Sweet at Marah, 15:22-27.

VI. Yahweh Provides Manna and Quail for the People to Eat, 16:1-36.

A. Specific instructions are given.

B. The Sabbath is to be strictly and faithfully observed.

VII. The Lord Provides Water from a Rock at Rephidim, 17:1-7.

VIII. Yahweh Gives Israel a Victory in a Battle Against the Amalakites, 17:8-16.

IX. Jethro Visits Moses at Rephidim, 18:1-27.

A. Jethro returns Moses' family and rejoices upon hearing all God has done, 18:1-12.

B. Jethro advises Moses to organize the people and delegate authority, 18:13-27.

PART FOUR

Organization and Legislation - Chapters 19-40 (Rules, regulations, laws, code of ethics)

[See Study # IV at the end of this outline]

I. Israel Makes Camp at the Foot of Mount Sinai and Moses Goes up to Meet God, 19:1-25.

A. God makes His presence known to Israel, 19:1-15.

1. The People must be purified.

2. They must recognize His holiness.

[See Study # 6 at the end of this outline]

B. Amidst smoke on the mountain, God speaks to Israel through Moses, 19:16-25.

II. The Ten Commandments are given to the people, 20:1-17.

III. Other Laws Are Proclaimed, 20:18 - 23:23:19.

List of laws and regulations:

1. Altars - 20:22-26.
2. Treatment of slaves, 21:1-11.
3. Violent acts, 21:12-27.
4. Responsibility of owners, 21:28-36.
5. Theft and penalties, 22:1-4.
6. Crop protection, 22:5-6.
7. Personal property, 22:7-15.
8. Seduction and penalties, 22:16-17.
9. Capital Offenses, 22:18-20.
10. Protection for those most vulnerable, 22:21-27.
11. Reverence for God, 22:28-31.
12. Honesty and justice, 23:1-9.
13. The Sabbath and festivals, 23:10-19.

[See Study # VII at the end of this outline]

IV. God Promises to Bless Israel if They Follow Him, 23:20-33.

V. The Lord Sealed His Covenant with Moses and Israel, 24:1-18.

VI. Yahweh Gives Directions for the Tabernacle and its facilities, 25:1-27:21.

1. Offerings for the sanctuary, 25:1-9 & 35:4-9.

2. The Ark of the Covenant, 25:10-22 & 37:1-9.
 3. Table for the bread offering, 25:23-30 & 37:10-16.
 4. The lampstand, 25:31-40 & 37:17-24.
- 5, The Tabernacle (Tent of the Covenant), 26:1-36 & 36:8-38.
6. The altar, 27:1-8 & 38:1-7.
 7. The enclosure, 27:9-19 & 38:9-20.
 8. Care of the lamp, 27:20-21 & Lev. 24:1-4.

VII. Dress of the High Priest Is Detailed, 27:1-43.
(Breastplate, sacred vest, robe, an embroidered shirt, turban, and a sash)

VIII. Instructions Are Given for Ordaining Aaron and His Sons as Priests, 29:1-37; Lev. 8:1-36.

IX. Requirements for the Daily Offering Are Given, 29:38-46 & Num. 28:1-8.

X. General Instructions Are Added, 30:1-31:18.

- A. Plans are given for the altar of burnt incense, 30:1-10 & 37:25-28.
- B. The tax for the Tabernacle is ordered, 30:11-16.
- C. General regulations include the bronze basin, anointing oil, and incense, 30:17-28.
- D. God appoints craftsmen to build the Tabernacle, 31:1-11 & 35:30 - 36:1.

XI. When Moses Delays His Return from the Mountain the People Turn to idols, 32:1-35.

- A. They turn to idolatry with all its associated vices.
- B. Yahweh threatens to destroy His Chosen People.
- C. Moses intercedes for the people.

XII. The Order Is Given to Leave Mount Sinai, 33:1-23.

- A. The Tabernacle was given priority.

B. The Lord promises to be with His covenant people.

XIII. A Second Set of Stone Tablets Are Given to Moses, 34:1-9 & Deut. 10:1-5.

XIV. The Covenant Is Renewed, 34:10-28.

XV. Instructions Are Given for Setting up and Dedicating the Tabernacle, 40:1-33.

CONCLUSION, 40:34-38.

