

MOSES and the Birth of a Nation

- ◆ The princess and the baby Moses
- ◆ Moses runs away for 40 years
- ◆ God speaks to Moses from a burning bush
- ◆ 10 plagues from God defeat Pharaoh
- ◆ The Jewish Passover explained
- ◆ Delivery from slavery in Egypt
- ◆ Manna from heaven
- ◆ The people of Israel prepare to meet their God
- ◆ God's Ten Commandments

THIS BOOK tells us how God fulfilled the promise He made to Abraham nearly 4000 years ago. God said that Abraham would have a very large family that would live in Canaan, the country we now call Israel. This book begins when the family of Jacob lived in Egypt. Jacob was Abraham's grandson whom God called Israel. The people of Israel were special to God. This story tells how God took them out from Egypt to Canaan. It tells us the history of the Jews (Israelites). It tells us the importance of the Passover and Ten Commandments for Jews and Christians today.

MANNA PUBLICATIONS supply Bible commentaries written by Fred Morris. For many years Fred and his wife Lorna travelled round the world teaching and preaching. When they returned home they wrote these notes for printing and selling wherever there was a need for basic Christian teaching.

THIS REVISED edition is written in easy-to-read Worldwide English which will add understanding and also speed up translation into other languages. It gives basic teaching for all readers plus additional notes for Bible students, teachers and pastors.

THESE BOOKS are to use on your own or to study in a group. They will teach you God's truth. They will help you to know God's Son, Jesus Christ. They will help you to talk about your faith in God. They will stop you from going the wrong way in life. They will tell you what is right and what is wrong. They will help to lead you closer to Christ. They provide food for life.

WE PRAY that you may have a new peace and purpose in life as you read the Bible and use these commentaries.

Manna Publications
FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE COMMENTARIES

MOSES Part 1

The Birth of a Nation

A Bible Commentary
in easy-to-read Worldwide
English

for personal or group study

by Fred Morris



Exodus Part 1
Chapters 1 to 20

To the reader or leader

These Bible commentaries explain the truth about God's Word in a way that is easy to read and understand. You can use these books to study the Bible on your own or with others in a group. In a group study, each person should have his or her own book and a Bible if possible.

There is a lot of information in this book. Please study it slowly and thoughtfully. Ask God to help you apply the things you learn to your own life and situation.



Now Read: Where you see this, it means you or your group leader should always read the Bible passage first before reading the words in this book.



Talk about: Where you see this, there are questions that can be asked in a group study. They also help the reader to understand the Bible verses.



Where you see this sign, the question requires more time and meditation.



Multiple choice questions. Where you see this, there are questions with three possible answers; some are right answers, some are wrong answers. These questions help you to think carefully about what you are reading. The answers to these questions are given at the back of the book. You can use the questions as a personal test.



Where you see **ruled boxes**, the information inside is mainly for Bible students, teachers and preachers.

Additional Bible readings are there to give you important information. God will use them to speak to you. This is why you should check all readings now or later and use them for study at home. Some readings are from the Old Testament (OT), which we call 'the holy writings'. That is the part of the Bible written before Jesus Christ lived on this earth. Some readings are from the New Testament (NT), the part of the Bible which was written after Jesus Christ lived on this earth.

Manna Bible commentaries give God's truth as a foundation for all believers. The people leading the study should add applications and experiences from their own Christian life and culture.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Exodus chapters 1 to 6

1. b; 2. c; 3. a, b & c; 4. a; 5. a; 6. b & c;
7. b; 8. a & c; 9. a, b & c; 10. c.

Exodus chapters 7 to 13

11. c; 12. a; 13. b; 14. a & b; 15. c;
16. a; 17. c; 18. a; 19. a; 20. b & c.

Exodus chapters 14 to 20

21. c; 22. a & c; 23. a & c; 24. a, b & c; 25. a & b; 26. c;
27. b; 28. a, b & c; 29. b & c; 30. a & c; 31. b.

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strong in number. Then it was time for them to move back to the Promised Land according to God's plan. So God created a reason and strong desire in them to leave Egypt.

God gave the Ten Commandments to the People of Israel 3500 years ago because He did not want them to worship like the people of Egypt.

The Commandments remind the people that they must be a special people, holy and different from other people. They must love and worship Yahweh God. They must also love and respect other people. This Law says what is right and what is wrong. It speaks about the old life of sin. It helped the People of Israel to remember the bad things they had left behind in their old life in Egypt. It reminded them that God had saved them and set them apart. Today it helps us remember how much God wants to save us from sin. Most of all, He wants us to be a holy people so that we are set apart to worship a holy God.

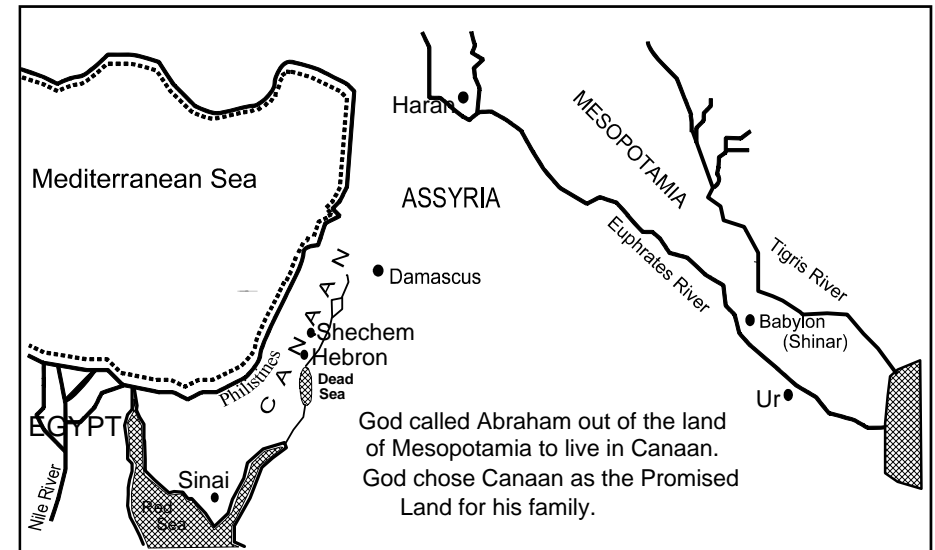
The amazing story of Moses and the Passover and the Ten Commandments teaches us a lot about God and about ourselves. We have tried to help you believe in the miracles of God and to understand the need to fear God, to respect God, to trust God, to obey God and His instructions for daily living, to know God, to love God and to worship God. His Law guides us but also reminds us that we are sinners, and that we need Jesus Christ as our Saviour. He is the Son of God who died to save us. Praise God for all Jesus has done to give us a new life with Him and to know the love and peace of God. Amen.

Exodus Part 1 English Mar 07

INTRODUCTION

Exodus, the second book of the Bible, tells about the families of the 12 sons of Jacob when they moved from Egypt. Jacob was the grandson of Abraham. God gave the new name of Israel to Jacob.

God sent Abraham from the city of Ur, to Haran, then to Shechem in Canaan. God promised Abraham that his family would be given the land of Canaan. God also told Abraham that his family would live in Egypt for 400 years before living in the land He promised them.



There was good food in Egypt and good grass for their sheep. At first, the people of Israel were happy and had many children. They began to forget about God's promises. They lived in peace in the land of Egypt. During this time, the family of Abraham grew to over one million people. After 400 years in Egypt, God knew it was time for the children or people of Israel to move back to the Promised Land of Canaan.

Life in Egypt became very hard for the family of Abraham. They began to think that God had forgotten them. But God did not forget His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Exodus 2:24). Already, one of His promises had come true (Genesis 15:5; 17:6; 22:18): now there was a very great number of people who came from Abraham's son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (Israel) and his 12 great-grandsons. One day the family of Israel would be 'as many as the stars in the sky' and 'the grains of sand on the seashore'. There were so many of them in Egypt that they 'filled the land' (Exodus 1:7).

God made another promise to their father Abraham: 'Your children who live after you will be strangers in a country that does not belong to them

[Egypt]. They will become slaves. They will be treated badly' (Genesis 15:13). Now it was the end of the 400 years. It was time for the people of Israel to leave Egypt and go to live in the Promised Land. God made life very hard for the people so that it was time for a change.

God made a special way for them all to leave. The first chapters of Exodus tell us how God made His promises come true (see opposite page). It tells how God saved them from being slaves in Egypt and made them ready to live a holy life in the Promised Land. God tells why He arranged the exodus – the coming out of Egypt – in chapter 9 verse 1: 'Let My people go so that they will worship Me.' Through this exodus God made the people of Israel into a great nation. He set them apart to worship the one true God, Yahweh. This is the story of the birth of the nation of Israel – God's special people (Exodus 6:7).

Note: Bible names often change over the years. **Hebrews** means the same as **Israelites** or **children of Israel** or **people of Israel**. (Israel was Jacob's new name which was given to him by God. Genesis 32:28.) Later they were called **Jews**.



Exodus 1:1–22

THE SUFFERING OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

After many years in Egypt, there was a new Pharaoh (king). He did not know who Jacob (Israel) was. He did not know about Joseph. He was afraid of the people of Israel (1:9). He said, 'There are so many Israelites, they might join our enemies and fight against us.'

So he made them his slaves. The men were forced to make bricks to build cities (1:14). The women were forced to work hard in the fields. The Egyptians in charge of the slaves were cruel. Did the Hebrews suffer? Did they cry? Did they die? Yes! But God was with them. He promised, 'I will never leave you' (Deuteronomy 31:6). Instead of fearing the Egyptians and the gods and evil spirits of Egypt, the Hebrews had to learn to fear Yahweh God, the creator of all things. Meanwhile, the number of Hebrews kept growing so the Pharaoh tried to kill all the Hebrew baby boys (1:16, 22).



Exodus 2:1–10

THE PRINCESS AND THE HEBREW BABY

It was now time for God to save His people from the Egyptians and take them to the Promised Land. So He made a way for one Hebrew boy to live in the king's palace! His name was Moses.

