

Sunday School Member Quarterly

Spring 2021

Exodus

Images of Redemption

Sunday School Lessons for Adults and Youth

Written by John O. Yates



Morningside

B A P T I S T C H U R C H

2604 Bemiss Road, Valdosta, GA 31602

(229) 242-1426 www.morningside.ws

Sunday School – 9:15 each Sunday Morning

Sunday School Lessons

March through May 2021

Exodus

Images of Redemption

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Sunday School Member Quarterly, Spring 2010, Exodus.

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Revised and updated 2021 for the Spring 2021 quarter.

Daily Bible Reading Guide

Read the following scripture passages each day and complete the learning activities in this book each week. This will prepare you for Sunday School class, and God will bless you as you read, study, and memorize His Word.

Week of March 1 – 6

Mon: Exodus 1; **Tues:** Genesis 37; **Wed:** Genesis 45;
Thurs: Memorize Isaiah 53:6; **Fri:** Genesis 50; **Sat:** Exodus 1

Week of March 8 – 13

Mon: Exodus 2; **Tues:** Acts 7:18-29;
Wed: Hebrews 11:23-27; **Thurs:** Memorize Hebrews 1:14;
Fri: Psalm 121; **Sat:** Exodus 2

Week of March 15 – 20

Mon: Exodus 3; **Tues:** Acts 7:30-36; **Wed:** John 6:30-58;
Thurs: Memorize Exodus 3:14; **Fri:** Ephesians 2;
Sat: Exodus 3

Week of March 22 – 27

Mon: Exodus 4; **Tues:** Philippians 4; **Wed:** 1 Timothy 1;
Thurs: Memorize Philippians 4:13; **Fri:** Joshua 1;
Sat: Exodus 4

Week of March 29 – April 3

Mon: Mark 16; **Tues:** Hebrews 9; **Wed:** Ephesians 1;
Thurs: Romans 8:1-17; **Fri:** Romans 8:18-39;
Sat: Matthew 28

Week of April 5 – 10

Mon: Exodus 5:1 – 6:13; **Tues:** Exodus 7; **Wed:** Exodus 8;
Thurs: Memorize 1 John 4:4; **Fri:** Exodus 9;
Sat: Exodus 10 – 11

Week of April 12 – 17

Mon: Exodus 12; **Tues:** Hebrews 11:23-29;
Wed: Numbers 9; **Thurs:** Memorize 1 Corinthians 5:7;
Fri: Deuteronomy 16; **Sat:** Exodus 12

Week of April 19 – 24

Mon: Exodus 13; **Tues:** Exodus 14; **Wed:** Exodus 15;
Thurs: Psalm 18; **Fri:** 1 Corinthians 10; **Sat:** Exodus 14

Week of April 26 – May 1

Mon: Exodus 16; **Tues:** Exodus 17; **Wed:** Exodus 18;
Thurs: Memorize Philippians 4:19; **Fri:** Exodus 16;
Sat: Exodus 17

Week of May 3 – 8

Mon: Exodus 20; **Tues:** Deuteronomy 5; **Wed:** Matthew 5;
Thurs: Matthew 19; **Fri:** Exodus 19; **Sat:** Exodus 20

Week of May 10 – 15

Mon: Exodus 21 – 23; **Tues:** Exodus 24 – 25;
Wed: Exodus 26 – 27; **Thurs:** Memorize 1 John 4:10;
Fri: Hebrews 9; **Sat:** Exodus 25

Week of May 17 – 22

Mon: Exodus 32; **Tues:** Exodus 28; **Wed:** Exodus 29;
Thurs: Memorize 1 John 1:9; **Fri:** Exodus 30 – 31;
Sat: Exodus 32

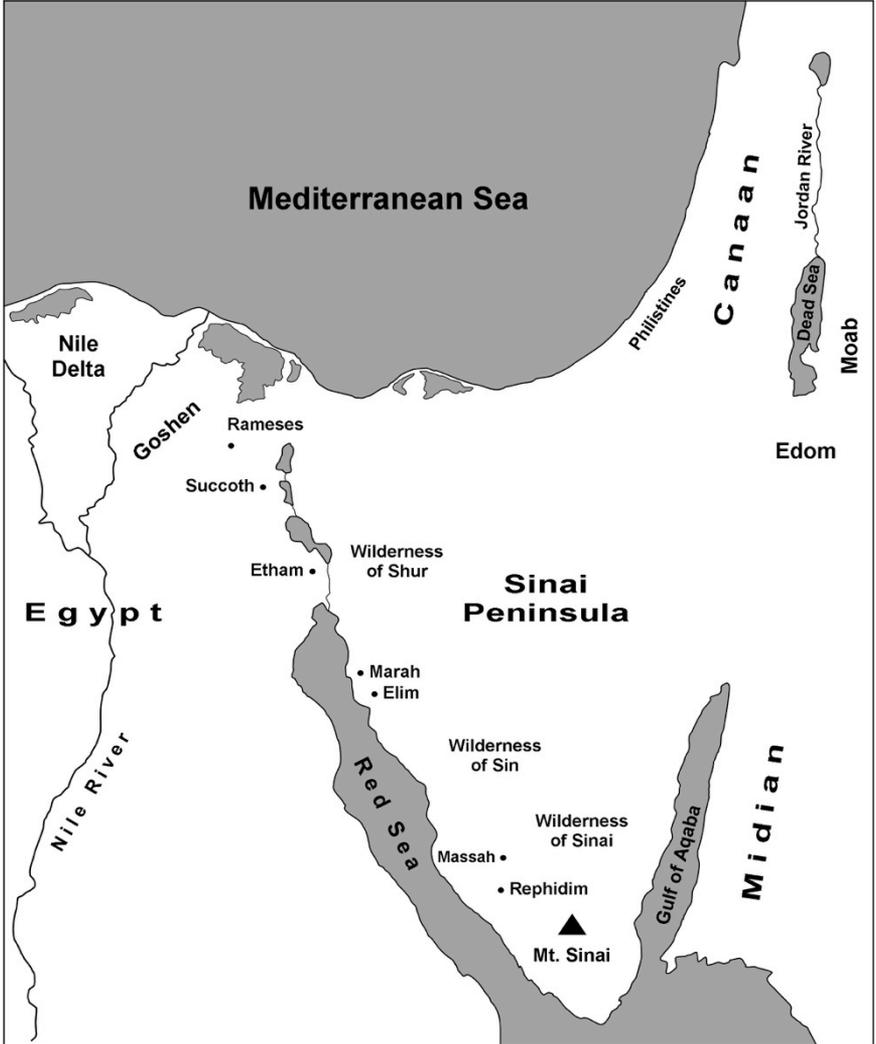
Week of May 24 – 29

Mon: Exodus 40; **Tues:** Exodus 33 – 34;
Wed: Exodus 35 – 36; **Thurs:** Exodus 37 – 38;
Fri: Exodus 39; **Sat:** Exodus 40

**Coming Next Quarter
(June – August 2021)**

Leviticus, Numbers

Map



Introduction to Exodus

Author: Moses

Date: 1445-1405 B.C.

The book of Exodus is the second of the five books written by Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), which are known collectively as the Pentateuch. The book was given the title *Exodus* (a Greek word meaning an exit or departure) when the Hebrew scriptures were translated into the Greek language (the Septuagint) during the Second Century B.C.