“For the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and there was a fire inside the cloud by night, visible to the entire house of Israel throughout all the stages of their journey” (Ex 40:38, HCSB).

SPECIAL STUDIES

I. Yahweh Is the Lord of History

The Book of Exodus is the second book of the Law, or the Torah. It is not found in the history section in the Old Testament, but in the Pentateuch. However, when we read the book of Exodus we need to remind ourselves that we are reading real history. We are reading about real people involved in real events, at real place, at a real time in history.

A major theme of the Book of Exodus is the Lordship of Yahweh in history. His Lordship of history is clearly seen in His call of Abraham, His protection for the patriarchs, and His providential care for Israel. Dr. Roy Honnecutt wrote many years ago that the many themes in the Book of Exodus “have as their focus the revelation of the Lord’s power - His lordship over the totality of the created order: history, nature, and man.”

The origin and the history of the nation of Israel is a commentary on the Lordship of the Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer, Almighty God. His sovereignty is seen in:

1. The call of Abraham in Ur of the Chaldees .
 - a. The gift of the Promised Land to Abraham and his descendants.
 - b. The covenant made by God, and sustained by Him.
 - c. The promised son Isaac, whom we see hints of the Messiah (Heb. 11:17).
2. The Egyptian bondage.
 - a. The Lord used Joseph’s betrayal by his brothers and his eventual position in Egypt

- to secured a place for Israel in the land of Goshen, where they prospered.
- b. For generations, the Israelites multiplied and prospered.
 - c. They showed no desire to leave Egypt and go to the Land of Promise.
 - d. It took extreme oppression to prepare the Israelites to call or for deliverance.
3. The actual deliverance of Israel from bondage.
 - a. The ten plagues.
 - b. The crossing of the Red Sea.
 - c. The Ten Commandments.
 - d. The Tabernacle and the Sacrificial System
 4. The Conquest of Canaan under Joshua.
 - a. The crossing of the Jordan.
 - b. The military genius of Joshua.
 - c. Victories beyond the abilities of Joshua.
 - d. Allotment of the land.
 - e. The many times God delivered Israel during the Period of the Judges.

II. He Is the Deliverer (Redeemer)

The Book of Exodus is a story of deliverance, a drama of redemption. It is also the story of the One who delivers. The Lord heard the cry of His oppressed people and saw their bondage.

“Furthermore, **I have heard** the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are forcing to work as slaves, and **I have remembered My covenant**. ‘Therefore tell the Israelites: **I am Yahweh**, and **I will deliver you** from the forced labor of the Egyptians and free you from slavery to them. **I will redeem you** with an outstretched arm and great acts of judgment. **I will take you as My people**, and I will be your God. **You will know that I am Yahweh your God**, who delivered you from the forced labor of the Egyptians. I will bring you to the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you as a possession. **I am the Lord”** (Ex 6:5-8, HCSB, bold added).

When they were prosperous they did not call on Him to deliver them from Egypt or to return them to the Promised Land. When they were oppressed they cried out to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel). Sound familiar? He did not deliver them until they called on Him, but He had seen to it that they knew to call on Him. Read Romans 10:9-13 and see how that applies to those who needed to be redeemed today. Lost people do not discover through intellect, intuition, or quest their need for God any more than they distinguish between the true God and false gods on their own.

Through His creation, His Word, and His Spirit, he reveals Himself to man as the only hope of redemption from the slavery to sin and death.

1. List some parallels between God's deliverance of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt and His deliverance of sinners from bondage to sin and death. EXAMPLE: Millions today will not acknowledge that they are living in a bondage to sin and Satan, but they will not be delivered until they cry out to the Lord, believe in Jesus and repent. Those who cry out to him in faith will be redeemed.
2. Next, list some parallels between the work of Moses and the work of Jesus Christ. EXAMPLE: both were sent by God for the purpose of delivering people (redemption).
3. What are some of the other shadows of Calvary you find in Exodus? EXAMPLE: the Tabernacle and sacrifices.
4. How does the Passover relate to Calvary? Incidentally - or not so incidentally - the Passover has been observed for some 3400 years! See 12:43-51.
5. What significance do you see in God's command that the first born son be given to Him?