Later, God used him to talk to the king and tell him to set the people free. When Moses was a baby, his parents trusted God. to keep him safe. They hid him in a basket in the River Nile. King Pharaoh's

- a. The Lord is my strength and song.
 - b. Who among gods are like you?
 - c. The Lord will reign for ever and ever.
25. What could the Israelites do with the manna?
- a. Boil it or bake it.
 - b. Keep it for the Sabbath day.
 - c. Pick it fresh every day.
26. How did the Israelites get water?
- a. God sent them back to Elim.
 - b. They saved it from the River Nile.
 - c. Moses provided water from a rock.
27. Which sentence is true?
- a. The Amalekites won the battle with Joshua.
 - b. Aaron and Hur held up the hands of Moses during the battle.
 - c. Moses knelt down and prayed.
28. Which sentences are true?
- a. Jethro said that he knew that the God of Moses was greater than any other god.
 - b. Jethro brought the wife and children of Moses to meet him.
 - c. Jethro made an offering to God.
29. Jethro told Moses —
- a. not to judge the people.
 - b. to choose leaders to help him.
 - c. to speak for God to the people.
30. God told Moses to tell the people that —
- a. they would be a kingdom of priests if they obeyed Him.
 - b. they would rule over all nations.
 - c. they must make themselves ready to meet God.
31. Moses told the people —
- a. to make a god of silver or gold.
 - b. to obey God's commandments.
 - c. not to build an altar.

CONCLUSIONS

The Bible tells us that God reminded the People of Israel more than 100 times that He saved them from the land and the gods of Egypt. He told them again and again, 'You must not do what the people of Egypt do' (Leviticus 18:3). God prepared Moses to lead the people out of Egypt. God prepared the people to be led by Moses. God showed them miracles and He gave them instructions for living. He prepared them for a new life in the Promised Land. He prepared them to trust Him and to worship Him.

Today, Egypt seems a strange place for the People of Israel to live. But they were safe there and at peace for most of the 400 years and they grew

Commandment Eight: DO NOT STEAL

'Do not steal' (20:15)

Commandment Nine: DO NOT LIE

'Do not accuse anyone falsely' (20:16)

Commandment Ten: DO NOT ENVY

'Do not wish for anything that belongs to your neighbour' (20:17)

We explain the Ten Commandments more fully in our commentary on Exodus Part 2.

Remember that laws cannot save us from sin. God's laws show us what is right and what is wrong. But they cannot take away our sin – only Jesus can do that. The Law helps us to know that we need Jesus Christ in our lives.

The Law helps us to obey God; Jesus enables us to know God.



Talk about:

1. Explain how the tenth commandment helps us to fulfil all the other nine commandments.
2. Why do we say the Ten Commandments do not save us from sin?
3. Why were the Ten Commandments an important new beginning for the people of Israel?



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Based on Exodus chapters 14 to 20

Please choose the correct answers, a, b or c. There could be one, two or three correct answers to each question. Answers are given at the end of the book.

21. Which sentence is true?
 - a. The Israelites wanted to die in the desert.
 - b. The Israelites did not know which way to go.
 - c. Pharaoh followed the Israelites into the desert.
22. How did the Israelites get away from the Egyptians?
 - a. They hid behind the cloud.
 - b. They ran away.
 - c. They marched through the sea without getting wet.
23. Which sentences are true?
 - a. The Egyptians followed the Israelites into the sea.
 - b. The wheels came off their chariots.
 - c. The sea flowed over the Egyptian army.
24. Which words are in the song of Moses?



Why does God let people suffer?

Why did God let the People of Israel suffer? Many people lived and died before God sent Moses to stop their suffering. The older people remembered the good times before they were slaves. Now they wanted God to help them. But if they were not slaves and became happy again, would they want to leave Egypt? If they did not suffer they might want to stay in Egypt. They became unhappy. This made them ask God to help them. They prayed to God and He answered their prayers. This was part of the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham.

The people of Israel were chosen by God for a special purpose. But many of them had forgotten that God had told Abraham that they would be slaves in Egypt. They forgot that God had promised Abraham that He would have a large family and take them to the Promised Land of Canaan.

They would soon be a nation of over one million people. But Egypt was not the land God promised them. At the end of 430 years in Egypt, God made them want to leave Egypt. Soon they would be a nation who worshipped Him in the land He had chosen.

Now we can understand why God let them suffer – it worked for good in their lives. We, too, can learn from this. We must never forget that God has a purpose for us. When we suffer, we must call out to God and ask Him to save us. We must always trust God and remember that He loves us. We must not be angry with God. We must ask Him to help us and show us how our troubles are working for good. Read Romans 8:28.

God understands if we are unhappy or angry at times. We must remember that God loves us but many troubles happen to us in this world through sin or accidents or ignorance or persecution.

The people of Israel suffered because Pharaoh was afraid of them (Exodus 1:9,10,12). Pharaoh was afraid they might help his enemies, so he tried to take away their strength. He made them slaves. Then he killed their baby boys. Many times in history, enemies killed Israelites (Jews).

Christians are also God's special people. Remember that God does not stop loving us when we have troubles. He always hears us when we call out to Him. He is always with us and will help us. Many people are enemies of Jews and Christians. Our enemies do bad things to us because they are afraid of the truth of God.

Sometimes, we must stay where we are and suffer. Sometimes, we must be ready to go where God wants us to go and not stay in the wrong place.

We must trust God. We know He hears and understands and saves His people. He does not always answer our prayers quickly. But we must not stop trusting God. And when He helps us to understand what to do, we must be ready to act quickly.

Paul says we should learn to rejoice in our suffering (Romans 5:3). Read more about suffering in our Bible commentary on Romans Part 1.

daughter found him. This was a miracle of God, for Moses grew up in the king's palace. He went to Egyptian schools but he did not forget what his mother taught him.

People thought Moses was the 'son of Pharaoh's daughter' but when he was a man he wanted people to know he was a Hebrew (Hebrews 11:24). He wanted to belong to God. That was more important than being rich and living in the king's palace. The king's people did not worship Yahweh, the one true living God of Jews and Christians.



Talk about:

1. How did the Hebrews become slaves (1:7–11)?
2. What wicked orders did the new king give (1:16,22)?
3. Why did God save the baby Moses from the River Nile?



Exodus 2:11–25

MOSES RUNS AWAY FROM EGYPT

In the palace, the Egyptians taught Moses about the stars, language, writing and numbers. But all the time he trusted God and did not trust in the Egyptian gods.

Moses knew that the Egyptians made Hebrew slaves work very hard. One day he went out to see for himself (2:11). He saw an Egyptian master beating a Hebrew slave. He was very angry. He killed the Egyptian, then hid the man's body in the sand.

The next day Moses saw two Hebrews fighting. Boldly he tried to stop the fight. Perhaps he thought that his own people would know that God wanted him to help them (Acts 7:25).

'Why are you hitting a Hebrew when you are brothers?' he asked the man. 'Who made you in charge of us? Do you want to kill me like you did the Egyptian yesterday?' the man asked.

Then Moses was afraid. He now knew that someone had told Pharaoh he had killed an Egyptian. He then knew that Pharaoh would try to kill him (2:15). So he ran away from Egypt. He knew that he had lost the respect of the Egyptians and had failed to gain the respect of the Hebrews.

serve as priests' and to be 'a special nation'?

5. What is the connection between 'fear of God', 'knowledge of God' and 'love of God'?



Exodus 20:1–26

GOD'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

On Mount Sinai, God gave to Moses the Law that His people must obey. These are the Ten Commandments. The laws of many countries in the world are based on these commandments.

For 430 years the Hebrew people were slaves in Egypt. They had no laws. God wanted to make them become a holy people to obey His laws (Leviticus 19:2). The first four commands are about God. The last six are about people. The Law is like a mirror. The mirror doesn't change you. It shows you how you are and what God wants to change in your life.

Before God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, He reminded the people (20:2) that they were slaves in Egypt. God saved them to be His special people. He promised this to Abraham nearly 500 years before. Now He told them how to live like holy people.

Commandment One: WORSHIP GOD ONLY

'I am the LORD your God' (20:2,3)

Commandment Two: NO IDOLS

'Do not make statues ... or worship them (20:4–6)

Commandment Three: RESPECT GOD'S NAME

'Do not use the name of the LORD your God in wrong ways' (20:7)

Commandment Four: REMEMBER GOD'S DAY

'Remember the Sabbath day. Keep it holy. Do all your work in six days' (20:8–11).

Commandment Five: RESPECT YOUR PARENTS

'Respect your father and mother, so you will live a long time' (20:12)

Commandment Six: DO NOT KILL ANYONE

'Do not murder' (20:13)

Commandment Seven: NO SEX OUTSIDE MARRIAGE

'Do not commit adultery' (20:14)

They must learn to fear God in order to know God. In this way they would understand God more and experience His love.

Today, we live in New Testament times. The New Testament teaches us to repent and be baptised and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Then we can worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

There must be no pushing in front of others. Leaders and people must be ready to worship God together as equals before God. The Kingdom of God includes the least and the greatest.



Talk about:

1. Why did God show Himself in this way so the people were afraid?
2. Why did God tell the people to get ready before they came to meet Him?
3. What did Jesus do so we are able to come near to meet God?
4. What does it mean to Christians to become 'God's special people' and 'to



The Fear and Love of God

What does it mean to 'fear God'? Should we be afraid of God? In Exodus 19:9–24 God tells Moses the people must fear Him. The people must get ready, wash their bodies and their clothes, and start to think about meeting their holy God. Their desire must be for the LORD. Then they must come near the holy mountain to listen to what He says. But they must not touch the mountain or they will die because God is powerful.

It was important that the people of Israel knew that Yahweh God, the LORD God Almighty, is different from the gods of Egypt and of other countries and religions. For three days they must stop everything else and think only about meeting God. For the first time they were told how to fear God.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;

Come bow before Him now, with reverence and fear:

In Him no sin is found – we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

David Evans

The Bible says 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7). For the people of Israel, the fear of God was the start of getting to know God.

It was good that the people of Israel feared God because they had not learned to love and respect Him. So God taught the people of Israel to fear Him and to obey Him. They were the special people that God promised to Abraham. This was a new beginning for the people of Israel. And this was a new beginning between God and the whole of mankind. For through their Messiah, Jesus, the whole world can have a new beginning. It is the story of God's love. It is the story of God's desire for righteous people to worship Him and to live at peace and to rule with justice.