Moses was born in about 1525 B.C., fled from Egypt and settled in Midian in 1485 B.C., and returned again to Egypt to lead Israel out in 1445 B.C. Israel's forty years in the wilderness were from 1445-1405 B.C., when Moses died at the age of 120 (Deut. 34:7). We do not know if Moses recorded the events of chapters 3 – 40 as they happened or wrote them down near the end of his life. Regardless, we know the book was written during Israel's wilderness years.

The book of Exodus describes God's work of freeing Israel from bondage in Egypt, establishing them as a nation, and teaching them how to worship Him. The theme of this quarter's study is ***Images of Redemption***. Israel's redemption from Egyptian bondage is an Old Testament illustration of the Christian's redemption from sin's bondage. Throughout the quarter you will notice how God's work on behalf of the ancient Israelites foreshadowed His saving work on our behalf.

March 7, 2021

Exodus 1

Israel's Desperate Situation

When you think of a desperate situation what comes to your mind? You might think of an airliner loaded with innocent passengers being hijacked by suicidal terrorists. That is a desperate situation. You might think of a woman being kidnapped by a rapist. That is certainly a desperate situation. You might even think of a global pandemic that sickens and kills tens of millions of people (does that sound familiar?). Those are all very desperate situations.

Where do you turn in a desperate situation? What hope do you have when everything looks bad? Do you trust in yourself or reach out to others for help? What if it seems there is no one who can help – what would you do then?

In this first lesson from the book of Exodus you will learn about Israel's desperate situation in Egypt. You will also learn that there is a situation even worse and more desperate than any of those described above. Read Exodus 1 to learn more.

- Ex. 1:1-5** In the book of Genesis we learned that Joseph rose to great power in Egypt – second only to Pharaoh himself. When a terrible famine hit the region Joseph brought his father and brothers to Egypt and settled them in the best part of the land.
- Ex. 1:6** What eventually happened?
- Ex. 1:7** The children of Israel stayed in Egypt 400 years. What happened during that time?
- Ex. 1:8** A new king (pharaoh) came to the throne in Egypt. What was important about this king?
- Ex. 1:9** What did he realize about the Israelites?

Ex. 1:10 What did he fear?

Ex. 1:11 What did the Egyptians do to the Israelites?

Ex. 1:12 What happened to the population of Israel?

Ex. 1:13-14 What else did the Egyptians do to them?

The king of Egypt wanted to do something to cut the population of the children of Israel. He summoned their midwives.

Ex. 1:16 What did he tell them to do?

Why would the king order such a terrible thing? He knew that eliminating the males would hinder the Israelites' ability to become a fighting force and attack the Egyptians. With no males allowed to live, eventually the Israelites would die out.

Ex. 1:17 Why didn't the midwives obey the king's orders?

Ex. 1:18-19 The king questioned the midwives. What reason did they give for not killing the baby boys?

Ex. 1:20 "Therefore _____ dealt well with the midwives: and the people _____, and waxed very _____."

Ex. 1:21 What did God do for the midwives?

Ex. 1:22 What did Pharaoh order the Israelites to do with their baby boys?

The Israelites were in a desperate situation! All their newborn baby boys were to be thrown to their deaths in the crocodile-infested Nile River. Imagine the emotions felt by the young Israelite couples! Think of the pregnant women, praying that their babies would be girls and not boys! Imagine the heartache, the sorrow, and the fear. This was a desperate situation.

Pharaoh was the most powerful man in the land. His taskmasters and soldiers would certainly report any couple that refused to throw their baby boy in the river. Such a couple would probably face execution on the spot. What would you do if you were one of those expectant Israelite mothers or fathers?

Concluding Thoughts: A desperate situation is one in which there is imminent danger and little or no hope of rescue. The ancient Israelites were in a desperate situation and the opening paragraph of this lesson described some others, but do you realize there is a situation far worse and more desperate than any of those. It is the condition of a lost person.

Lost people are in bondage to sin, which is worse than the bondage experienced by the ancient Israelites. The Bible says it this way: *“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others”* (Eph. 2:2-3).

The ancient Israelites were burdened with heavy labor, but **lost people are burdened with guilt**. The Bible says all have sinned (Rom. 3:23) and that everyone is guilty before God (Rom. 3:19). The Israelite baby boys were under the sentence of death, but **lost people are under the sentence of eternal death**: *“For the wages of sin is death”* (Rom. 6:23).

Lost people are in a desperate situation. They are condemned, doomed, and helpless to save themselves. If you have never trusted Jesus Christ for salvation please read the verses printed on the back of this book, turn from your sins, and place your faith in Jesus Christ. That is the only way to be delivered from the most desperate situation of all.

Project: Memorize **Isaiah 53:6**. Do the Daily Bible Readings (found on pages 3-4) each day and come to Sunday School.

March 14, 2021

Exodus 2

Miraculous Preservation

We enjoy hearing stories of people whose lives were preserved through seemingly miraculous circumstances: stories such as that of a baby being found completely unharmed after its home was utterly destroyed by a tornado, or of a soldier who miraculously survived a terrible bomb attack. Some years ago we heard the story of an airliner full of passengers that lost power in both engines due to bird strikes. The pilot skillfully landed the jet in a river and no one was hurt. When we hear such stories we often think, “God was certainly looking out for those people!”

In last week’s lesson we learned that Pharaoh ordered the deaths of all newborn Israelite boys. Parents had to throw their baby boys in the Nile River. This order was enforced with the full power of mighty Pharaoh. There was no hope – how could any of those precious young lives be preserved? Could God even do anything?

Ex. 2:1-2 An Israelite couple had a baby. Was it a boy or a girl?

Did they throw it in the river?

What did they do with the baby?

Ex. 2:3 What did the woman do with her baby boy?

Imagine the anxiety in that young mother’s heart as she left her beloved baby in the river!

Ex. 2:4 Who stayed nearby to see what would happen?

Ex. 2:5 Who came along and discovered the ark?

Ex. 2:6 What did she realize when she saw the baby?

The Hebrew baby was obviously placed in the basket to try to save its life. The baby was in the basket in direct violation of Pharaoh's decree, and Pharaoh's daughter found the baby. What will she do?

Ex. 2:7 The baby's sister ran up. What did she offer to do?

Ex. 2:8 Who did the girl bring to Pharaoh's daughter?

Ex. 2:9 Did Pharaoh's daughter arrest the woman for breaking the law?

Did she order the woman to drown her baby?

What did she do?

Think of the miraculous irony of this situation. The baby's mother was actually **paid** by Pharaoh's daughter to nurse her own child. Rather than being arrested and punished for breaking Pharaoh's law, she was **protected** and employed by Pharaoh's daughter!

Ex. 2:10 What did the mother later do with the child?

What did Pharaoh's daughter name the boy?

Moses' life was preserved through a miraculous set of circumstances. Not only was his life spared, but the Hebrew boy grew up in Pharaoh's house as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He received the best education and all the benefits of royalty.

Ex. 2:11-12 What did Moses do when he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew?

Ex. 2:13-14 The next day he tried to break up a fight between two Hebrew men. What made him fearful?

Ex. 2:15 What did Pharaoh want to do?

Where did Moses go?

Moses left Egypt, crossed the Sinai Peninsula, and settled in the land of **Midian** (in modern Saudi Arabia – see the map on page 5). He settled there, married, and had two sons. God preserved Moses' life once again by allowing him to flee from Pharaoh.

Ex. 2:23 Who died?