III. His Name Is Holy

Read the following passages (Holman Christian Standard Bible):

1. Ex. 3:13-14: "Then Moses asked God, 'If 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?' what should I tell them?" God replied to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you" (Ex. 3:13-14, HCSB). See also, 6:2-5; 20:
2. Ex. 20:7: "Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God, because the Lord will punish anyone who misuses His name." (Compare to the more familiar: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.") The HCSB intensifies the significance of this commandment to show that any misuse of the Lord's holy name is sin - not just using it in connection with other profane words).

3. Ex. 34:5-7: “The Lord came down in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed [His] name Yahweh. Then the Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed: **Yahweh—Yahweh is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand [generations]**, forgiving wrongdoing, rebellion, and sin. But He will not leave [the guilty] unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers’ wrongdoing on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation” (bold added by this writer).

Modern man can hardly appreciate the importance placed on names during Old Testament times. Names were often symbolic, denoting characteristics or reflecting one’s nature. At times, names were prophetic of future blessings or hopes. Look up Hosea’s children’s name and note their significance. Now look to Isaiah’s two sons to see why the Lord would assign names during that period. During the study, note the significance of the names Moses and Joshua.

The importance place on various names for God in the Old Testament demand our attention and our study. The true followers of Yahweh considered His name as an expression of His nature, and the various names by which He identifies Himself to His Chosen People imply significant messages about Him. The three most familiar names for God in the Old Testament are:

1. ELOHIM (God). This is name used most frequently in the OT for our Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer. The primary attribute implied by Elohim is power. This name was used of pagan gods of the period as well as by the Hebrews for their God. The word is plural, and to the pagans it signified their many gods. To Israel, however, it showed a magnification of the One God who is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. Some see in the plural a hint at the Trinity, but those holding a unitary theory of God quickly reject that. Muslims are taught that Christians worship three gods. That is absolutely not true. Christians worship the three in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: One God in Three Persons (One in essence, three in person). The world can never fathom the depth of the doctrine of the Trinity, but it is imperative that we understand and accept it.

2. ADONAI (Lord). This name emphasizes His sovereignty. It stress possession. To accept Him as Lord is to accept His ownership of all things (as in “the cattle upon a thousand hills”). This name recognizes His sovereignty over your life. The General Editor of the Holman Christian Standard Bible, Dr. Ed. Blum, met with the Broadman and Holman Committee during a meeting of the board of trustees for LifeWay Christian Resources when we made the decision to go forward with the new word-for-word translation. At lunch that day, Dr. Jimmy Draper (LifeWay president at the time) brought Dr. Blum to my table to answer a question a trustee had asked about the use of the word “slave” instead of the more familiar “servant” to show our relationship to Him. Dr. Blum assured him that the translators had used the right word, and then stressed, “If you are a Christian you belong to Jesus Christ. You were purchased with His blood.”

3. YAHWEH (YHWH). The original pronunciation is uncertain. Only the consonants (YHWH in English) have been preserved. Ancient scribes considered this name so sacred that they often did not print it, and the rabbis did not pronounce it when they came to it. They simply paused and then continued, knowing that the people would think of this holy name. What we have is a transliteration

of those consonants with vowels from the name Adonai inserted to give us the name Yahweh (or Jehovah). The name Yahweh is the verb “to be”. He is the God who is. The fullest significance of the name is, “I am who I am, I was who I was, and I will be who I will be.” A noted Hebrew scholar, the late Leo Eddleman, once assured this writer that there more implied in that name” “He is the source of His own existence. There is still more: He is the source of your existence.” Bible commentators stress that when Yahweh gave Israel His personal name, he was in essence, giving Himself to them. It doesn’t get any better than that! Then, maybe it does. That is the starting point, but we can spend a lifetime studying the significance of that name and never exhaust the significance of it. What becomes very clear is the danger in taking Yahweh lightly. The significance of His name is highlighted in the Revelation: “Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night they never stop, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is coming” (Rev 4:8).

Turn to Revelation 19 and read with great reverence the Hallelujahs which recognize all the attributes of our great God. You will say with them, “Amen! Hallelujah!” (Rev. 19:1-5).

IV. He is the Lord of the Elements

The Lord declares the entire earth to be His: “Now if you will listen to Me and carefully keep My covenant, you will be My own possession out of all the peoples, although all the earth is Mine” (Ex 19:5). Compare that verse to Psalm 33:6-9:

“The heavens were made by the word of the Lord, and all the stars, by the breath of His mouth.

