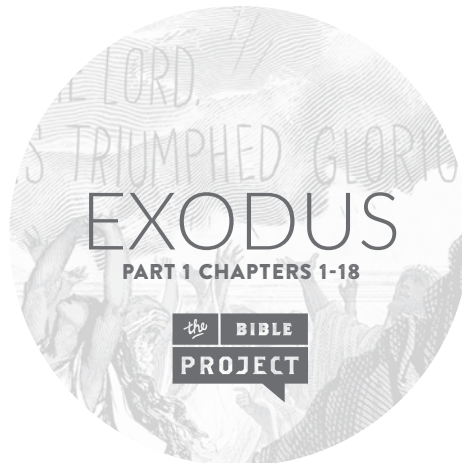


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INTRODUCTION

This study guide will be most helpful if you work through it slowly with an open Bible, looking up all the references. Grab some friends and do it together!



KEY THEMES

KEY THEME

1

God remains faithful to his promises to Abraham as the family grows and suffers from slavery in Egypt

A

The family becomes a large tribe as a result of God's blessing.

COMPARE EXODUS 1:6-7 WITH
GENESIS 12:2; 15:5; AND 17:2

B

God responds to Israel's cries because of his promise to Abraham.

SEE EXODUS 2:23-25

C

God raises up Moses as Israel's deliverer, and sends him in the name of "the God of Abraham"

EXODUS 3:6; 3:15-16; 4:5

...who will fulfill the promises made to Abraham.

EXODUS 6:1-8



KEY THEMES

KEY THEME

2

Pharaoh emerges as an archetypal “bad-guy” who resists God and oppresses his people

Pharaoh’s oppression of Israel is a politically motivated policy of economic exploitation and ethnic cleansing

EXODUS 1:8-10, 1:11-14, 1:15-22

THE HARDENING OF PHARAOH’S HEART

This key repeated phrase illustrates the dynamic between Pharaoh’s own choice to resist and God’s response to such monstrous evil.

A

THROUGH MOSES, GOD REPEATEDLY GIVES PHARAOH THE CHANCE TO HUMBLE HIMSELF AND RELEASE THE ISRAELITES.

EXODUS 5:1; 7:16; 8:1; 8:20; 9:1; 9:13; 10:3

B

MULTIPLE TIMES PHARAOH HARDENS HIS OWN HEART OR HIS HEART BECOMES HARD.

EXODUS 7:14; 8:15; 7:13, 22; 8:19; 9:7

C

THREE TIMES PHARAOH RELENTS AND ALLOWS ISRAEL TO GO, BUT SUDDENLY HAS A CHANGE OF HEART AND RESISTS.

EXODUS 8:8; 8:25-28; 9:27-28; 8:15; 8:32; 9:34

D

AFTER REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO COMPEL PHARAOH, GOD HARDENS HIS HEART, BY THE REPEATED CALL TO REPENT AND LET ISRAEL GO.

EXODUS 9:12; 10:1, 20; 11:10; 14:4, 8

THE POINT:

God does not cause or predetermine Pharaoh’s evil, but rather anticipates and responds to it by luring Pharaoh into his own destruction.

EXODUS 14

KEY THEMES

KEY
THEME

3

The ten plagues demonstrate God's power over all creation, in contrast to the feeble gods of Egypt.

EXODUS 7:14-11:10; 12:12

The 10 plagues are acts of divine justice meant to compel Pharaoh to humble himself and let Israel go free.

1

WATERS BECOME BLOOD

EXODUS 7:14-24

2

FROGS

EXODUS 8:1-15

3

GNATS

EXODUS 8:16-198:1-15

4

FLIES

EXODUS 8:20-398:1-15

5

PLAGUE ON LIVESTOCK

EXODUS 9:1-78:1-15

6

BOILS

EXODUS 9:8-128:1-15

7

HAIL

EXODUS 9:13-358:1-15

8

LOCUSTS

EXODUS 10:1-208:1-15

9

DARKNESS

EXODUS 10:21-29

10

DEATH OF FIRSTBORN

EXODUS 11:1-10

SEE JOEL 2:28-32

The plagues become iconic images of God's justice against evil, and are often adopted by the Hebrew prophets

...and in the New Testament to speak of God's future justice.

SEE THE SEVEN
TRUMPETS IN
REVELATION 8:6-9:21

KEY THEMES

KEY
THEME

4

The Passover festival accomplishes Israel's redemption through the offering of a sacrificial substitute, the spotless lamb.

EXODUS 13, 14

A

Jesus used the Passover meal as a way of explaining his impending death to his followers.

LUKE 22:7-20

B

The image of Jesus as the Passover lamb is used elsewhere in the New Testament

1 CORINTHIANS 5:7-8;
REVELATION 5:6, 9-10



KEY THEMES

KEY
THEME

5

Israel's celebration of God's power and justice is the first worship song in the Bible, which looks back to the Exodus and forward to Israel's entry into the promised land

EXODUS 15

A

The word "salvation" is used for the first time in the Bible to describe the Exodus as act of divine deliverance.

EXODUS 15:2

B

The song claims the Exodus event shows that Israel's God is the true God among all others.

EXODUS 15:11

C

The song looks forward to a future Exodus that will involve God bringing Israel into the promised land, saving them from hostile nations, and settling them in his presence.

EXODUS 15:12-13; 15:14-16; 15:17



KEY THEMES

KEY
THEME

6

Israel's Wilderness wanderings quickly cause grumbling and complaining against God.

A

Lack of food and water cause rebellion and anger against Moses and God.

EXODUS 16:2-3; 17:1-2

B

While God provides Manna (Hebrew mah-nah = "what is it?!"), quail, and water, the grumbling of Israel introduces a dark theme in the story: Will Israel respond properly to the God who has rescued them?

EXODUS 16:13-15; 17:5-7



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

The book of Exodus begins with Israel's divinely-blessed multiplication and later enslavement by Pharaoh. How does the connection to God's promises to Abraham give a wider perspective on the problem of Israel's slavery? What's at stake if God doesn't redeem Israel?

SEE KEY THEME 1

2

Work through all the passages about Pharaoh's hard heart and God's power in Key Theme 2. What perspective does the story offer us on human moral freedom when its in conflict with God's will? How does God demonstrate his patience in the story? At what point does Pharaoh reach a point of no return?

3

After reading Exodus 12-13, try to explain to someone in your study group the meaning of the sacrificial lamb in the dinner and the meaning of the blood-on-the-doorframe ritual. How does this symbolic meal transform your understanding of Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

LUKE 22:7-20

4

How does Israel's grumbling in the wilderness raise questions about their own gratefulness to God? Are their complaints reasonable? Why does the attitude of the Israelites seem so ridiculous after the Exodus story in chapters 1-15? What is the story exposing inside our own hearts about our own grumbings against God's character?

SEE KEY THEME 6