Who heard the cries of the Israelites?

Concluding Thoughts: God miraculously preserved Moses' life. By Pharaoh's law he should have died in the river; but instead, he was adopted by Pharaoh's own daughter. God orchestrated those amazing circumstances to preserve Moses' life because He had plans for Moses' future. God protected and blessed Moses in Midian because He had plans to use Moses as His instrument.

How does this lesson apply to us? After all, no king ever ordered that we were to be drowned in the river. What truths can we glean from this passage of scripture that will bless or encourage us?

Consider this: just as God miraculously preserved Moses' life because He had plans to initiate a relationship with Moses and then use Moses as His special instrument, God preserved your life when you were lost because He had plans to save you and use you as His servant. You see, the devil hates humans and wants to kill as many as he can. He wants to kill people before they can be saved; but if you are God's child He preserved your life so He could save you.

Not convinced? The Bible, speaking of angels, says the following: "*Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*" (Heb. 1:14). The Bible says God's angels minister on behalf of those who will be saved.

Are you saved? If so, thank God for miraculously preserving your life so that you could come to know Him through Jesus Christ.

Project: Memorize **Hebrews 1:14**. Thank God every day for preserving your life so you could be saved and serve Him.

God's Call

When was the last time you received a telephone call? If you are like most people you probably receive several calls each day. How do you know when to answer the phone? Your phone has a ringer of some sort so you know when someone is calling. A phone without a ringer would be no good – we wouldn't know when to answer it.

When the phone rings we don't really know what to expect. Even if you have caller ID, that only tells you who is calling, not what they are calling about. Telephone calls can bring good news, bad news, or simply a friendly conversation.

In this lesson you are going to learn about God's call to Moses. God did something to get Moses' attention, gave him some good news and some instructions, and even used a very special "caller ID" to identify Himself.

Ex. 3:1 What was Moses doing for a living?

Horeb is an alternate name for **Mount Sinai**, a mountain in the southern Sinai Peninsula (see the map on page 5).

Ex. 3:2 Who appeared to Moses?

Where did He appear?

What was unusual about this burning bush?

Ex. 3:3 What did Moses do when he saw this?

The burning bush was God's "ringer" to get Moses' attention.

Ex. 3:4 What did God do next?

How did Moses' answer?

Ex. 3:5 What did God tell Moses to do, and why?

Ex. 3:6 “Moreover he said, I am the _____ of thy father, the God of _____, the God of _____, and the God of _____.” This was God’s “caller ID.” Why did Moses hide his face?

Ex. 3:7 What had God seen and heard?

Ex. 3:8 What was He going to do for His people?

Where was He going to take them?

Ex. 3:9 Why was He going to do these things?

Ex. 3:10 “Come now therefore, and I will send _____ unto _____, that _____ mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of _____.”

Ex. 3:11 What did Moses ask?

Ex. 3:12 What did God promise?

Moses was understandably scared. He had fled Egypt as a guilty murderer and spent forty years minding his own business, tending sheep in the wilderness. Now God wanted him to go back.

Ex. 3:13 What did Moses ask God?

Ex. 3:14 “And God said unto Moses, _____: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, _____ hath sent me unto you.”

The Hebrew word translated **I AM** literally means, “*to exist*.” It is the root from which God’s personal, covenant name *Yahweh* (or Jehovah) is derived. It speaks of God’s eternity, unchanging nature, and personal presence. **GOD IS** – He exists. Belief in this fact is essential for a relationship with Him (Heb. 11:6).

- Ex. 3:15 How else was Moses to identify God to the children of Israel?
- Ex. 3:16 Who was Moses to gather when he got to Egypt?
What did God tell him to say to them?
- Ex. 3:17 What promise was he to repeat to them?
- Ex. 3:18 God promised that the elders would believe Moses. Moses and the elders were to go to the king of Egypt. What did He want them to say to the king?
- Ex. 3:19 What did God say would happen when they made this request?
- Ex. 3:20 God knew He would have to send terrible plagues upon Egypt before the king would let them go.

God made an interesting promise in verses 21-22. He said He would give the Israelites favor in the sight of the Egyptians so the Egyptians would give the Israelites gold, silver, and clothing when they left Egypt. Israel was a nation of poor slaves in Egypt, but God promised to bring them out with great wealth.

Concluding Thoughts: God called Moses from the burning bush. He identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God told Moses about his mission – lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. He also revealed Himself to Moses as the great “I AM.”

How does this lesson relate to us? **God is still calling people to Himself.** He doesn't call on the telephone and probably won't use a burning bush, but He is calling, all the same. The Bible says, “*God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord*” (1 Cor. 1:9), and “*Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified*” (Rom.

8:30). Jesus said it this way: “*No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me **draw** him: and I will raise him up at the last day*” (John 6:44).

When God calls people He invites them to enter into a **personal relationship with Him**, just as Moses did so many years ago. This personal relationship comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ: “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God*” (Eph. 2:8). When God calls **He reveals Himself to us**. He wants us to know more about Him and His nature so we can live for Him and serve Him better.

God calls unsaved persons to come to Him for salvation, and He calls saved persons to a deeper, more intimate relationship with Him. Whether you are saved or unsaved, God may be calling you right now. Your phone is ringing – will you answer it?

Project: Memorize **Exodus 3:14**. Listen for God’s call every day this week. He may call you through the words of scripture or even through the words of a friend. When you sense His calling, do like Moses and answer.

God's Sufficiency

The Sunday School director asked Emma to teach a Sunday School class. "I can't do that," she replied; "I don't know the Bible well enough and I freeze up when I speak in front of a group." The music director asked Justin to sing a solo. "I don't think so," answered Justin; "My voice isn't that good and I get real nervous singing in front of people."

Both of those people had doubts about their abilities. They also expressed fears: they were afraid to do things they were asked to do. Even though both of them were invited to do something in service to the Lord, they refused because they felt inadequate.

Have you ever felt inadequate? Most of us have. Sometimes we might wish we were more like the great heroes of the Bible – courageous and fearless; but do those words really describe Bible characters? In this lesson you will learn that Moses had fears and feelings of inadequacy, but he learned to trust God's sufficiency.

Ex. 4:1 In chapter 3 God called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt. What did he say to God in this verse?

Moses was **afraid** the people wouldn't believe him.

Ex. 4:2-3 What did God tell Moses to do with his rod?

What happened when he did?

Ex. 4:4 What did God tell Moses next?

What happened when he obeyed?

Ex. 4:5 Why did God do these miracles?

Ex. 4:6 What did God tell Moses to do and what happened?

Ex. 4:7 What happened next?

Ex. 4:8 God gave Moses these two miraculous signs so the people would believe him. God empowered Moses to perform these miracles to authenticate his words.

Ex. 4:9 What else could he do if the people still didn't believe?

God overcame Moses' **fear** of the peoples' unbelief by giving him miraculous signs to perform.

Ex. 4:10 What was Moses' next objection to God's plan?

Ex. 4:11 Was God surprised by this fact?

What did He ask Moses?

Ex. 4:12 What did God promise?

Ex. 4:13 Did this satisfy Moses? _____ What did he ask?

Ex. 4:14 How did God feel about Moses' repeated objections?

Ex. 4:15-16 What did God promise to do for Moses?

God overcame Moses' **feelings of inadequacy** by choosing his brother Aaron to be the spokesman. Moses' family left for Egypt.