Exodus 2:16–25

MOSES BECOMES A SHEPHERD

Moses went to Arabia, on the other side of the Red Sea (also called the Reed Sea). When he came to the land of Midian he was safe. He was a long way from Pharaoh. Moses was also a long way from the land where he was born and from the Hebrew people God wanted him to help.

He sat by a well to rest. Some shepherd girls came to the well to get water for their sheep, but other shepherds came and pushed them away. Moses was bold with the men. He made them wait and he helped the shepherd girls get water for their sheep first (2:19).

The father of the girls was a chief called Jethro. They ran home and told their father about the man who saved them from the rough shepherds.

'Where is he? Why did you leave him? Ask him to come and eat,' their father said to the girls (2:20).



God saved baby Moses and God saved baby Jesus

How wonderful! God used a princess in Egypt to keep baby Moses safe. This was a miracle because:

- she knew the baby belonged to the people of Israel (2:6);
- she knew her father said his soldiers must kill all the Hebrew baby boys (1:22);
- she let the Hebrew mother of the baby care for him (2:7,8).

So Moses grew up in the king's palace but kept his faith in the God of Israel. He did not worship the Egyptian gods. Moses was the right person to talk to the king and also to lead the Hebrew people. God planned this for Moses and for the people of Israel.

God used the people of Egypt to keep baby Moses safe. He was the one to save Israel. 1500 years later, God used the people of Egypt to keep baby Jesus safe. He became the Saviour of Israel and of the whole world. Read Matthew 2:13,14. Moses was like Jesus because they were both saved when a wicked king ordered all the Israelite baby boys to be killed (Exodus 1:22; Matthew 2:16). This is one of the ways that Moses is a picture or type of Jesus Christ.

Baby Moses and baby Jesus were saved in Egypt from death by a miracle of God. Jesus met Moses on a mountain top near Jerusalem (Luke 9:30). They spoke together about the fulfilment of God's salvation plan for the whole world through the death and resurrection of Jesus in Jerusalem. No wonder that Satan tried to kill baby Moses and baby Jesus! Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God and His promised Messiah for the Jewish people. Through Him the whole world can know the salvation of God

Moses liked this kind chief and said, 'I will work for you,' so Jethro showed Moses how to care for the sheep and where to find water and food for them. Later, Moses married Jethro's daughter Zipporah. They had two sons.

In Egypt, Moses was a prince in Pharaoh's palace, but now in Midian he was a poor shepherd. He did not even own his own sheep; they belonged to chief Jethro.

The Bible says that people are like sheep who go astray (Isaiah 53:6). Sheep are slow, and weak and often wander away. Moses must not lose them or let wild animals eat them. He found grass and water for them. He cared for Jethro's sheep on the hills of Midian for forty years.

Moses was a shepherd of sheep. Later, he became a shepherd of people. Pastors are like shepherds. They care for the people (1 Peter 5:2).

God cares too. He listens and answers when His people call out to Him. Notice the **verbs** in these verses: a) God **heard** their groaning; b) He **remembered** His covenant with Abraham; c) He **looked** on the Hebrews in mercy; d) He **cared** about them (2:24–25, also read Exodus 34:6). But God often waits a long time until everyone and everything is ready.



Talk about:

1. Why did Moses not worship the gods of Pharaoh?
2. Why did Moses run away from Egypt?
3. How did the boldness of Moses change his life (2:12,13,17)?
4. How did this affect the purpose of God for the People of Israel (2:15,21)?



Exodus 3:1–22

GOD SPEAKS TO MOSES

Moses was forty years old when he ran away from Pharaoh's palace and he was in Midian forty years. All this time, the Hebrews were slaves in Egypt. As their lives got harder, they asked God to save them from their cruel masters.

One day God was ready to speak to Moses. Moses led the sheep across a desert, near to Sinai, a holy mountain (3:1). When he looked across, he saw a bush. The bush was on fire, but the bush did not burn away, so Moses went near to look.

'Moses! Moses!' a voice called. 'Here I am,' Moses answered.



Jethro and the people of Midian

Midian was the son of Abraham and Keturah (Genesis 25:1,2). The people of Midian, Midianites, lived in Arabia, south of Canaan, the land God promised to the people of Israel. They were traders, so Jethro knew about Egypt and the Hebrews and the God of Moses. Abraham, who lived a long time ago, was a forefather of Moses and of Jethro. The Midianites later became robbers and gave the people of Israel much trouble (Judges 6:4).

sleep with their wives (19:10,15). They must let the desire to worship God be stronger than the desire to have sex. Their thoughts must be on God alone.

'On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning... a thick cloud over the mountain, and the sound of a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp shook with fear. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God...' (19:16,17). The people were afraid. There will be another loud trumpet blast when Jesus Christ appears to all nations (Matthew 24:30,31).

'Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him' (19:19). Again God told Moses, 'Warn the people not to cross over the border or come near to touch the mountain. If they do they will die' (19:21,24).

The people knew it was Yahweh God who spoke to Moses. They knew that He created the world and saved His special people from Egypt.

This is what God told the people of Israel to do. They must get themselves ready to meet God and then:

- Be quiet – no pushing in front of the others (v.21,24).
- Priests, leaders and people must all be ready together (v.22,24).

Why did they have to get ready to meet God? God told them:

- You will be God's special people (v.5).
- You will serve as God's priests (v.6).
- You will be a special nation (v.6).



Every believer a priest

God told Moses 'You will become a kingdom of priests to serve Me' (Exodus 19:6). God wants all believers to be priests and no special clothes are required. The sacrifice of Jesus makes it possible for Christians to be God's holy people. We can come to God at any time, tell him what we need and what others need. He will listen to us. 'You will be holy priests. You will offer spiritual sacrifices. God will accept them because of what Jesus Christ has done' (1 Peter 2:5).

The people could not come close to God to talk to Him (Exodus 19:21). Only the priests that God chose could come near to God (19:22). Aaron, the chief priest, was the only one who could go near to the top of Mount Sinai with Moses to talk to God (19:24). Joshua was later allowed to go near to God (24:13).

God has made us holy by the sacrifice of Jesus and so all believers can come near to God. This is a great blessing. Through Jesus we meet God. God raised Jesus from death and His Spirit now lives in all who believe in Him. Now His Spirit works through us. This is why we say all Christians are priests. We can come close to God at any time. We can pray to God for ourselves and for other people. Every believer is a priest. We do not need the power of another priest to help us to come close to God. God gives us the power to come to Him through the blood of Jesus.

please a holy God. The leaders over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens of people judged the small problems (18:21). When there were difficult problems they went to ask Moses for his advice.

Moses did what Jethro said. Jethro was a new believer in God. Sometimes God gives new believers important things to say to us. We should always listen to new believers and then see if what they say is right. We should help new believers, listen to them, teach them and share meals with them and with the leaders (18:12). Like Jethro, they may be with us only for a short time (18:27).



Talk about:

1. What can Christians learn from 18:12?
2. What was the method used to solve disputes (18:16)?
3. Is Jethro's plan good for choosing leaders today (18:21–22)?
4. Which people did Moses choose as leaders (18:21)?
5. Jethro told Moses what to do. What was the result (18:23)?



Exodus 19:1–25

GOD MAKES THE PEOPLE READY TO MEET HIM

The people of Israel came to Mount Sinai and camped in front of the mountain. It was three months since leaving Egypt. Mount Sinai was a high mountain. People call it a holy mountain, but God does not live in a mountain or in anything that He has made. He is much greater. He is all-powerful and rules over everything He has made.

God spoke to Moses from the mountain and told him, 'This is what you are to say to the family of Jacob (Israel)...' (19:3).

'Tell them, "If you obey Me and keep My Covenant, then of all the nations you will be My special treasure. You will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a special nation"' (19:5–6).

Moses went to the people. He called the leaders of Israel and told them what God said. All the people answered Moses, 'We will do everything the Lord says' (19:8).

So Moses went back up the mountain and told God what they said. The people could not see God. There was a thick cloud on the mountain like smoke, but they heard God speaking to Moses (Deuteronomy 4:11–14). Moses was their leader. They must listen to him, and trust him and Aaron, the chief priest.

God told Moses, 'Go to the people and make them ready... Make borders so the people don't come too near to the mountain...' (19:10–12). The people had to be 'clean' before they could worship God. No Israelite could come to God without getting ready. This is why they had to wash their clothes and not



Waiting for God's time

Moses wanted to protect his own people but killed an Egyptian. He broke the moral law of Egypt and the moral law of God. He was a prince of Egypt but he killed a man and had to run away. He was no longer able to lead the Hebrews. He was no longer able to be a prince in Egypt. God's plan for Moses and the Hebrews was delayed. He lived in the desert as a shepherd for 40 years. God waited for the right time.

All that time, the people of Israel were suffering very much and **waiting for God** to set them free.

God forgave Moses. After 40 years, God called Moses to deliver His people who were slaves. He told Moses to go and free His people. God forgives us too, because Christ died for us. But sometimes, because of our sins, or the sins of others, we have to 'live in the desert' and **wait for God** for some years. Because of our sins, others may suffer and have to **wait for God's time** to help them. To God, 40 years is a small time. God gave Moses a second chance after waiting 40 years.

Then God spoke to Moses from the bush: 'Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground' (3:4–5).

At once Moses turned his face away (3:6). He was afraid to look at the brightness of God's glory in the bush.

When Moses obeyed, God spoke again: 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.'

Then God told Moses that He had come down to save His people from the Egyptians. He wanted Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt, to go to Canaan, 'a land full of milk and honey' (3:8). It would be 'a good land'. But it would be a land where evil

people lived. Up to 10 tribes lived in Canaan at that time (Genesis 15:19–21). First God planned to make the people of Israel into a special nation. They must leave the place promised to them for 400 years and move to the place promised them forever. They must leave behind the gods of Egypt. They must learn to be a holy people, set apart to worship Yahweh, the one true and living God.



As God brought His people out of Egypt, so Jesus Christ brings us out of a life of sin. Men are slaves to sin (Romans 6:6,16). Jesus Christ died on the cross to set us free from the power of sin. When we ask God to save us and

we believe in Jesus as our Saviour, God brings us out of the kingdom of darkness, where we are trapped by the power of sin. He brings us into the kingdom of Jesus where we begin a new life as holy people, free to worship Him (Colossians 1:13–14).

