



EXODUS

OCTOBER 2017

Read on your own or with others,
which ever you prefer.

This leaflet is just a brief overview of the 'big picture' of this book. If you have been reading the Bible for some time you will be aware there is much more to it than you'll find here.

If you are new to reading the Bible don't worry too much if there are details you do not quite get at the moment - focus on the 'big picture'.

INTRODUCTION

In Genesis we see the beginnings of God's great plan of salvation. We read of creation, the fall and then God's covenant with Noah and later with Abraham, his son Isaac and his son Jacob who would be the Father of the nation of Israel.

Exodus picks up where Genesis left off and charts God's dealings with Israel as he makes them into a nation with a special relationship with himself.

OUTLINE

OUT OF EGYPT: EXODUS 1-18

At the end of Genesis Jacob and his whole family are living in Egypt. Now, almost 300 years later, we find that the family has grown in number and the Egyptians have enslaved them. Crucially, God has not forgotten them (Exodus 2:24).

The first section of the book of Exodus tells us how God graciously delivers Israel from their slavery in Egypt. These are key events in the Bible and are constantly looked back to as an example and picture of God's salvation.

The Passover, a festival they were to remember every year (Exodus 12:17) is a clear picture of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Similarly, God's salvation of Israel from slavery is a picture of God's salvation of us from the guilt of sin.

MAKING A COVENANT: EXODUS 19 - 24

Now that God has saved Israel from Egypt he establishes his covenant with them. This is summarized in Exodus 19:3-6. God, who has saved them, now calls them to obey him and if they do they will be his special people.

Over the next chapters, God lays out for Israel what it looks like to obey him. In chapter 20 we read the 10 commandments. These show them (and us) how we should live before God and with others. Chapters 21-23 expand on the commandments showing how they apply in daily life.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TABERNACLE: EXODUS 25–31

Next, God gives Moses instructions for building the Tabernacle. This was to be the special place where God would meet with his people. God gives lots of details in these passages, which remind us that it is God, not us, who decides how we are to worship him.

The details are also very significant. One example would be the curtain that God commands Moses to hang a curtain between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (Exodus 26:33). This is a reminder of the separation that has taken place between people and God because of our sin.

Go forward over a thousand years to Herod's temple in Jerusalem. It was this curtain that was torn in two when Jesus died (Mark 15:38).

HOW COULD THEY DO THAT? : EXODUS 32–34

Memories of their deliverance from Egypt are still fresh and the presence of God is visible on the mountain (Exodus 20:18), yet they persuade Aaron to build an idol and they bow down and worship it.

Chapter 34 is a demonstration of God's grace as he reinstates the covenant. Human disobedience and God's patience is a theme that runs throughout the Old Testament.

BUILDING THE TABERNACLE: EXODUS 35–40

Chapters 35 to 39 recount the building of the tabernacle. Again we see the attention to detail and are reminded that we must worship God in his way. We also see another theme that runs through the Bible, God enables people to do the work he calls them to (Exodus 36:1).

Chapter 40 brings the book to a conclusion '...the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle' (Exodus 40:34 NIVUK). Israel is a nation under God's rule and he is with them (Exodus 40:36,37).

ASKING THE QUESTIONS THE BIBLE WANTS YOU TO ASK

What does this book teach you about Jesus? (Luke 24:45-47)

What does this book teach you about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you encouraged? (2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you corrected? (Romans 15:4)

What difference do the truths of this book make in your life (Matthew 7:24-27)