Ex. 4:22-23 What did God tell him to say to Pharaoh?

Verses 24-26 seem strange to us. Moses had not been obedient to circumcise his son. Moses realized God would kill him if he wasn't obedient. He wasn't ready to lead God's people because there was still an area of disobedience in his life. After Moses' wife circumcised the boy they continued their journey.

Ex. 4:27-28 Aaron met Moses in the wilderness, and Moses told him all that God had said and done.

Ex. 4:29-30 What did they do when they got to Egypt?

Ex. 4:31 “And the people _____: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that He had looked upon their affliction, then they _____ their heads and _____.”

Concluding Thoughts: Moses, one of the great heroes of the Old Testament, was actually a man crippled by fears and feelings of inadequacy. If we were to ask him to teach a Sunday School class, he would probably refuse.

God overcame Moses’ fear by giving him some miraculous signs to prove that what he said was true. He overcame Moses’ sense of inadequacy by appointing Aaron to be the spokesman before the elders of Israel and Pharaoh. When Moses did what God commanded good things happened: the people believed their report and together they all worshiped God. Moses learned to depend upon God’s sufficiency when he felt inadequate.

Do you ever have doubts, fears, or feelings of inadequacy? God’s sufficiency can enable you to overcome those feelings so you can serve Him. He won’t give you miracles to perform, but you don’t need them: you have God’s complete revelation of Himself in the Bible. It is totally accurate and true, so you don’t need miracles to cause people to believe.

God can overcome your doubts, fears, and inadequacies with His sufficiency. The Bible says it this way: “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*” (Phil. 4:13). Turn your fears and doubts over to God right now.

Project: Memorize **Philippians 4:13**. Trust and obey God.

Redemption Complete

The words “redeem” and “redemption” mean to deliver or rescue someone by paying a ransom. Prisoners of war are sometimes released through a prisoner exchange with the other side. The redemption price for the prisoners is other prisoners. Hostages are sometimes released when a ransom is paid. The ransom money is paid to redeem the hostages.

This quarter’s study is titled, “*Images of Redemption.*” The deliverance of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage is an Old Testament illustration of our redemption – our deliverance from the bondage of sin. In fact, the Bible says, “*Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition*” (1 Cor. 10:11). We will learn more about redemption as we study the remaining lessons in Exodus, but since this week is Easter we will focus on how Jesus paid the complete price for our redemption on the cross, and then proved that His work was finished by rising from the dead.

The Facts of the Resurrection

- Mark 16:1** Jesus was crucified and His dead body was placed in a borrowed tomb. After the Sabbath ended some women came to the tomb. Why did they come?
- Mark 16:2** What time of day was it?
- Mark 16:3-4** What did they discover about the stone?
- Mark 16:5** Who did they see in the tomb?
- Mark 16:6** He said: “Be not affrighted: Ye seek _____ of Nazareth, which was _____; he is _____; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.”

Mark 16:7 What else did he tell them to do?

Jesus died on the cross and then rose again three days later. We celebrate His death and resurrection every Easter, but what impact does it have on our redemption? Turn to the book of Hebrews.

The Cost of Our Redemption

Heb. 9:11 What does this verse call Jesus Christ?

You will learn more about the earthly high priest and Tabernacle later in Exodus. Christ went into the heavenly Tabernacle.

Heb. 9:12 Whose blood did He bring?

What did He obtain for us?

Heb. 9:13 What kind of blood did the ancient Israelites bring?

Heb. 9:14 What can the blood of Christ do for us?

Turn now to the book of Ephesians.

Eph. 1:7 “In whom we have _____ through His _____, the _____ of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” What did Jesus purchase with His blood?

The rest of this lesson comes from the book of Romans.

Rom. 4:25 Why was Jesus delivered to die on the cross?

Why was He raised again?

The Greek word translated **justification** in this verse literally means *acquittal* – a legal term that means to pronounce someone innocent. Jesus died to pay the price for our sins and then rose again to prove that we were acquitted – pronounced innocent.

The Benefits of Redemption

- Rom. 8:11** The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead does what for us?
- Rom. 8:32** Since God gave His Son for us, what else will He do?
- Rom. 8:33** No one has the right to lay any charges against God's redeemed children. What did God do for us?
- Rom. 8:34** Who died for us?
- Who rose again?
- Where is He now?
- What is He doing there?

Concluding Thoughts: Jesus Christ died to pay the price for our sins. He paid that price with His blood because nothing else would do. On the first Easter Sunday He arose from the dead, completing His work of redemption. He redeemed us, delivering us from our former bondage to sin, and declaring us to be justified (completely innocent – just as if we had never sinned).

Easter is not only the celebration of Christ's resurrection, but also of His completed work of redemption. If you have been redeemed by grace through faith in Jesus Christ then God's Spirit lives within you, you have been freed forever from the penalty of your sin, and the Lord Jesus Christ personally intercedes for you before His Heavenly Father. Thank God right now for Christ's completed work of redemption on your behalf.

Project: When you hear Easter mentioned in conversation this week, try to tell people that it marks the completion of Christ's work of redemption for those who trust Him.

April 11, 2021

Exodus 5 – 11

Struggles With the World

Mark the following statements either true (T) or false (F).

T F Once you become a Christian, all of your troubles and difficulties are over.

T F The world always treats Christians with love and respect.

T F Lost people never lie to Christians.

How did you do on that little quiz? If you are like most believers, you have probably had some struggles with the world. Once you belong to Jesus, you are a citizen of heaven and you're not "at home" in the world any more.

The same was true for Moses and the children of Israel. They were God's people, but they lived in the ungodly world of ancient Egypt. In this lesson you will learn about some of the struggles Moses had with Pharaoh, and compare those to the struggles Christians face in our modern world. Turn to Exodus 5.

Ex. 5:1 Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh. What did they tell him?

Ex. 5:2 How did Pharaoh answer?

Pharaoh rejected their request, denying the existence of God and ridiculing them for believing in Him. Do lost people ever do those things to modern Christians?

Ex. 5:3 What did Moses and Aaron say next?

Pharaoh thought they were trying to make the people quit working.

Ex. 5:6-8 What did Pharaoh tell the taskmasters to do?

Ex. 5:9 “Let there _____ work be laid upon the _____, that they may _____ therein; and let them not _____ vain _____.”

Moses and Aaron obeyed God, but all Pharaoh did was make their lives more miserable. Do lost people ever make life hard for us? Next, the leaders of Israel met with Moses.

Ex. 5:21 What did they say Moses had done?

Not only did Moses face ridicule and trouble from Pharaoh, but even his fellow Israelites were mad at him. Can you relate to that? Do fellow believers ever get upset at you for obeying God?

Moses was discouraged, so he told his feelings to God (v. 22-23).

Ex. 6:1 How did God encourage Moses?

Ex. 6:2-3 What did He say about Himself?

God heard the Israelites’ groanings and remembered His covenant.

Ex. 6:6-8 What promises did He repeat?

Ex. 6:9 Moses told all these things to the people. How did they respond?

God sent Moses and Aaron back to Pharaoh.

Ex. 7:10 What miraculous sign did they demonstrate?

Ex. 7:11 What did the Egyptians do?

The devil and his servants can imitate some of God’s miracles. When we tell people what God has done in our lives, lost people sometimes mock us and insist our miracle was just a coincidence.

Next, God began inflicting terrible plagues upon the Egyptians.