“He gathers the waters of the sea into a heap; He puts the depths into storehouses.

“Let the whole earth tremble before the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

“For He spoke, and it came into being; He commanded, and it came into existence” (Ps 33:6-9, HCSB).

From the Book of Exodus, note God’s lordship over the elements. EXAMPLE: The burning bush which was not being consumed.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

5.

V. His Presence Is Revealed

Read Exodus 13:17ff; 16:6-10; 28:29-30; 40:34-38. Note your thoughts about the presence of the Lord in

1. Old Testament times:

- 1) “So He led the people around toward the Red Sea along the road of the wilderness” (Ex 13:18, HCSB).
- 2) “This evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt; 7 in the morning you will see the Lord’s glory because He has heard your complaints about Him. For who are we that you complain about us?” (Ex 16:6-7).
- 3) “Whenever he enters the sanctuary, Aaron is to carry the names of Israel’s sons over his heart on the breastpiece for decisions, as a continual reminder before the Lord. Place the Urim and Thummim in the breastpiece for decisions, so that they will also be over Aaron’s heart whenever he comes before the Lord. Aaron will continually carry the [means of] decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the Lord” (Ex 28:29-30).
- 4) “The cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 Moses was unable to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud rested on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle” (Ex 40:34-35).

2. New Testament times:

- (1) “The Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).
- (2) John 14 - 16.
- (3) “The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God’s children” (Rom 8:16).

3. Today.

VI. THE TEN PLAGUES

1. TURNING THE WATER TO BLOOD, 7:14-25.

- a. "This is what the Lord says: Here is how you will know that I am the Lord. Watch. I will strike the water in the Nile with the staff in my hand, and it will turn to blood. The fish in the Nile will die, the river will stink, and the Egyptians will be unable to drink water from it" (Ex 7:17-18).
- b. "But the magicians of Egypt did the same thing by their occult practices. So Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said" (Ex 7:22).
- c. This plague was directed against the god of the Nile. The Nile was worshiped as the giver of life and nourishment. In this plague Yahweh declares His sovereignty over the Nile.

2. INVASION BY FROGS (except in Goshen), 8:1-15.

- a. This plague was directed against the goddess Hekt, represented by a frog-headed statue, was believed to have power of creation.
- b. The reason for this plague is stated: "...Moses replied, 'As you have said, so you may know there is no one like the Lord our God, the frogs will go away from you, your houses, your officials, and your people. The frogs will remain only in the Nile'" (Ex 8:10-11).
- c. Pharaoh again hardened his heart, 8:15.

3. THE LAND WAS STRICKEN WITH GNATS (LICE), 8:16-19.

- a. This plague was directed against the priests and magicians of Egypt.
- b. They had satanic, but limited power.
- c. "The magicians tried to produce gnats using their occult practices, but they could not..." (8:18).
- d. "'This is the finger of God,' the magicians said to Pharaoh" (8:19a).
- e. "But Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said" (8:19b).

4. THE PLAGUE OF FLIES FOLLOWS, 8:20-32.

- a. The plague attack of flies (the fly was possibly a scarab headed beetle) was an attack

against another Egyptian god, Khephera.

b. “But on that day I will give special treatment to the land of Goshen, where My people are living; no flies will be there. This way you will know that I, the Lord, am in the land. I will make a distinction between My people and your people. This sign will take place tomorrow” (8:22-23).

c. “ But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also and did not let the people go” (8:32).

5. THE FIFTH PLAGUE TARGETED LIVESTOCK, 9:1-7.

a. This plague was directed against animal worship. Apis the bull, Mnevius the cow, and Hathor, a cow-headed goddess.

b. “But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing of all that the Israelites own will die” (9:4).

c. “But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not let the people go” (9:7).

6. THE NEXT PLAGUE WAS BOILS, 9:8-12;

a. The plague of boils was directed against Inhotep, the god of healing.

b. “The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians as well as on all the Egyptians” (9:11).

c. “But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had told Moses” (Ex 9:12). Until now Pharaoh had hardened his heart; now God hardens it.