God wants us to follow Jesus who will lead us into a new life to worship Him. God wanted the people of Israel to follow Moses into a new life to worship Him. But God warned Moses that the land was filled with evil people. The people of God must learn to overcome evil. But first, they must learn to trust and obey Him.



Talk about:

1. What made the ground beside the burning bush holy (3:5)?
2. What did God tell Moses to do (3:10)? What did Moses do next? What did God do next?
3. God told Moses about 'the land full of milk and honey'. What kind of land did God mean? Where was this land (3:8; Genesis 15:18)?

MOSES TRIES TO SAY 'NO' TO GOD

'I will strike the Egyptians so that they will let you go to your own land,' God told Moses (3:20). But Moses was afraid of Pharaoh and did not want to go back to Egypt.

God told Moses why he must go to Egypt (3:7–9). God wanted Moses to take His people out of Egypt, back to the land promised to Abraham (Genesis 15:18). Moses was God's chosen man to lead them. Moses was the only Hebrew who knew and understood the kings of Egypt.

'Who am I?' Moses answered. 'How can I do this?' he thought. He wasn't a great prince any more. He was just a shepherd. He was good at keeping sheep, not people. Moses was afraid. He ran away from Egypt many years before because he killed an Egyptian. God knew this but He still chose Moses to speak to the Pharaoh king and to take the Hebrews out of Egypt. Moses



The Special Name of God

God told Moses to use the name Yahweh = the LORD (3:15). God's name Yahweh, was so holy that the Hebrews did not say it out loud, or even write it. At that time they wrote the letters JHVH for the name of God.

Because God's name is so holy, instead of JHVH the people often used the word 'Adonai'. In English Bibles we use the word 'LORD' (with capital letters). This is not the same as the word 'Lord'. When you see 'LORD God' in English Bibles it means 'Yahweh God', the one true almighty and living God who created the world. In French Bibles, Yahweh is called the Eternal One or Everlasting God.

The LORD God wanted Moses to know that the almighty, living and eternal God was speaking to him from the burning bush. God used His own special name 'I AM' (3:14). Before that, God did not tell anyone His special name (6:2).

leaders of Israel's tribes ate a meal with Jethro, Aaron and Moses. They knew that God was there with them.

It is good to meet with family and friends to worship God, to talk about His goodness and to eat a meal together, knowing that God is with you.



Talk about:

1. How did Jethro come to believe in the LORD God (18:8–9)?
2. What did Jethro say to show he believed in God (18:10–11)?
3. What did Jethro do to show he believed in God (18:12)?
4. What did the leaders of Israel do to show they were happy that Jethro believed in God (18:12)?
5. How can we welcome new believers and help them to be strong?
6. What does it mean to eat a meal together 'in the sight of God' (18:12)?

MOSES TRIES TO GUIDE THE PEOPLE

Next day Moses sat down to give guidance to the people, and they stood waiting from morning till evening (18:13). Everyone came to ask Moses about his or her problems. He taught them what God says and asked the LORD to show each person what He wanted them to do. Moses spoke to God and God spoke to Moses many times, so Moses knew what God wanted. He could teach the people the truth of God. The people could ask Moses for God's guidance.

God gave His people laws, so they knew how to live. They are part of the Jewish Torah, the first five books of the Bible. The earliest laws were about:

- Worship, sacrifices and priests (12:2–8, 14–20; 18:12).
- Feasts and feast days (12:14–27; 43–49).
- The first born male (13:2).
- The Sabbath (seventh) day and rest (16:23–26).

And there were many other laws to help the people to live holy lives. But there were many other things that the people wanted to know. So they came to Moses to tell him about their problems. Moses listened first then gave them guidance from God. He did not force his own opinions on the people. He waited for them to come to him first (18:16).

Jethro saw Moses sitting to teach God's people. 'What you are doing is not good,' he said, 'The work is too much for you... Teach them the rules and laws, show them the way to live... then choose men who fear God... to serve as judges...' (18:17–22). Jethro knew it was important for Moses to first seek God's wisdom to do what was right. 'You must speak to God... If that is what God wants...' (18:19,23).

So Moses chose good men to lead the people. Each man led a group of ten people. Then he chose other men to lead five groups, other men to lead ten groups and other men to lead 100 groups. He taught them how to live to

to trust Him and to trust Moses and to trust Joshua.

God wanted the people to remember (17:14). So Moses wrote down the story of the battle. God also wanted Joshua always to remember who won the battle against the Amalekites. Joshua became the leader of the people of Israel when Moses died.

God promised He would destroy Amalek. Moses built an altar there to remember their victory. He named it 'The LORD is my Banner' (17:15).



Talk about:

1. Who led the Israelites (17:1)?
2. Why did God lead them to a place without water (17:7)?
3. The Israelites wanted to go home to Egypt. TRUE or FALSE?
4. Why was it important for Israel to win the battle against the Amalekites (13:17)?
5. Why was it important for Joshua (17:14; Joshua 1:1–9)?
6. Why did God ask Moses to write everything down (17:14)?
7. Why did God tell King Saul to kill all the Amalekites 400 years after this (1 Samuel 15:2,3)?



Exodus 18:1–27

JETHRO VISITS MOSES

In Midian, Jethro heard about his son-in-law Moses. (See map on page 33.) He heard of God's miracles in Egypt and how God made a path through the Red Sea for the people of Israel to cross over.

So he went to meet Moses. Moses told Jethro everything the LORD God did. He also told Jethro how much God loved Israel (18:8). He told Jethro about the good times and the bad times in the desert. In this way Moses was teaching Jethro about the love and the power and the mercy of God. God did these things for His people in Egypt because He loved them. He called them His own special people. Moses praised God. He witnessed to Jethro.

When Jethro heard Moses tell him the story, he too praised God: 'Praise to the LORD, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians...' he said.

Jethro believed in the gods of Midian, but he said 'Now I know that the LORD (Yahweh) is greater than all other gods.' Moses told him how to worship God and they made a 'burnt offering and other sacrifices' (18:12). The

had run away and the Hebrews suffered in Egypt for 40 more years. But now this was God's time. He would not wait any longer.

'I will be with you,' God told him, 'and I will give you a sign... When you bring the people out of Egypt, you will all worship Me here on this mountain...' It was Horeb the mountain of Sinai where Moses was keeping the sheep (3:1,12).

Moses made excuses to God :

- I am nobody (3:11).
- The people won't believe me (4:1).
- I cannot speak well (4:10).
- Send someone else (4:13).

We, too, can make excuses, but we cannot run away from God and what He wants us to do. God is in charge and He does not change His mind (1 Samuel 15:29). He wants us to say 'Yes' to Him. He wants to give us another chance to obey Him.

God calls every Christian to serve Him. He doesn't tell us about the difficult things that may happen to us – He wants us to trust Him. God wants us to serve Him – to help and to save others. He wants us to say 'Yes' when He asks us to do little things. Then we will say 'Yes' when He asks us to do big things! Sometimes it is difficult to say 'Yes'. It was difficult for Moses. He tried to say 'No' at first.

GOD TELLS MOSES MANY THINGS

'I AM WHO I AM,' God told Moses. The LORD is My name forever' (3:14–15).

Before Moses could serve Yahweh, the LORD God, the Great 'I AM', he had to know Him as the One who is always there. He was there in creation, in history, with Abraham, even in Egypt with Jacob! And He has all power in heaven and on earth, now and in the future for all time.

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob knew God's other name, El-Shaddai (Genesis 17:1), the Almighty God. They did not know His name, Yahweh, the LORD who saves His people.

But now God comes to rescue His people and teach them the meaning of this new name, Yahweh. The people of Israel must know God as Yahweh, the great 'I AM', the 'One who Saves'. They will also know God's power to bring them out of Egypt. God uses the word 'know' many times in chapters 6 to 11. God next tells Moses some of the things that will happen in Egypt (3:18–22).



Talk about:

1. Discuss the way God made Moses ready to work for Him:
 - as a baby
 - as a young man
 - as a shepherd.

2. Did Moses say 'Yes' to God?
3. How do we learn to say 'Yes' to God?



Exodus 4:1-18

GOD MAKES MOSES READY TO GO TO EGYPT

Moses felt God very near. His knees shook and he covered his face from the bright light. Life had been very quiet for runaway Moses and he was not ready to say 'Yes' to God's plan.

God is all-powerful. He could bring His people out of Egypt without Moses, but He did not. He chose Moses to do this great work. And He chose the people of Israel to be His witnesses in the earth, to show the other nations that He is God (Ezekiel 20:5; Isaiah 43:10-13). God speaks to us so we know what is true. We must tell His good news to other people. God gives us His Holy Spirit to help us to do this (Acts 1:8).

God gave Moses three miracles, or signs, to help him trust God:

1. God turned Moses' shepherd's stick into a snake, then back to a stick (4:3-4). This showed that God would work miracles through Moses.
2. God gave Moses leprosy and then healed him (4:6-7). This showed God's power to bring sickness as judgement and power to give healing.
3. God told Moses when he poured out some water from the River Nile that it would turn to blood. This showed God's power over blood and water that give life.

God gave these signs to Moses to show that He is greater than anything or anyone else.

Moses knew he must not argue with God any more. But still he was afraid to go back to Egypt so he said, 'Please send someone else instead of me. I cannot speak very well' (4:10,13). Moses had great fear and little faith. He was still afraid because he killed an Egyptian. But God had chosen Moses and prepared him to be the right man to go for Him. So God said that Aaron, the brother of Moses, could go with him. Aaron would speak for Moses (4:16).

It does not matter if our faith in God is small. What matters is God's calling to do His work. Our lack of faith in God will let us down sometimes. God will never let us down. Therefore we must learn to trust Him.

Then Moses asked Jethro, his father in law, if he could go to Egypt. It was the custom at that time to ask for permission. Moses didn't tell Jethro that God had told him to go. He said he wanted to see if his family were alive. Perhaps he was hoping that Jethro would say 'No'. He was still afraid to trust and obey God. He knew it would be hard because God said, 'I know that the king of Egypt will not let your people go' (3:19).

Jethro told Moses to go to Egypt and he asked the God of Moses to bless him. So now Moses thought nothing could stop him. He had no more reasons to say 'No' to God.



did not trust God and if He did not help them, they would all die in the desert. Joshua and his soldiers could not win the battle if God did not help them.