Verses	What was the plague?	How did Pharaoh respond?
7:14-25		(v. 22)
8:1-15		(v. 8, 15)
8:16-19		(v. 19)
8:20-32		(v. 25, 28, 32)
9:1-7		(v. 7)
9:8-12		(v. 12)
9:13-35		(v. 27-28, 34-35)
10:1-20		(v. 11, 20)
10:21-29		(v. 24, 27-28)
11:1-10		(v. 8-10)

Did you notice that several times Pharaoh offered a compromise to Moses and Aaron? He offered to let them worship God in Egypt, but that was not what God told them to do. Pharaoh was willing to let only the men go, but that was not God's plan. He offered to let the people go if they left their livestock behind, but that was not God's will, either. The same thing happens to Christians today. The world is happy to let you obey God a little as long as you don't obey Him completely. The problem is that **partial obedience is actually disobedience.**

Concluding Thoughts: God gave Moses specific instructions to go to Pharaoh and demand that he release the Israelites. The Israelites were a valuable workforce for Pharaoh, so he did not want to lose them. Besides that, Pharaoh was the most powerful

man in Egypt; he was actually viewed as a god. He wasn't about to bow to the demands of the God of his slaves.

The struggles Moses had with Pharaoh have some important lessons for us about the struggles we face in this world.

1. Lost people sometimes ridicule Christians, making fun of them for believing in God.
2. Obeying God may make our immediate circumstances worse.
3. Fellow believers sometimes don't understand or appreciate our attempts to obey God.
4. Christians sometimes get discouraged. When we do, we need to do what Moses did – tell God about our feelings.
5. The world may dismiss God's work in our lives as mere coincidence.
6. God can control the hearts of lost people. He may want to use your struggles to demonstrate His mighty power.
7. The world will probably offer you a compromise if you will not insist on complete obedience to God.

If you belong to Jesus Christ you will have some struggles with the lost world. Christians are not immune from trouble and conflict, but we have a power within that the lost world cannot comprehend. The Bible says it this way: “*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because **greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world***” (1 John 4:4). We will face struggles, but God will see us through if we are obedient to Him.

Tell God about your struggles and discouragement right now.

Project: Memorize **1 John 4:4**. Expect the world to give you a hard time this week. Obey and trust God at all times.

Christ, Our Passover

Why do people put signs that say, “This property protected by the _____ Security Agency” on their homes and businesses? They hope such signs will keep criminals and burglars away. Those signs provide a certain degree of protection.

There are many ways people protect things that are important to them. Automobiles and pieces of furniture usually have a special protective coating to shield their finish from scratches and other damage. When freezing temperatures come some people cover their outside plants to protect them from the cold. Umbrellas protect us from the rain.

Last week you learned about the terrible plagues God sent upon the Egyptians. He was about to unleash His last plague. In this lesson you will learn about the special covering God told the ancient Israelites to use to protect themselves from harm, and how that protection foreshadows the protection we enjoy in Christ.

Ex. 12:12 What was God going to do to the Egyptians?

Ex. 12:21 Who did Moses call together?

What did he tell them to do?

Ex. 12:22 **Hyssop** was a small shrub that could be used like a paintbrush. What were they to do with the blood?

Where were they to stay that night?

Ex. 12:23 “For the _____ will pass through to _____ the Egyptians; and when he seeth the _____ upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will _____ the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to _____ you.”

That blood was like a protective covering that kept the destroyer from coming into the house to kill the firstborn.

Ex. 12:24-25 They were to do this every year forever.

Ex. 12:26-27 God knew that in years to come their children would ask about this strange practice. They were to say, “It is the sacrifice of the LORD’s _____, who _____ the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when He _____ the Egyptians, and _____ our houses.” What did the people do when they heard Moses’ words?

Ex. 12:28 Did they obey Moses and Aaron?

Ex. 12:29 What did the Lord do at midnight?

Who was affected by this terrible plague?

Ex. 12:30 How did Pharaoh and the other Egyptians react?

Ex. 12:31 What did Pharaoh do in the middle of the night?

What did he tell them to do?

Ex. 12:32 What else did he tell them to take?

What did he ask of them?

Ex. 12:33 Why did the Egyptians hurry the Israelites?

Ex. 12:34 The Israelites packed up in a hurry.

Ex. 12:35 What did they ask the Egyptians for?

Ex. 12:36 Why did the Egyptians give them what they asked?

The word **spoil** refers to riches or plunder seized in warfare. The Egyptians gave them great amounts of gold, silver, and clothing.

Ex. 12:51 “And it came to pass the selfsame day, that the _____ did _____ the children of Israel _____ of the land of _____ by their armies.”

Concluding Thoughts: After 430 years, the Israelites were finally free of their bondage in Egypt! Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let them go, enduring nine terrible plagues that severely damaged his land. The “straw that broke the camel’s back” was the last plague, when God killed all the firstborn of Egypt. How did God protect the Israelites from that last horrifying plague? He told them to kill an innocent lamb and spread its blood on the doorposts of their homes. To remain protected they had to stay inside their homes, under the covering of that protective blood, throughout that dreadful night of death.

The Passover lamb represents Jesus Christ. Like the lambs the ancient Israelites killed on that fateful night, Jesus was completely innocent – He “*knew no sin*” (2 Cor. 5:21). Christ died to protect us from Satan’s attacks and free us from the awful bondage of sin. Just as the ancient Israelites were only safe if they stayed in their homes behind the protective blood, the only place we can enjoy God’s protection and experience deliverance from Satan’s bondage is under the blood of Jesus Christ. Outside of Christ there is no protection or deliverance. The Bible sums it up this way: “*For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us*” (1 Cor. 5:7).

Have you placed yourself under the protective covering of the blood of Jesus Christ? If you’d like to experience that protection read the verses printed on the back of this book. Talk to God right now. Confess (admit) and repent of (turn away from) your sins. Place your trust for eternity in Jesus Christ. Ask Him to forgive your sins and give you new life. Please do it now.

Project: Memorize **1 Corinthians 5:7**. Look for opportunities this week to tell someone how the Old Testament Passover lamb foreshadowed Jesus Christ.

God Makes a Way

Have you ever been in a situation when you didn't know which way to go? Perhaps you have faced a major decision or some type of crossroads in your life. Which direction should you take?

Have you ever felt like you had an enemy or an opponent breathing down your neck? Perhaps someone has tried to destroy your reputation? Where can you turn for protection?

Have you ever had an experience when you felt like your back was against the wall? Have you ever felt cornered, trapped, and completely boxed in, with no apparent way to escape?

Those scenarios summarize the circumstances in which the ancient Israelites found themselves. After God miraculously delivered them from Egyptian bondage, they soon were in need of direction, protection, and miraculous deliverance from a trap.

Ex. 13:21 How did the LORD lead the children of Israel?

God guided the Israelites, day and night, with supernatural signs.

Ex. 14:1-2 God spoke to Moses again. Where did He tell them to camp?

Ex. 14:3 What did He say Pharaoh would think?

Ex. 14:4 What was God going to cause Pharaoh to do?

Ex. 14:5 Remember that Pharaoh told the Israelites to leave Egypt (Ex. 12:31-32). What did he ask when he realized they were actually gone?

Ex. 14:6-7 What did he do?

Ex. 14:8 Why did he pursue the children of Israel?

Ex. 14:10 How did the Israelites react when they saw the approaching chariots?