7. THE HARVEST IS DESTROYED BY HAIL, 9:13-35.

a. This plague was directed against the so-called gods of nature.

b. “However, I have let you live for this purpose: to show you My power and to make My name known in all the earth” (9:16).

c. “So Pharaoh’s heart hardened, and he did not let the Israelites go, as the Lord had said through Moses” (9:35).

8. THE EIGHTH PLAGUE WAS LOCUSTS, 10:1-20.

a. This plague was directed against the gods that insured a good harvest.

b. “And so that you may tell your son and grandson how severely I dealt with the Egyptians

and performed miraculous signs among them, and you will know that I am the Lord” (10:2).

c. “But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the Israelites go” (10:20).

9. TOTAL DARKNESS UPON THE LAND WAS THE NINTH PLAGUE, 10:21-29.

a. This plague was directed against the sun god Amen-Ra.

b. “One person could not see another, and for three days they did not move from where they were. Yet all the Israelites had light where they lived” (10:23).

c. By now the Lord was hardening the heart of Pharaoh to the point that he couldn’t believe (10:27).

10. THE TENTH PLAGUE WAS THE DEATH OF THE FIRST BORN SON IN EVERY HOME IN WHICH THE PEOPLE DID NOT SMEAR THE BLOOD OF A LAMB OVER THE DOOR, 11:1-12:36.

a. This final plague was directed against Pharaoh himself, there being a belief that the first born son of Pharaoh was the incarnation of the sun god Amen-Ra (he was called son of Ra).

b. “...You may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel” (11:7).

c. Pharaoh, “...summoned Moses and Aaron during the night and said, “Get up, leave my people, both you and the Israelites, and go, worship the Lord as you have asked” (Ex 12:31).

CONCLUSION. John R. Sampey observed, “The man who begins to harden his heart will presently find God cooperating with him through the laws of his mind. He will pluck up courage to fight God to the finish; and that course spells destruction.”

QUESTION: Why ten plagues? Why not three? That is the divine number. Why not seven? That is the complete number. Why ten? Ten is the number for human completion (ten fingers, ten toes, etc.). God demonstrated His sovereignty over all the elements, His power over all the so-called gods of the world, and His ultimate control over all people, whether they like it or not, whether they believe it or not, whether they cooperate or not.

VII. TABERNACLE, PRIESTS, AND SACRIFICES

Read the following passages and highlight the primary points in each one: (1) Ex. 23:14-19, (2) 34:18-26, (3) 25:1-9, (4) 35:4-9, (5) 36:8-38; 27:1-8, and 38:1-7.

1. Summarize or outline the key points or information in each passage.

EXAMPLE: In Ex. 23:14-19, the Lord said, “Celebrate a festival in My honor three times a year.” Note those three festivals.

2. What is the purpose in the Old Testament tabernacle, sacrifices, and offerings?
3. Now study Hebrews 9:1-28 and note the relationship between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant in Jesus Christ. Why do we not worship in a tabernacle or temple today? Do we need to offer the same sacrifices today? Do we need an earthly priest today?
4. Compare the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ with the high priesthood of Aaron and show how Jesus is superior.
 - a. How is Jesus the superior High Priest?
 - b. How is Jesus the superior Sacrifice.
5. Everything in the earthly tabernacle, priesthood, and sacrificial system looks ahead to Jesus and the Cross. He came and shed his blood for us. Why blood? Life is in the blood, so He gave His life for us (the perfect High Priest and the perfect sacrifice). He has reentered the heavenly holy of holies with the blood of His perfect sacrifice. He stands in the presence of the Father for us. He is our only hope - and He is fully sufficient for all our needs. He is our only sacrifice and He is our only Mediator. If you know you have received His salvation, by grace through faith, and know you are prepared to meet Him either when He returns for His church, or at the instant of your death, please sign your name here:_____.

VIII. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (Ex. 20:1-17)

NOTE: The first four commandments deal specifically with our responsibilities to God and the last six focus on our responsibilities to one another.

1. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Ex 20:3, KJV).
2. “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image” (20:4).
3. “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain” (20:7).

4. “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy” (20:8).
5. “Honor thy father and thy mother...” (20:12).
6. “Thou shalt not kill” (20:13)
7. “Thou shalt not commit adultery” (20:24).
8. “Thou shalt not steal” (20:15).
9. “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour” (20:16).
10. “Thou shalt not covet” (20:17).