Moses held up his rod for them to see while they fought the battle, like holding a flag or banner. It was to show them that Moses trusted in God and that God was in control. They could see Moses on top of the hill holding his rod.

Christians must learn from this:

- God gives us leaders to care for His church and we must trust them.
- Church leaders can get tired and need their family and friends to help them.
- Leaders have no power without God to help and guide them.
- They must remember to obey God and do what He tells them.
- Churches must not give up the battle against evil powers and against sin. It is important to win.

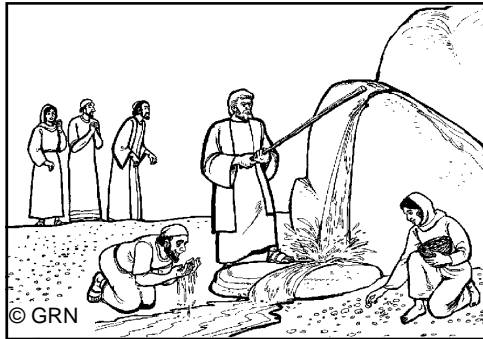
God knew Moses and Joshua needed to win their first battle. Then they would trust Him when harder things happened. God also knew the people must learn

gave them life. Jesus said He gives us 'living water' (John 4:10,14). Whoever believes in Him will have 'streams of living water' coming out of him (John 7:37,38). John wrote these words because when we believe the words of Jesus they give us life. We have this new life when we belong to Him (John 20:31). This is everlasting (eternal) life (John 3:15,16). We have this new life when we believe in Jesus as the Son of God. His Holy Spirit is like streams of pure, clean water within us.

GOD FIGHTS FOR ISRAEL

The Amalekites lived in the desert of Arabia, near the Negev. This was the first nation to fight Israel after they left Egypt. They were from the family of Esau. (Esau was the twin brother of Jacob whom God renamed 'Israel'.)

Moses sent Joshua and his men to fight the Amalekites. This was Joshua's first battle. When Joshua was afraid, he trusted God. He and his men won the battle because their leader, Moses, held up 'the rod of God' while they fought.



When Moses got tired, and his hands dropped to his side, the Israelites were losing the fight. So Aaron and Hur stood one on each side of Moses and held up his hands (17:12).

God chose his leader, Moses, to help the people win the battle. God could give victory without Moses. But God chose Moses to bless the people. If Moses did not hold up the rod, then they did not win. The people saw if they



The LORD's Sabbath

'Sabbath' means rest, stopping work. God told Adam how He made the heavens and the earth in six days of work. On the seventh day God said He 'ceased from His work'. He called the seventh day a Sabbath day (Genesis 2:3). Later, God gave His laws to Moses. In God's Law, the Sabbath was made a holy day (Exodus 20:8-11). On the Sabbath, men and women rested from work to worship their Creator. The Sabbath was the last or seventh day of the week. It started at sunset on Friday. Sadly, the Pharisees added their own rules for the Sabbath. They thought more about keeping their Sabbath rules than they did about worshipping God.

The early Christians first met for worship on the Sabbath day. Later on, they met for worship on the first day of the week, Sunday. Sunday then became a day of rest and worship for most of the Christian Church. Some believers still keep Saturday as the Sabbath, like the Jews.



Talk about:

1. What signs showed God's power to Moses (4:3-9)?
2. How did God show his faith in Moses (4:11-12)?
3. How did Moses show his faith in God (4:1,10,13,18)?



Exodus 4:19-31

HOLINESS AND OBEDIENCE

When Moses decided to go, God began to encourage him. He told him that the people who wanted to kill him were dead (4:19,21-23). This is just like God! When he calls us to do His work, He does not tell us everything at first – He wants us to obey Him and trust Him one step at a time. When we begin to obey God, He helps us and encourages us along the way.

'Do all these signs for Pharaoh to see,' God told Moses. 'Say to Pharaoh, "The Lord says, Israel is My firstborn son. Let My son go, so that he can worship Me. If you won't let him go, I will kill your firstborn son"' (4:21-23).

The meaning and fulfilment of this became clear later on.

Zipporah, the wife of Moses, packed their things for the journey. Moses put her and her two sons on a donkey. Moses held 'God's wooden stick in his hand' (4:20). His shepherd's stick was now the rod of God which he would use to show God's power.

On the way to Egypt, Moses nearly died. God stopped him from going to Egypt. Zipporah understood why. It was because Moses had not obeyed God. His family was unholy. He had not circumcised his younger son (Genesis 17:9-14).

Quickly she took a sharp stone and cut off the spare skin of the boy's penis. She put it beside Moses. All the male members of Israel's family had this special sign of the Jews in their bodies. They were God's special people. Zipporah did the right thing so God saved Moses' life and they went on to Egypt.

Circumcision was a wonderful sign but also a mysterious one. God judged Jews who did not circumcise their children. This is why God stopped Moses.

When a Jewish boy is born, he is born into God's special family and must keep the covenant God made with Abraham. Moses had to learn to obey God and to keep his part of God's covenant. This rule applies only to males in the family of Abraham.

Moses lived in the desert for 40 years but did not live like one of God's special people. Zipporah did not want Moses to die, so she acted quickly to circumcise their son. His wife saved him from God's punishment.

What do we learn from this?

- We must obey God AND live holy lives.

- A wife must help her husband to obey God.

We also learn from this chapter:

- Moses had little faith in God but God had much faith in Moses.
- Moses was slow to obey God but God encouraged him once he started to obey.
- Moses was a sinner with an unholy family so God stopped Moses and put right the things that were wrong in his life.

This means that God can call us at any time, even if we have little faith or are afraid or have sin and unholiness in our lives. We must be ready to serve God at all times. But we must be ready for God to show us what is wrong in our lives and in our families so that we can repent and be forgiven.



Talk about:

1. How did God encourage Moses (4:19)?
2. How did God warn Moses what would happen in Egypt (4:21-23)?

MOSES MEETS THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

Aaron had not seen Moses for forty years. Now God sent Aaron to go from Egypt to find his brother Moses. He found him near 'the mountain of God'. Moses told his brother everything God said (4:28).

Together they went back to Egypt. In Egypt, Moses called all the leaders to a meeting. Aaron told them everything that the LORD God said to Moses. Moses told Aaron what to say, and Aaron spoke the words (4:30).

Moses threw his stick down in front of the leaders of Israel and it became a snake. Before it could bite anyone, Moses held it by the tail and it became a



Trusting God at all times

King David wrote Psalm 37. He said many things to help the people of Israel to be strong. He wanted them to trust God and to worship Him at all times, even when things seemed wrong (Psalm 37:7-8):

- Be still. Be patient. Wait for the LORD to act.
- Don't worry when other people get on well.
- Don't worry when they do evil things.
- Don't worry or get angry. It only leads to trouble.

One hundred years later, Azariah, a prophet of God said (2 Chronicles 15:2-4,7):

- The LORD is with you when you are with Him.
- If you really look for Him, you will find Him.
- But if you leave Him, He will leave you.
- For a long time Israel didn't know God's Law.
- But when they were in trouble, they turned to the LORD, the God of Israel.
- When they did this, they found Him.
- So be strong and don't give up.



Talk about:

1. Why is it not good to grumble when we need something (16:8; 1 Corinthians 10:10)? What should we do instead?
2. Can we trust God to give us what we need day by day?
3. What does it mean for us to feed on manna from heaven (John 6:51)?



Exodus 17:1-16

THE ROCK IN THE DESERT

The people came to Rephidim, but there was no water there. They were angry and grumbled again at Moses. They wanted to throw stones to kill him but Moses called out to the LORD to help him (17:4).

Each time that life was difficult in the desert for the Israelites, they said they wanted to go back to Egypt (14:12; 16:3; 17:3). The LORD God wanted them to trust Him and look forward with hope. He did not want them to go backwards.

So God told Moses, 'Take your stick (the rod of God) and walk in front of the people' (17:5). I will stand in front of you beside the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock hard and water will come out.' Moses did this so the elders of Israel could see. Later, Israel's hymn writers and prophets wrote songs about this (Psalms 78:15-16; 105:41; Isaiah 48:21).

The people of Israel tested God to see if He was with them or not (17:7). God answered and gave them a stream of water. It was pure and clean and



Manna from Heaven: old and new

For forty years in the desert, God gave His people everything they needed. He gave them special bread from heaven called manna. Moses wrote about this. Many years later, other friends of God wrote about this:

'Because You loved them so much, You didn't leave them in the desert. You gave them Your good Spirit to teach them. You didn't hold back Your manna from their mouths. You gave them water when they were thirsty.' (Nehemiah 9:19-20.) 'He opened the doors of the heavens. He rained down manna for the people to eat. Men ate the bread of angels.' (Psalm 78:23-25.)

Later still, Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth... He who comes down from heaven is the bread that God gives. He is the one who gives life to the world... I am the bread that gives life. Anyone who comes to Me will never be hungry. Anyone who believes in Me will never be thirsty... The person who believes in Me will live for ever. I am the bread that gives life. Your fathers ate bread in the desert long ago, but they died. Here is bread that comes down from heaven. The person who eats this bread will never die. I am the bread that gives life.' (John 6:32-51, TJB.)



Talk about:

1. How much did the people change (15:1)?
2. Why did the people change (15:1)?
3. Why is verse 2 an important verse in the song of Moses?
4. What does the song of Moses say about trusting God in the future (15:13–18)?
5. Was their trust in God weak or strong (15:24)?



Exodus 16:1–36

MANNA FROM HEAVEN

One month after leaving Egypt, they came to a very hot part of the desert called the Desert of Sin or Zin.

Day after day they marched through the Desert, near Mount Sinai. They soon forgot to trust God. The people were angry with Moses and Aaron: ‘You brought us out into the desert to starve us to death,’ they said (16:3). They wanted meat to eat. The LORD God spoke to Moses and promised to send food that very evening (16:12). Large numbers of birds came (16:13). This provided fresh meat for everybody. They also dried the meat to eat later.

God also promised food from heaven in the night (16:4). The next morning, God sent special food from heaven (16:13). We call it ‘Manna’. It was like coriander seed (Numbers 11:7). Every morning for six days each week the people gathered it into their pots. Then they had to grind the grains, boil them in a pot and make them into cakes (Numbers 11:8).