Ex. 14:11 What did they ask Moses?

Ex. 14:13 What did Moses tell them to do?

What did he say about the Egyptians?

Ex. 14:14 “The _____ shall _____ for you.”

God gave Moses more instructions.

Ex. 14:16 “But lift _____ up thy _____, and stretch out thine hand over the _____, and _____ it: and the children of Israel shall go on _____ ground through the _____ of the _____.”

Ex. 14:17 What did God say He would do?

Ex. 14:19 What did God do next?

Ex. 14:20 How did God supernaturally protect the Israelites?

Ex. 14:21 What did Moses do next?

What did God do?

Ex. 14:22 What did this allow the Israelites to do?

Note that God completely dried the sea bottom, so two million or more Israelites could cross on dry ground.

Ex. 14:23 What did the Egyptians do?

Ex. 14:24 What did God do?

Ex. 14:25 What happened to the chariots of the Egyptians?

- Ex. 14:26 Why was Moses to stretch his hand over the sea?
- Ex. 14:27 What happened when he did as God said?
- Ex. 14:28 What happened to the Egyptians?
- Ex. 14:30 “Thus the LORD _____ Israel that day out of the hand of the _____.” Where did the Israelites see the Egyptians?
- Ex. 14:31 How did the people of Israel react to this miracle?

Concluding Thoughts: The Israelites needed **guidance** so God led them with a pillar of fire and a pillar of cloud. You and I probably won't see such supernatural signs, but God will guide us through His Word. He promises, “*I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye*” (Psa. 32:8), and “*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth*” (John 16:13).

When the Egyptians approached, God **protected** the Israelites by placing the pillar of cloud in their path. God may not protect us in such an obviously supernatural way, but the Bible says, “*I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies*” (Psa. 18:3).

God made a miraculous way of **escape** for the ancient Israelites. In the Bible He promises, “*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it*” (1 Cor. 10:13).

God will make a way for you, just as He did for Israel long ago.

Project: Take your fears and doubts to God, trusting Him to make a way for you when there seems to be no way to go.

May 2, 2021

Exodus 16 – 17

Miraculous Provision

God miraculously freed the children of Israel from their harsh bondage in Egypt. He supernaturally parted the Red Sea so they could cross on dry ground, but then brought the waters back to drown the pursuing Egyptians. The people of Israel were free and their pursuers were dead! They celebrated God's victory and their newfound freedom in chapter 15.

The Israelites probably felt they didn't have a care in the world, but soon they recognized a new problem – where would more than two million people find sufficient food and water in the desert wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula? They needed God to come through with some miraculous provision or they would not survive. After witnessing God's work in the ten plagues and at the Red Sea, the children of Israel were ready to trust Him completely – or, maybe not. Read Exodus 16 – 17 to find out.

Ex. 16:1 They journeyed on into the wilderness for a month.

Ex. 16:2 “And the whole congregation of the children of Israel _____ against _____ and _____ in the wilderness.”

Ex. 16:3 What was their complaint?

Ex. 16:4 What did God promise to do?

Why did He only want them to gather a certain amount each day?

Moses and Aaron gathered all the people. The glory of the Lord was visible in the cloud and the Lord spoke to Moses (v. 10-11).

Ex. 16:12 What did God say He had heard?

What did He say they would eat in the evening?

What did He say they would eat in the morning?

What would this prove to the people?

Ex. 16:13 What happened in the evening?

Ex. 16:14 What did they see when the morning dew evaporated?

Ex. 16:15 What did Moses say about the manna?

The people were only to gather what they needed each day. If they tried to store any manna overnight it bred worms and stank. On the sixth day, however, they were to gather twice as much manna so they would have enough for the Sabbath. Miraculously, the extra they gathered on the sixth day did not breed worms or stink.

Ex. 16:35 How long did God provide manna for the children of Israel?

Ex. 17:1 What was the next problem they encountered?

Ex. 17:3 “And the people thirsted there for _____; and the people _____ against _____.”
What else did they say to him?

Ex. 17:4 Moses asked God what to do.

Ex. 17:5 What did God tell Moses to do?

Ex. 17:6 What did God tell Moses to do to the rock?

What happened when he struck the rock?

Ex. 17:8 What was their next problem?

Ex. 17:9 What did Moses tell Joshua to do?

What was Moses going to do?

Ex. 17:11 What happened when Moses held up his hand?

What happened when he let it down?

Ex. 17:12 What did Aaron and Hur do for Moses?

Ex. 17:13 Who won the battle?

Moses built an altar to commemorate the great victory, and called it **Jehovah Nissi** (“*Jehovah is my banner*”).

Concluding Thoughts: The Lord miraculously provided for the children of Israel. He gave them food to eat and water to drink. He also gave the inexperienced Israelites victory over a foreign fighting force. That’s great, but what can we learn from this?

First, when confronted with problems, we often forget God’s power and provision in the past and start complaining. Also, we must remember that God can miraculously provide for our needs. He has not retired from the miracle working business, and if you need miraculous provision He can do it.

The miracle of the manna teaches us that we must depend on God each day. Yesterday’s provision is gone and tomorrow’s hasn’t come – we need God’s provision and blessing every day. The miracle of the water teaches us that God can provide for us out of an unlikely or impossible source. Finally, Israel’s victory over Amalek teaches us that God can give victory, but sometimes we need fellow believers to hold up our hands.

Project: Memorize **Philippians 4:19**. Make a list of ways God has provided for you in the past. Review it when troubles come.

God's Rules for Living

What would happen if there were no traffic laws on our roads? Imagine drivers going as fast as they wanted, driving on either side of the road, and turning wherever they liked. Imagine intersections with no stop signs or traffic lights – they would be deadly. If we had no traffic laws our roadways would be utterly chaotic!

Human governments establish rules for driving (traffic laws) to keep our roads safe. Those rules are not in place to hinder personal freedom, but to ensure a safe driving experience. In this lesson you will learn that God gave His people some rules for living. Obeying those rules makes life safe and happy, but disobeying them results in chaos and hurt.

After two months of traveling through the wilderness, the children of Israel arrived at **Mount Sinai** (see the map on page 5). God called Moses up to the top of the mountain where He gave him rules by which the Israelites were to live. We often call these rules the Ten Commandments.

Ex. 20:1 Who spoke these words?

Ex. 20:2 How did He identify Himself?

The first 4 rules describe how man is to relate to God.

Ex. 20:3 The 1st commandment is:

God deserves pre-eminence (first place) in our lives. Any object, any activity, or any person that assumes pre-eminence in our lives is another “god” that has taken the Lord’s rightful place.

Ex. 20:4 What is the 2nd commandment:

Ex. 20:5 What were they not to do with idols?

Why did God say this?

Ex. 20:7 What is the 3rd commandment?

What did God say about those who violate this rule?

Ex. 20:8 What is commandment number 4?

Ex. 20:9-10 How were they to keep this commandment?

Ex. 20:11 Why did God want them to remember the Sabbath?

The next six rules tell how people should relate to one another.

Ex. 20:12 What is the 5th commandment?

What did God promise those who do this?

Ex. 20:13 What is the 6th commandment?

The word translated **kill** in this verse literally refers to murder. It does not forbid all killing (such as capital punishment, self defense, or acts of war), nor does it forbid the killing of animals.

Ex. 20:14 What is the 7th commandment?

Ex. 20:15 What is commandment number 8?