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (HCSB):

1. “Do not have other gods besides Me” (Ex 20:3). He is a jealous God and will tolerate no other.
2. “Do not make an idol for yourself” (20:4). This included graven images and anything you place between yourself and God (houses, cars, clothes, position, people, recreation).
3. “Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God” (20:7). Not only are we not to use God’s name in profanity, we are not to take it lightly in any way, or use it casually.
4. “Remember to dedicate the Sabbath day” (20:8). It is His day and if we are acknowledge Him we will honor His day. Violation of the Sabbath day may throw the door to hell wide open for your children or grandchildren! All you have to do is distract them and Satan will help take it from there!
5. “Honor your father and your mother” (20:12). First, God demands it, and it should be in the heart of the believer to do so. Second, You are teaching your children by the way you treat your parents.
6. “Do not murder” (20:13). This commandment focuses the light on the value God places on life. Do no murder at all. Those who commit murder are to be put to death by the state. What does that say about one who takes the life of an unborn baby? Euthanasia? What does Jesus have to say on the subject? See Matt. 5:21-24; 5:38-48.
7. “Do not commit adultery” (20:14). Jesus expands this to include lust (Matt. 5:27-32). Today, in post-Christianity, all forms of sexual sins, including homosexuality, are treated lightly, and society is paying the price for it. “True Love Waits” will help our young people adopt the

proper attitude toward sexual fulfillment according to God's plan for His people.

8. "Do not steal" (20:15). This demands total honest in all things
9. "Do not give false testimony against your neighbor" (20:16). One is never more like Satan, the father of liars, than when he lies. This sins seeks to hide other sins.
10. "Do not covet" (20:17). This sin breeds other sins.

Josephus is credited with the "the division now common among Protestants (except Lutherans), namely, (a) foreign gods, (b) images, (c) name of God, (d) Sabbath, (e) parents, (f) murder, (g) adultery, (h) theft, (i) false witness, (j) coveting. Before him, Philo made the same arrangement, except that he followed the Septuagint" [International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, in The Bible Navigator Electronic Library, LifeWay Christian Resources, Technology Division].

Note: The Jews still worship on the Seventh Day, commemorating God's creation of the heavens and the earth. Christians worship on the First Day, commemorating God's act of redemption (with special emphasis on the Resurrection of Jesus on the First Day).

B. H. Carroll once said, "If you have moved from a cottage to a palace and your soul no longer prospers, you had better move back to the cottage." Jesus said, "What will it benefit a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? Or what will a man give in exchange for his life?" (Matt 16:26, HCSB).

IX. THE LORD PROVES HIMSELF

God proved Himself to Moses (Ex. 3:1ff) and he gave Moses power to prove Who sent him to stand before Pharaoh (4:1ff). He repeatedly proved Himself as the one true God to Israel and demonstrated it to Pharaoh and ll Egypt (plagues directed at Egypt and her gods, miraculous protection of Israel, crossing the Red Sea, provisions in the wilderness). He proved Himself at Rephidim.

May we demand that God prove Himself today? Jesus said, "It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God" (Matt 4:7, HCSB). He was quoting from the Law: " Do not test the Lord your God as you tested [Him] at Massah" "(Deut 6:16). Jesus did not mention Massah. What happened at Massah?

In Ex. 17:1-7, we learn that the Israelites put God to the test when they camped at Rephidim and found no water. God miraculously provided water for them.

Is there a contradiction here? No, there is none. At Rephidim, the people complained and God provided water and did not rebuke them. In Deuteronomy 6:16, He warned them never to do that again! What was the difference. They had been to Sinai. They were now in a covenant relationship with him and should never again put Him to the test.

Do we have sign-seekers today? Of course we do! What about those who are never satisfied with the Word of God, prayer, and the leadership of the Holy Spirit? There are people who are never satisfied unless they find a “healing” service on television or in some tent or church building in their community. During the glory days of the televangelists (Oral Roberts, Jim Baker, Jimmy Swaggart, and others), millions watched faithfully as one person after another was paraded out before them to “share their testimony” about some sign of miracle. Some were rather bazaar. Sadly, many who reject those types of signs, still want God to prove Himself to them in one way or another.

If you want God to prove Himself, I have a message for you. He has already done that, and He is doing that every day. How do we see Him? Prayer, Bible Study, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.