God told Moses, ‘Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any.’ God wanted His people to rest on the seventh day so on the sixth day He gave them enough for two days (Exodus 16:28–29).

The manna fell at night, so they got up early and gathered it. If they tried to keep it to the next day, it spoiled. On the sixth day they gathered enough for two days and this did not spoil on the seventh day (Saturday). Always there was enough for the young and the old and the weak ones. No one had too much; no one had too little (16:17–18).

Jesus is called the ‘Bread of Heaven’ who came to give us everlasting life (John 6:32–35, 48–54, 57–58). ‘Those who feed on this bread will live forever.’

God sent manna from Heaven for forty years, until they came to Canaan (16:35). This supplied their daily need for bread. The birds supplied their meat. God also guided the people through the desert and supplied their water.

stick again. Moses put his hand in his cloak and it became white with leprosy. When he put his hand back in his cloak and took it out, it was clean again. The people saw God heal Moses’ hand of leprosy so they believed that God sent him and Aaron to free them from Pharaoh (4:31). They saw God’s power and believed.

The people of Israel prayed for many years, asking God to help them. Now they knew that God heard their prayers, and they worshipped Him.



Exodus 5:1–21

MOSES AND AARON GO TO PHARAOH

Then Moses and Aaron went to king Pharaoh. They told him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of Israel says, “Let My People go...” ’ (5:1). God told Moses what to say, but Moses spoke to Pharaoh through Aaron. Moses told Pharaoh, ‘The people of Israel must go into the desert to worship the LORD God (5:3; 8:27). They must make sacrifices where the Egyptians cannot see us (8:26,27).

Pharaoh answered Moses, ‘Who is the LORD? Why should I obey Him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go’ (5:2).

Pharaoh was against Moses. Leaders who do not know God are often against people who believe in Him. They also try to stop God’s people meeting together for worship.

Moses knew that God would kill Pharaoh’s firstborn son if he did not obey Moses (4:23). Moses and Aaron told Pharaoh, ‘Terrible things will happen if you do not obey the LORD and let His people go.’ This made Pharaoh very angry and he shouted, ‘Get back to your work! You are taking the people away from their work’ (5:4).

So Pharaoh told his slave masters to make the slaves work harder (5:6–14). The slave leaders went to Pharaoh to beg for mercy.

‘You are lazy,’ Pharaoh told them, ‘Now get back to work!’

The slave leaders went to Moses and Aaron: ‘God will punish you’ they said. ‘You have made things much worse for us and now they will kill us’ (5:21). They were very angry with Moses.



Exodus 5:22 to 6:30

WHAT MOSES SAID TO GOD

- Why are you bringing more trouble on the Israelites?
- Why did you send me back here?
- I have done what you told me to do.
- I have spoken to Pharaoh using your special name.

- Pharaoh has brought even more trouble on the people.
- You haven't saved your people at all!

WHAT GOD SAID TO MOSES

- You will see what I will do to Pharaoh through My power.
- Pharaoh will let the people of Israel go – he will drive them out of his country!
- I am the same God who talked to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, though they didn't know my special name, the LORD, Yahweh.
- I promised to give them the land of Canaan.
- I know how much the Israelites are hurting because they are slaves in Egypt, and I heard them crying.
- I have not forgotten My promise.
- Tell the people of Israel, I am the LORD.
- I will make them free.
- I will punish the Egyptians.
- You will be My own special people and I will be your God.
- I will show you that I am the LORD your God.
- I will bring you to the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, because I am the LORD.

MOSES DOUBTS GOD

Moses told the people what God said but they would not listen. They had lost their hope (6:9). And Moses told God, 'If the Israelites won't listen, then Pharaoh won't listen. I am not a good speaker' (6:12,30).

Between verses 13 and 27, the Bible reminds us of who Moses and Aaron were. They were from the family of Levi (v.19,20). They were priests. They were chosen by God as priests of the LORD to serve the people of Israel. God chose Moses and Aaron to bring the people of Israel out of Egypt (v.13,26,27). They must serve the people as priests. They must continue doing what God called them to do. Nothing would stop God's plans for His people. But Moses doubted God (6:30).



Talk about:

1. Was it good for Moses to speak to God in this way (5:22,23)?
2. How many times did God use His special name (6:1–6)? Why?
3. What three things did God do (6:4,5)?
4. What could the Israelites hope for – everything (6:6–8) or nothing (6:9)?
5. What do we hope for (Romans 8:28)?
6. What did God tell Moses to continue doing (6:11,29)?



No way ahead in life?

The people of Israel came to a place where there was no way ahead. They were afraid (14:10). The Red Sea stopped them going forward. There are three things to do when we come to a stop in our life:

1. We must **be still** until God gives us His peace (14:13,14). We can't change things by worrying.
2. We must **wait** until God speaks (14:15). His time is best and He knows what He is doing.
3. We must be ready to **obey** what God tells us. When we trust God, He opens up the way ahead.

Also, we can ask our friends to pray for us. Their faith in God will encourage us.

- God was with them and would show them the way (v.13).
- It will be God's land (v.13).
- Other nations will be afraid and they will let God's people go through their lands (v.14–16).
- There will be a special mountain for God's holy place (v.17).
- There the Lord God will rule forever (v.18).

God does not tell us everything that will happen to us. He tells us some things to help us to be strong. He wants us to trust Him and go forward even when it is difficult and we do not know what will happen on the way.

After they crossed the Red Sea, the people went southeast through the desert to Marah and Elim. They were led by God's pillar of fire. Soon they had no water and when they found water, it was bad (Deuteronomy 8:2). God tests His children to see if they trust Him, and to make their faith stronger (James 1:3–4). Satan tempts us to try to make us stop trusting God.

Jesus prayed for His followers. He asked His Heavenly Father to 'keep them from the evil one' (John 17:15). He knows Satan tempts us when we are learning to trust God.

When God tested the people, they did not trust Him nor ask Him to give them what they needed. Three days after they crossed the Red Sea, the people grumbled at Moses. This meant they grumbled at the LORD too (15:24). Then God showed Moses a piece of wood. It made the bad water taste sweet. This was one of many miracles that God performed in the desert.

If Israel obeyed God, and listened carefully to Him, He promised to keep them safe from getting sick (15:26) and from other troubles. They must learn to trust God and to ask in faith and not moan in fear.

Soon they came to Elim on the way to Mount Sinai. God blessed them there. The name 'Elim' means 'large trees'. There were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees there; twelve springs for the twelve families of Israel!



Talk about:

1. Why did God change the route of the exodus (14:1–14)?
2. What should we do when there is no way forward and no way back (14:10–15)?
3. What did the people say to Moses when they were afraid (14:11–12)? Why was this not good?



Exodus 15:1–27

THE SONG OF MOSES

Moses sang! Moses sang because God saved His people by His great power. In his song he called God by His special name – LORD or Yahweh – 10 times (15:1–18).

Moses knew God was powerful and mighty because God saved them. He knew God personally.

- He calls God 'my strength and my salvation' (2).
- He says God's power is wonderful (6).
- God is angry at evil (7).
- God does wonderful things (11).
- He goes on loving us (13).
- God cares for His people and does what He plans (17).

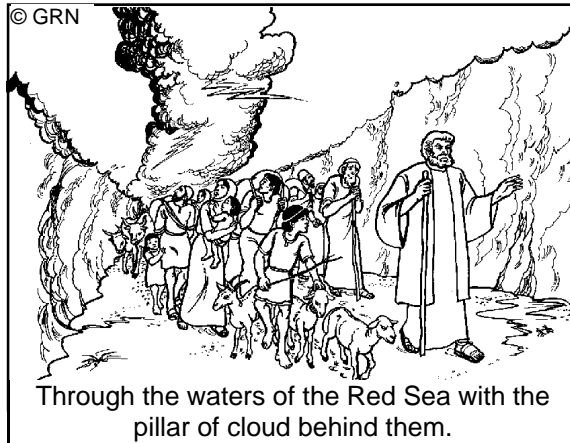
The people also sang this song to God. The people of Israel did not know God personally. But they were learning about God. They began to respect the LORD and trust Moses (14:31).

They knew about God because of what He did for them. Soon they would know a lot more about God.

Moses' sister, Miriam, led the women. They sang and danced with their tambourines. She too was a prophet (15:20).

A WAY THROUGH THE DESERT

The people of Israel looked forward to the time when they would live in the land called Canaan which God promised them. (See map on page 3.) They believed:



Through the waters of the Red Sea with the pillar of cloud behind them.



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Based on Exodus chapters 1 to 6

Please choose the correct answers, a, b or c. There could be one, two or three answers that are correct for each question. Answers are given at the end of this book.

1. Pharaoh and the Egyptians were frightened of the Israelites because —
 - a. the Israelites were always fighting.
 - b. there were so many of them.
 - c. the Egyptians did not remember Joseph.
2. The Egyptian princess took baby Moses to be her son because —
 - a. the mother asked her to do it.
 - b. the sister gave him to her.
 - c. she was sorry for him.
3. Which sentences are true?
 - a. God heard the Israelites' prayers.
 - b. Moses killed a man.
 - c. Moses married the daughter of a Midian priest.
4. Moses —
 - a. was chosen by God to lead the Israelites.
 - b. wanted to go back to Egypt to help the Israelites.
 - c. was a good speaker to teach the Israelites.
5. God, from the burning bush, —
 - a. told Moses he was on holy ground.
 - b. would not tell Moses His name.
 - c. said the Israelites were leaving Egypt.
6. God told Moses that if the Egyptians did not believe him —
 - a. he must leave Egypt.
 - b. he must throw his stick on the ground.
 - c. he must pour some River Nile water on the ground.
7. Aaron was told to —
 - a. put his hand inside his cloak.
 - b. say what Moses told him.
 - c. be like God to Pharaoh.
8. Pharaoh said to Moses —
 - a. 'I will not let Israel go.'
 - b. 'Stop the Israelites working.'
 - c. 'Who is the LORD?'
9. God promised Moses that —
 - a. He would make the Israelites His own people.
 - b. He would take them to the Promised Land.
 - c. they would know Him as their God.
10. When Moses said that he could not speak to Pharaoh, —

- God spoke to Pharaoh instead.
- God did miracles instead.
- God used Aaron instead.