Ex. 20:16 What is the 9th commandment?

Ex. 20:17 What is the 10th commandment?

What things are we not to covet?

The Ten Commandments, while they are the most familiar to us, were not all of the rules God gave His people. In fact, chapters 21 – 23 are filled with specific rules governing various areas of life.

The Ten Commandments may be summarized as follows:

1. You must not worship any other gods.
2. You must not make or worship any idols.
3. You must not use the Lord's name in a vain, frivolous, or disrespectful manner.
4. You must honor and keep the Sabbath day (Saturday).
5. You must honor your parents.
6. You must not commit murder.
7. You must not commit adultery.
8. You must not steal.
9. You must not lie.
10. You must not covet (desire) anything that belongs to someone else.

Concluding Thoughts: God gave those ten rules to the Israelites over 3,000 years ago. Do they still relate to us today? In fact, nine of the Ten Commandments are repeated in word or principle in the New Testament. The only one modern Christians are not required to obey is the one about the Sabbath day (Saturday). The Bible does not tell New Testament Christians to honor the Sabbath because Christians worship on Sunday (the Lord's day) to commemorate Christ's resurrection.

Some might think God's rules are restrictive and that they rob people of fun – but they are wrong. You see, foolish people view the speed limit as a hindrance to their personal freedom, but wise people understand that traffic laws are in place for their safety. The same is true of God's rules – they are designed to give us peace and safety. Imagine what a happy and peaceful place the world would be if everyone simply obeyed God's rules.

You can't control anyone's behavior but your own. Read over the Ten Commandments listed above. Do you obey the ones that apply to you (1-3 & 5-10)? Which ones have you violated? Confess your sins and ask God to enable you to obey His rules.

Project: Take note this week of how many problems in today's world can be traced back to violating God's rules for living.

The Mercy Seat

Let's review what we have learned about this quarter: The children of Israel were in a desperate situation in Egypt (Ex. 1). God miraculously spared Moses' life and then called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt (Ex. 2 – 4). Moses confronted Pharaoh with God's demand to free the Israelites. Pharaoh refused, so God unleashed ten terrible plagues upon the Egyptians (Ex. 5 – 11). On the first Passover, God protected the Israelites but killed all the firstborn of Egypt (Ex. 12). Pharaoh freed the Israelites, but later changed his mind and pursued them. God parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape on dry ground, but then brought the waters back to drown all of Pharaoh's charioteers (Ex. 14). God led the Israelites through the wilderness, providing them food, water, victory, and leaders (Ex. 16 – 18). God led them to Mount Sinai, where He gave them His laws (Ex. 19 – 23).

The Israelites were free of Egypt and they had God's laws to guide their actions, but God knew that wasn't enough. The ancient people of Israel (like us) were sinners who naturally gravitated toward evil. They needed a special place to meet with God where they could have their sins forgiven. They needed God's mercy.

God gave Moses very specific instructions for constructing a place of worship called the Tabernacle. In this lesson we will learn about the central feature of the Tabernacle – the Ark of the Covenant and the mercy seat. Most importantly, we will learn how that special mercy seat relates to us today.

Ex. 25:1-2 The Lord spoke to Moses. What was Moses to tell the people?

Just like modern congregations, they needed to take an offering before they could build a place of worship.

Ex. 25:3-7 List some of the things they were to give:

Ex. 25:8 What was the purpose of this offering?

Ex. 25:9 Moses didn't have blueprints. How was he to know how to build the Tabernacle?

Ex. 25:10 "And they shall make an _____ of _____ wood."

An **ark** is literally a box or chest. The wood they were to use (acacia) was very hard, heavy, and virtually indestructible by insects. A **cubit** is about 18 inches long, so the ark was to be 3 feet 9 inches long, 2 feet 3 inches wide, and 2 feet 3 inches high.

Ex. 25:11 What were they to cover it with?

Ex. 25:12 What else were they to make?

Ex. 25:13 What else were they to make?

The staves were to go in the rings so the ark could be carried.

Ex. 25:16 What were they going to put in the ark?

Later God told them to include the stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments, a pot of manna, and Aaron's rod (Heb. 9:4).

Ex. 25:17 What were they to build next?

Ex. 25:18-19 What were they to make and place on each end?

These were golden images of winged angels.

Ex. 25:20 Where were their wings to be?

Where were their faces to be looking?

Ex. 25:21 The mercy seat formed the lid of the ark.

Ex. 25:22 “And there I will _____ with thee, and I will _____ with thee from above the _____ seat, from between the two _____ which are upon the _____ of the testimony.”

God promised to meet with them at the mercy seat. That’s because the thing sinful humans need most is God’s **mercy**.

God told the Israelites how to build the Ark of the Covenant and the mercy seat in Exodus 25 and Exodus 37 describes the actual construction of those items. The ark was placed in the most holy place in the Tabernacle, hidden behind a thick curtain called the veil. The only person ever allowed inside that veil was the high priest, and he could only go in on one special day of the year – the Day of Atonement. Turn to Leviticus 16 to learn what happened at the mercy seat each year on the Day of Atonement.

Lev. 16:14 First, the high priest took the blood of a bullock to make atonement for his personal sin. What did he do with that blood?

Lev. 16:15 “Then shall he kill the _____ of the _____ offering, that is for the _____, and bring his _____ within the veil.” What was he to do with the blood?

The ancient Israelites brought sin offerings as payment for the penalty of their sins, but the only way their sins could be atoned (covered) was through the sprinkling of blood on the mercy seat on the annual Day of Atonement. Also, that atonement was not permanent – the ritual had to be repeated every year.

The mercy seat was very important to the ancient Israelites, but what relationship does it have to believers today? Turn to Hebrews 9, which describes the ancient Tabernacle.

Heb. 9:5 What did the cherubims overshadow?

The Hebrew word translated **mercy seat** in this verse is translated “*propitiation*” elsewhere in the New Testament. It means something that brings reconciliation, expiation, and atonement.

Heb. 9:7 How often did the high priest have to offer blood for the sins of the people?

Heb. 9:11 What does this verse call Jesus Christ?

Heb. 9:12 Whose blood did He offer?

How many times did He have to make that offering?

What did He obtain by doing that?

Concluding Thoughts: The Bible says: “*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins*” (1 John 4:10). The word translated **propitiation** in that verse is a form of the same word translated “*mercy seat*” in Hebrews 9:5.

For the ancient Israelites the mercy seat was a place of access to God where they made a blood offering for their sins. The New Testament tells us that Jesus Christ is our “mercy seat” – He provides access to God and His blood paid the price for our sins. The ancient blood offering had to be repeated every year, but Jesus Christ offered His blood one time to pay for our sins, and that offering never needs to be repeated.

If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your “mercy seat” why don’t you do so today? If you want to come to Him for mercy and forgiveness read the verses printed on the back of this book, confess and turn away from your sins, and place your faith (trust) in Christ’s blood to pay for your sins once and for all time. If you already know Jesus, thank Him for being your “mercy seat.”

Project: Memorize **1 John 4:10**. Tell someone this week about Jesus Christ, the Christian’s “mercy seat.”

Do God's People Sin?

God redeemed Israel from bondage in Egypt and brought them safely to a place where He provided for them, met with them, and taught them to worship. Not only that, He promised to give them a home in a blessed new land. Israel's experiences are similar to those of modern Christians. If you are saved, God has redeemed you from bondage to sin, provided for your needs, and brought you into fellowship with Himself so you can worship Him. Not only that, He has promised to take you to a wonderful new home.