Exodus 7:1–13

GOD HELPS MOSES TO HOPE

Moses and the Israelites gave up hoping (6:9,12,30). Then God spoke to Moses again. God told him what He said before. He also told him new things to make him go again to Pharaoh with new hope. This is what He said (7:1–5):

- I will make you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron will be as a prophet.
- You must say everything I tell you to say to Pharaoh – your brother Aaron will speak to him.
- Aaron must tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel leave Egypt.
- I will make Pharaoh’s heart stubborn (hard).
- I will do many signs and wonders in Egypt.
- Pharaoh will not listen. I will use My power to show Egypt that I am judging them because of their bad ways.
- I will bring the people of Israel out of Egypt like an army.
- Then Egypt will know I am the LORD God.

THE MIRACLE OF AARON’S ROD

Moses and Aaron went back to Pharaoh. This time they knew Pharaoh would not listen. Pharaoh made his heart even harder. They knew that God wanted to show Egypt and Israel that He is LORD, the mighty Yahweh, who created the world.

So Aaron did the miracle God told him to do. God turned his rod (stick) into a snake. But Pharaoh would not listen. He told his witch doctors to do the same. They could make their sticks into snakes, but Aaron’s snake swallowed the snakes of Pharaoh’s witch doctors. Pharaoh still would not listen. It happened as the LORD said (7:13). But this time Moses and Aaron did not give up hope.



Talk about:

- Why did Moses and Aaron obey God (7:1,5)?
- Why did Pharaoh disobey God (7:13)?



Exodus 7:14 to 11:10

GOD SENDS TEN PLAGUES ON EGYPT

After the miracle of Aaron’s rod, God sent the famous ten plagues of Egypt:

the people of Israel had gone away and would not come back (14:5). So the Egyptians planned to go after God’s people and bring them back. But God saved his people so the Egyptians would know He is the LORD (14:4).

God had a plan for the Israelites. He did not take them the short route to the Promised Land. This was too dangerous because of the Philistines (13:17). So God led them to the Red Sea (14:1). He showed them the way by the pillar of fire and cloud. God’s plan was to test the people of Israel and then to increase their faith in Him. He told them exactly where to go (14:2).

‘What have we done?’ Pharaoh asked. ‘We let the Israelites go and now we have no one to work for us’ (14:5). So he took his war chariots, with horses to pull them, and went after the Hebrews (14:7). The Hebrews looked and saw Pharaoh’s army coming and they were very afraid. And they had nowhere to go! They had reached the Red Sea (see map on page 3). There was no escape. God led them there to teach them to trust Him.

Now God’s pillar of fire moved between them and Pharaoh. It gave light to the people of Israel, but darkness for the Egyptians (14:19,20). They all knew that a great God was at work.

GOD SAVES THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

When they saw the Egyptians coming after them, Moses told them, ‘Don’t be afraid. Stand firm.’

God told Moses, ‘People will see what happens to Pharaoh and know I am God ... Lift up your rod and hold it out over this sea to divide the water...’ (14:16). God can win the war against His enemies without us, but He wants us to do our part.

The LORD saved Israel from the army of Egypt (14:31). The Israelites walked through the Red Sea on dry ground. It was a miracle (14:22). When the Egyptians tried to drive through in their chariots they all drowned (14:28). Because of this, the Israelites learned to trust God. And they learned to trust Moses (14:31).

Christians should ‘stand firm’ and see God answer prayers. God will win the battle against the enemy. We do not need to fear Satan. Jesus won the battle for us on the cross. We ‘stand’ because of His victory (John 16:33; 1 Corinthians 15:57).

The worst punishment for Egypt came AFTER the ten plagues. Instead of being a rich and famous country, now they were very poor. The Egyptians gave away a lot of their gold and silver to the people of Israel (Exodus 12:35–36). They lost their slaves, who helped them to build big cities and work in the fields. They lost their strong army in the Red Sea. Why did God punish Pharaoh and the Egyptians so much? It was so the Egyptians would know that Yahweh was the true God (14:4,18,25b). And it was so that other nations should know God is the greatest. ‘People will say, “See what God has done” ’ (Numbers 23:23).

12. When the stick of Aaron became a snake —
 - a. it ate the other snakes.
 - b. it frightened Pharaoh.
 - c. Moses picked it up.
13. When there was a plague of gnats —
 - a. the witch doctors also made gnats.
 - b. the witch doctors said that it was the finger of God.
 - c. the gnats only went in Pharaoh's house.
14. God told Moses that the plagues were sent so that —
 - a. the Israelites could tell their children.
 - b. the Egyptians would know who was Lord.
 - c. the Egyptians would die.
15. What would happen at midnight?
 - a. All the slaves and cattle would die.
 - b. The Egyptians must give silver and gold to the Israelites.
 - c. The firstborn sons in Egypt would die.
16. What did the Israelites do for the Passover?
 - a. Kill a lamb but not break its bones.
 - b. Eat bread made with yeast.
 - c. Choose a perfect sheep or goat to boil over a fire.
17. The angel of death would pass over their houses if —
 - a. they were Israelites.
 - b. they stayed inside and locked their doors.
 - c. the lamb's blood was put on the door posts.
18. Which sentences are true?
 - a. The Egyptians gave the Israelites silver and gold.
 - b. There were 600 men plus women and children who left Egypt.
 - c. The Israelites had been in Egypt for 230 years.
19. What should the Israelites say to their sons?
 - a. The Lord brought us out of Egypt.
 - b. Never eat bread with yeast in it.
 - c. Put a sign on your forehead.
20. The Lord guided the Israelites —
 - a. through the Philistine country.
 - b. through the desert.
 - c. through the sea.



Exodus 14:1–31

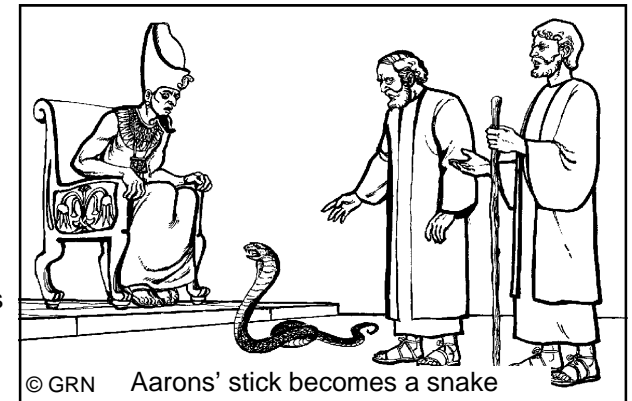
THE EGYPTIANS TRY TO STOP THE EXODUS

One more time God hardened the heart of Pharaoh (14:4). He was told that

1. All the water in Egypt turned to blood and smelled bad; the fish in the River Nile died (7:19–21).
2. A plague of frogs; many, many frogs came into the Egyptians' houses (8:3–6).
3. A plague of gnats bit the Egyptians and their animals (8:17).
4. A plague of flies covered the people and the land (8:24).
5. All the animals of the Egyptians died (9:6).
6. A plague of boils on the skin of the Egyptians (9:11).
7. A plague of hail damaged the crops in the fields (9:25).
8. A plague of locusts destroyed every plant and tree (10:13–15).
9. Three days of complete darkness (10:22).
10. The firstborn son of every Egyptian died (11:5,6).

A plague is bad trouble. The plagues are written in three groups. Before each group of plagues, God warned Pharaoh. God warned Pharaoh before he punished him.

God told Moses that He sent the plagues so that the Egyptians would 'know Him' (7:5). They would know He was the Almighty LORD God. But Israel too would know His power and also His love and mercy. He saved them from the cruel slave masters of Egypt. He judged their gods and showed how powerless they were.



Moses did not always understand God's ways. He wanted a simple, one-step plan, but God was teaching Moses to have strong faith, and some of the lessons were hard. Moses saw God fight against the false gods of Egypt (Psalm 98:1).

God saved the Hebrews from the plagues. He said to Pharaoh, 'My people are different from your people so I will care for them and the plagues will not hurt them (8:22,23; 9:4,26; 10:23). As Christians, we must know that we are different from other people and show that we belong to God (2 Corinthians 6:14–18).

When God sent the ten plagues:

- Moses and Aaron obeyed God but Pharaoh did not obey God.
- The witch doctors copied the first two miracles but they could not do anything else (8:18).
- The plagues came on all the Egyptians but they did not come on the people of Israel in the land of Goshen in the north of Egypt.

- Finally the Egyptians stopped punishing the people of Israel and the people of Israel stopped blaming Moses and God.

WHY GOD SENT THE PLAGUES

God sent plagues on Egypt because He wanted all the world to hear about the miracles and to know how powerful He is (9:15–16). Instead of killing the Egyptians, He sent the plagues as His punishment. Paul describes this in Romans 9:17. ‘In the holy writings, God says to Pharaoh, “That is why I made you ruler. I wanted to show my power through you. I wanted people to know about me all over the earth” ’ (TJB).

God also wanted the Israelites to know His power. ‘You will be able to tell your children and your grandchildren how I made fools of the Egyptians and the great miracles I did. All of you will know that I am the LORD’ (10:2). You can read God’s special name of ‘LORD’ (Yahweh) nearly 100 times in the story of the ten plagues.

As Pharaoh’s heart grew harder, so God’s punishment of the Egyptians became worse. But God said that after the tenth plague Pharaoh would send the Israelites away out of Egypt (11:1).

God told Abraham this would happen. Over 400 years before, God told Abraham ‘Your children who come after you will be strangers in a country that does not belong to them. They will become slaves. They will be treated badly for 400 years. But I will punish the nation that makes them slaves’ (Genesis 15:13–14).



Talk about:

1. Why did God send the plagues to Egypt? Give three reasons (Genesis 15:14; Exodus 9:16, 10:2).
2. What three things happened first (6:5)?
3. What did Moses tell Pharaoh must happen to Israel (10:25–26)?
4. What did Moses tell Pharaoh would happen to Egypt (11:6,8)?

WHAT PHARAOH SAID

At first, Pharaoh was not afraid. His witch doctors were powerful too (7:22). But after two miracles, they could not help Pharaoh. God was too powerful for them. Pharaoh could see now it was no longer a fight between the Egyptian gods and the LORD God of Israel. It was a fight between Pharaoh and God.

Pharaoh tried to win but God beat him. When Pharaoh thought he was winning, he changed his mind and would not let the Israelites go to worship the LORD. He tried to trick Moses:

- He said if God stopped the plague he would let them go (8:8).
- He said the Israelites could go and worship God in Egypt (8:25).

HE LORD LEADS THEM THROUGH THE DESERT

The Bible gives a summary of the Passover in Exodus 12:43 to 13:16. God reminds the Jews to repeat the story of the Passover each year, especially to the eldest boy of each family (13:2,8,14). In this way, God is honoured in every home.

It was the eldest son of each family who was saved from punishment in Egypt. God’s angel of death passed over the homes which were covered by the blood of the lamb (12:13). Now they were all free to begin a new life led by God.

The LORD gave a tower (or pillar) of cloud in the daytime and of fire in the night to go in front of the people of Israel. In this way the LORD led them through the desert (13:21–22). And we know the Holy Spirit leads us and His angels guard us today. We must always believe the LORD is with us even if we cannot see Him. We must also remember that we have been saved from punishment through the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

God guided the people of Israel away from their enemies, the Philistines (13:17). He guided them instead on the long journey through the desert (13:18) towards the Red Sea.

God gave them all they needed, but He wanted them to learn to trust Him and love Him. It would take them a long time to learn to trust God always. In Egypt they looked down to the food in their gardens and water in the river. Now they learned to look up to Yahweh, the LORD God Almighty, for everything they needed.



Talk about:

1. How do Jews honour God in their homes (13:6–10)?
2. In what ways did God help the people of Israel get away from Egypt (13:5,14,17,21)?
3. Talk about the sacrifice of innocent blood in God’s plan of salvation (Genesis 4:4; 22:13; Exodus 12:13; Romans 5:8-11).



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Based on Exodus chapters 7 to 13

Please choose the correct answers, a, b or c. There could be one, two or three answers that are correct for each question. Answers are given at the end of this book.

11. God said that Pharaoh would harden his heart —
 - a. so that the Egyptians could see some more miracles.
 - b. so that He would make the Israelites work.
 - c. so that the Egyptians would know the only true and living God.



The LORD's Passover

God's rules for eating the Jewish Passover meal are given in Exodus 12.

1500 years after the first Passover in Egypt, at His Last Supper, Jesus remembered and celebrated the LORD's Passover meal. He ate the special bread and drank the wine with His disciples. As He gave thanks to God and broke the bread He said, 'This is My body.' As He poured the wine and passed it to His disciples He said, 'This is my blood' (Matthew 26:26–29).

Some of these things help Christians remember that Jesus is the special Lamb of God, who died as a sacrifice so we do not have to die for our sins. Through Jesus, the special Lamb, God made a way for us to be saved from punishment. We can only be saved by the blood of the Lamb who had no sin and was perfect in every way. Like the Passover lamb, no bone was broken in Jesus, the Lamb of God.

2000 years after the Last Supper, Christians still remember the death of Christ as believers gather together for the Lord's Supper (Communion). Christ is our Passover: His blood on the wooden cross saved us from God's punishment. The red wine helps us to remember the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

Read what John the Baptist and the Apostles teach about the Lamb of God: John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7–8; 1 Peter 1:18–19.

Most Jews today still remember the LORD's Passover when the blood of a lamb was used to save the people of Israel from punishment in Egypt.

they went (12:36–39). They left after 430 years in a foreign land, just as God promised Abraham (Genesis 15:13,14).

Many years before, Joseph said to the leaders of Israel: 'God will take care of you and lead you out of this place, and then you must take my body with you' (Exodus 13:19; Genesis 50:25). So they carried Joseph's bones with them.

The people marched out of Egypt in tribes and families. Every family leader kept his family with him. They kept in order as they went through the desert towards Horeb, Mount Sinai.

If people move away from home they must take with them food, clothes and money. But most important of all they must take with them their faith in God. God is with us at all times. Ask Him to give us peace and all we need, even when others try to stop us.

The people of Israel now believed God's promises. They worshipped God and obeyed Him (Exodus 12:27,28,50). They believed God's words and talked about them. The truth given by God was 'on their lips' and 'in their hearts' (13:9).

- He said he would let them go just a little way into the desert to worship God (8:28).
- He asked Moses to pray for him (8:28).
- He said he had sinned (9:27; 10:16).
- He said he would let only the men go away to worship God (10:11).
- He said he would let the people go but they must leave all their animals behind (10:24).

Pharaoh's tricks and his hard heart brought many troubles for the people of Egypt. God was punishing the nation who were so cruel to the Hebrews. Now this strong nation had to do what God wanted.

In the end Pharaoh knew that Yahweh, the LORD God of Israel, was the most powerful. The Egyptians knew this. The Hebrews knew this. The whole world heard about it. God hardened Pharaoh's heart so that He could show His great power – to Egypt, to Israel and to the other nations.



Talk about:

1. Pharaoh said, 'I have sinned...' Was this TRUE or FALSE (10:16)?
2. What does Paul say about the way God used Pharaoh (Romans 9:17,18,21–25)?
3. Why does it say that God made Pharaoh hard (10:27)?
4. What did the people of Egypt want (10:7)?



Exodus 11:1–10

THE FINAL PUNISHMENT

After each plague, God did what Moses asked. He proved that His word to Moses was true (8:13).

Moses knew God would bring one final plague on Pharaoh and Egypt. After that, Pharaoh would let His people go. He would drive them out (11:1). God would also make the people of Egypt friendly towards the Israelites (11:3). Then Moses told Pharaoh about God's tenth plague (11:4–8).

God said, 'About midnight, I will go through the land of Egypt. Every firstborn son of Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the slave girl' (11:5). This was a terrible thing, because it was the custom for fathers to give everything to their firstborn sons. God's angel of death would visit the Egyptians.



Exodus 12:1–28

THE NIGHT OF THE PASSOVER

God told Moses to tell the people of Israel to get ready to leave Egypt (12:1).

'On the tenth day of this first month, each Hebrew must take a lamb for his family – enough for each person to eat. The lamb must be male with nothing wrong with it. Take care of the lambs until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of Israel must kill them at sunset. Then they must take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the door frames of the houses where they eat the lambs... Eat it quickly; it is called the LORD's Passover.'

'The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you...' (12:13). God sent His angel of death who would see the blood and know not to kill the firstborn in that house. The blood saved them from the curse of death.

The Passover was so important that God told them always to remember it each year in a special way. You can read how they did this – Numbers 9:2,3; Joshua 5:10; 2 Chronicles 30:1; 35:1; Ezra 6:19; Luke 2:41; John 2:13.

When Moses explained this to the people, 'they bowed down and worshipped' (12:27). Then they went and did what the LORD told them to do.

Before midnight, each man of Israel brought his family into his house. Nobody outside the house was safe. They were safe in the house because of the blood on the door. At midnight, when the angel of death came, he would see the blood, and pass over that house.

God told the Hebrews always to remember the meaning of the Passover – how they were saved from the punishment of God through the blood of a sinless lamb. God saved them because of His love and care. This is why today most Jews remember the Passover every year at a special meal and remind themselves they belong to God. Christians believe that under God's new covenant, people can only be saved by the blood of Jesus.

Jesus always remembered the Passover meal. He also told His followers always to remember His own death. The death of the Lamb of God means we are saved from the punishment of God through the blood of Jesus. The blood of Jesus saves us and leads us to everlasting life.



Talk about:

1. Why do the Jews remember the Passover (Exodus 12:27)?

2. Why do Christians remember the death of Jesus (Luke 22:19,20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25)?



Exodus 12:29–13:22

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL LEAVE EGYPT

That night there was loud crying all over Egypt (12:30). All the first-born Egyptian boys had died. Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron in the middle of the night. Pharaoh said to Moses:

- Go! Leave my people!
- Go! Worship the LORD!
- Go! Take your animals with you!
- Go! And give me your blessing!

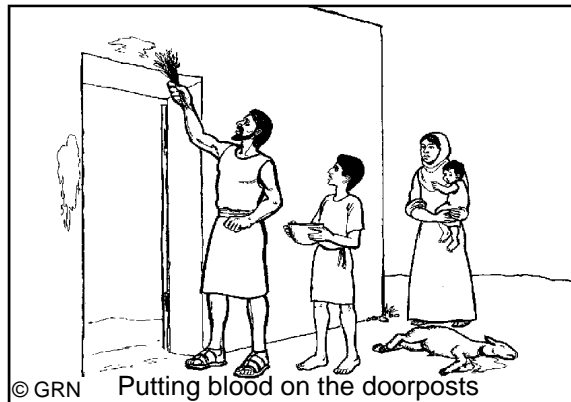
For a brief period of time, Pharaoh changed his mind. He knew that Yahweh, the LORD God of Israel, was greater than all the gods and kings of Egypt.

The Egyptians said to the people of Israel (12:33):

- Go! Or we will all die!

So the people of Israel took their dough, even before it was baked into bread, and they left their houses. They left quickly. They asked the Egyptians for jewellery and gold and the Egyptians gave them everything they asked for (12:36).

Around one million people left Egypt that night (12:37). They were like a huge army marching to another country (12:41). They took with them all their clothes and animals and great riches. They baked their bread without yeast as



Redeem: to buy back; to pay the price

The LORD God told the people of Israel that the first boy child in each family was special (13:2). When the LORD sent the angel of death to kill 'every eldest son of Egypt' it was a very great punishment indeed (13:15). But when the LORD told the Hebrews to sacrifice the blood of a male lamb, it saved them from punishment. The blood of the male lamb on the wooden doorposts of each house saved them from death. The angel of death saw it and knew the lamb had died in their place and so he passed over them.

Each year at the time of the Passover, the Jews remember that God saved the firstborn son of each family. The sacrifice of the lamb was sufficient to redeem or pay the price for the life of the firstborn.

Christians believe that God gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die in their place, for their sins. If you repent of your sins and you believe Jesus is the Son of God, then His death on the cross brings you everlasting life, even though you deserve to die because of sin. His blood sacrificed on the wooden cross saves you from death. God pays the price and buys back your life through the sacrifice of Jesus the Lamb of God. You are redeemed. You are set free from sin and from the punishment of sin. Jesus is your Redeemer.