Since God did all those wonderful things for the ancient Israelites, surely they remained faithful and obedient to Him forever, right? Unfortunately, that was not the case. The ancient Israelites, whom God had redeemed from bondage, fell into terrible sin. Sadly, Israel's experience in that respect is similar to that of modern Christians. Even though God has redeemed us from bondage to sin, we still struggle with and sometimes fall back into sin.

God called Moses up to the top of Mount Sinai to give Him stone tablets on which He had written His Law (Ex. 24:12). God also gave Moses instructions for building the Tabernacle and for establishing the priesthood (Ex. 25 – 31).

Ex. 32:1 What did the people realize?

What did they ask Aaron to do (compare Ex. 20:3)?

What did they say about Moses?

Ex. 32:2 What did Aaron tell them to do?

Ex. 32:4 What did he do with the gold (compare Ex. 20:4-5)?

What did they say about the golden calf?

Ex. 32:5 What else did Aaron build?

What did He proclaim?

Ex. 32:6 What did they bring to their new “god”?

Their “worship” was marked by revelry and wild partying: “and the people sat down to _____ and to _____, and rose up to _____.”

This verse is quoted in 1 Corinthians 10:7. The word **play** in that verse refers to sexual immorality. The Israelites had a drunken orgy while Moses was receiving God’s Law up on the mountain!

Ex. 32:7 Why did God want Moses to go back down?

Ex. 32:8 What did He say the people had done?

Ex. 32:9 What did He say about the people?

Ex. 32:10 What did God say He would do if Moses left Him alone?

What did He say He would do with Moses?

Moses did not let God alone – he interceded on Israel’s behalf.

Ex. 32:12 What did Moses say the Egyptians would think if God destroyed the Israelites in the wilderness?

Ex. 32:13 What promise did Moses “remind” God about?

Israel deserved death for their sin (Rom. 6:23a), but the Lord refrained from destroying them. Moses went down the mount.

Ex. 32:15 What was he carrying?

Ex. 32:16 Whose writing was on the tablets?

Ex. 32:19 What did Moses see when he neared the camp?

What did he do with the stone tablets?

Ex. 32:20 What did he do with the golden calf?

Moses questioned Aaron about his role in this sin (verses 21-24).

Ex. 32:25 What did he see regarding the people?

Sin cost 3,000 Israelites their lives that day (verses 26-28)!

Ex. 32:31 What did Moses say about the people?

Ex. 32:32 “Yet now, if thou wilt _____ their sin—; and if not, _____ me, I pray thee, out of thy _____ which thou hast written.” Moses was willing to put his life on the line on behalf of his people.

Concluding Thoughts: The Israelites were God’s people whom He had redeemed from Egyptian bondage, but they still fell into sin. Christians are God’s people whom He has redeemed from sin’s bondage, but we still fall into sin, too. Sadly, we often choose to become entangled in sin again and again (Gal. 5:1).

When Israel sinned Moses interceded for them. He was willing to take their punishment and he asked for God’s mercy. When Christians sin Jesus Christ intercedes for us. The Bible says it this way: “*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*” (1 John 2:1).

Confess your sins to God right now. Forgiveness and restored fellowship are as close as your sincere confession.

Project: Memorize **1 John 1:9**. Confess your sins as soon as you are aware of them.

May 30, 2021

Exodus 39 – 40

God's Presence and Glory

Have you ever known anyone who wanted everything done his way? He might exhibit the attitude: “It’s either my way or the highway.” Nothing is acceptable unless it is done his way. Such people are often arrogant, self-centered, and have an over-inflated opinion of themselves.

God gives His people very clear instructions and expects them to do things the way He says. What’s the difference between God’s attitude and that of the “My way or the highway” guy? For one thing, God’s ways are always **right** – that is certainly not the case with any human being. More important, however, are God’s motivation for his instructions and the rewards for following them. The controlling human wants things done his way to build up his ego and to make others feel subservient, but God wants us to do things His way because that is always best for us. The Lord also rewards His obedient children with many blessings that they would miss out on if they didn’t do things His way.

In this lesson you will discover the blessings the ancient Israelites received for doing things God’s way, but first let’s establish the context for this last lesson from the book of Exodus. In chapters 25 – 31 God told the Israelites exactly how to build the Tabernacle and set apart the priests. In chapters 35 – 39 they actually took up the offering and made all the things the way God instructed.

Ex. 39:32 “Thus was all the _____ of the _____ of the tent of the congregation _____; and the children of Israel did according to _____ that the _____ commanded Moses, so _____ they.”

Ex. 39:33-41 They brought everything they made to Moses.

Ex. 39:42 “According to all that the _____ commanded _____, so the children of _____ made _____ the work.”

Ex. 39:43 What did Moses recognize when he looked at it all?

What did Moses do?

Ex. 40:1 Who spoke to Moses?

Ex. 40:2 When were they supposed to set up the Tabernacle?

The Israelites had been camped at Mount Sinai for about nine-and-a-half months. It had taken them nearly nine months to carefully construct all the parts of the Tabernacle and make all the special clothing required by the priests. In verses 3-15 God told Moses exactly how they were to set up the Tabernacle and how to consecrate it and the priests for God's service.

Ex. 40:16 What did Moses do?

Ex. 40:17 When did they set up the Tabernacle?

Verses 18-33 reveal that Moses oversaw every detail of erecting the Tabernacle and consecrating the priests. What does the last sentence of verse 33 tell us?

Ex. 40:34 What covered the tent?

What filled the Tabernacle?

The visible glory of God that had led them out of Egypt (Ex. 13:21) and had rested upon Mount Sinai (Ex. 24:16) now came and settled upon the Tabernacle.

Ex. 40:35 Why couldn't Moses enter the Tabernacle?

The next two verses tell how God led the people on their journeys.

Ex. 40:36 What did they do when the cloud was taken up from above the Tabernacle?

Ex. 40:37 What did they do as long as the cloud remained over the Tabernacle?

Ex. 40:38 “For the _____ of the _____ was upon the Tabernacle by _____, and _____ was on it by _____, in the _____ of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.”

For the remainder of their forty years in the wilderness, the cloud of God’s manifested presence was visible to all the Israelites above the Tabernacle every day. Every night the pillar of cloud was replaced by a pillar of fire, which was also visible to all the people.

Concluding Thoughts: Moses led the children of Israel to build the Tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly as God had told him. They made the priests’ garments, consecrated the priests, and dedicated the Tabernacle exactly according to God’s instructions. Because of this they were blessed with God’s **presence** and they could witness His **glory**. Can you imagine seeing that pillar of cloud during the day and pillar of fire at night? It would be humbling to realize God was present in your midst at all times and that He was pleased with the things you had done.

God doesn’t manifest Himself in such visible ways today because we are blessed to have the living, complete revelation of God in written form – the Bible. The ancient Israelites did not have the Bible; nor did they have the Holy Spirit of God living within them as modern Christians do (Rom. 8:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:19).

The principle we can learn from this lesson is that **when God’s people do things God’s way they will be blessed to experience His presence and witness His glory**. When they do things their own way in violation of God’s will they forfeit those blessings.

Project: Obey God in all things this week, and watch out for His blessings. Be sure to pick up a new *Sunday School Member Quarterly* and begin the Daily Bible Reading Guide on Monday.