

BOOK OF EXODUS

Book of Exodus (Part 1 of 9)

1. This is the greatest escape story in history.
 - a) About 2 to 3 million Israelites escaped from the fortified city of Egypt. The Israelites faced a hostile terrain with no water and food in the wilderness.
 - b) For 2 to 3 million people to survive, there is a need for 100,000 tons of food and 2 million gallons of water per day for a period of 40 years they spent in the wilderness.
 - c) Even the long march by Mao Zedong was only for one year and comprised only of 50,000 people walking through villages where they can find food.
 - d) The Israelites not only saw the provision of food via manna and water but also their shoes never worn out.
2. This book was written by Moses as one of the 5 books of the Torah (the Law of Moses). It was written in 2 parts:
 - a) Part 1 was a narration of events of what God did to deliver His people. It focuses on God's grace.
 - b) Part 2 was a record of the Law given by God. This shows the responsibility of man in response to God's saving grace.
3. Moses gave an eyewitness account and he was well-trained to write this because he spent his early years educated in the palace of the Pharaoh.
4. Moses was the most revered man after Abraham in Israel because he talked to God personally and did many awesome miracles.

Book of Exodus (Part 2 of 9)

From the spiritual overview, the Exodus is central to the Old Testament just like the Cross is central to the New Testament. It also shows the types of Christ and His salvation in a Christian's in the following ways:

1. The Israelites were slaves of bondage in Egypt whilst we are slaves of sin in darkness.
2. One day, God visited the Israelites. Similarly, one day, God visited us as Christians.
3. The blood of the Passover lamb was smeared on the doorpost to escape the angel of death during the 10th plague. Christ was our Passover Lamb who sacrificed His blood to wash away our sins so that we will not be judged by God.
4. The Passover happened on the 14th day of the Jewish calendar. 1,500 years later, Christ was crucified on the same calendar day and at 3pm, and Jesus cried out, "It is finished". Israelites killed their Passover lambs also at 3pm on the said calendar day, and ate the Passover lamb the night before the angel of death came by.
5. 3 days after eating the Passover lambs, the Israelites escaped from Egypt. 3 days after Christ died, He rose again so that we can also rise from the dead!
6. After the Israelites escaped Egypt, they went through the Red Sea. This is a picture of our water baptism after we are saved.
7. The Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai 50 days later. God gave the Law at Mount Sinai 50 days after the Israelites escaped from Egypt. The Day of Pentecost also happened 50 days after Christ's resurrection. It was at Pentecost that believers were first given

the Holy Spirit to indwell in them. Christians are given the Holy Spirit so that we have strength to fulfil the Law.

8. The Israelites were supposed to journey 15 days to reach the Promised Land (not heaven but a place of rest and conquest over their enemies). BUT in the end, only 2 of the original generation of 2 to 3 million people managed to enter the Promised Land. We Christians, after being saved, are also supposed to enter into the Rest of God and enjoy the peace and conquer sins. BUT like the Israelites, many Christians never enjoy a victorious life that overcome worldliness and sins that grip us.
9. The Tabernacle is also another type of Christ in the following ways:
 - a) God wants to dwell in the midst of the Israelites like He walked in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. The Holy Spirit is now living in us and we are the temple of God. God is with us when we become Christians.
 - b) The Tabernacle had only one door. It signifies that there is only one way to God. Jesus is the door as in John 10:9 which we must enter to be saved. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life as in John 14:6.
 - c) The first thing one encountered at the Tabernacle entrance was a brazen altar to sacrifice animal. To enter this door, there was a need to trust in the substitute sacrifice. In our case, we have to put our faith in Christ. Justification is by faith in Christ.
 - d) There was a big basin or laver for the priests to wash their hands before they could draw closer to God. We too are sanctified by faith in Christ to draw closer to God.
10. Therefore, Exodus is a story of our Christian life.

Book of Exodus (Part 3 of 9)

Why did Israelites stay so long in Egypt?

1. The Israelites were supposed to only stay for 7 years in Egypt to tie over the famine during the time when Joseph was Prime Minister of Egypt but they stayed on for over 400 years.
 - a) The Israelites were treated like VIPs and given farmlands. Egypt was very fertile as it was near River Nile and life was easy unlike the Jordan River which always dried up. So, they stayed on even after Joseph's death.
 - b) Then, there arose a Pharaoh who did not know who Joseph was (as in Exodus 1:8). As the population of the Jews grew, they became persecuted.
 - c) This is similar to the current situation in the world when the Jews were scattered through persecution and became comfortable where they settled and did not want to return to Israel.
2. There are divine reasons why God allowed them to stay on for more than 400 years.
 - a) God told Abraham about the Promised Land that he was to inherit. To do so, they needed a big population to fill the Promised Land. So, God told them to stay for 400 years so that they could grow from the then population of 70 men in Jacob's family to 2 to 3 million in size.

- b) God told Abraham that his descendants would occupy the Promised Land after the wickedness of the Amorites is full (as in Genesis 15:16) which is the 4th generation from Abraham. This meant that only when God's patience hit the limit, then these Amorites would be removed or exterminated due to their wicked culture of immorality (with fertility and sexual religions) and worship of demonic gods, including human sacrifice of their own children.

What did the Israelites learn about God during their journey in the book of Exodus?

1. Every nation has its own gods or evil spirits. Israel learnt that God is more powerful than all the gods of Egypt and only God is the God of the universe.
2. God has elected Israel as the nation of priests to eventually bless the whole world. We Christians are also priests (as in 1 Peter 2:9) who should bless the world.
3. God wanted to dwell with men. Presence of God with man is to be restored. For Christians, Christ is living in us through the Holy Spirit.

Book of Exodus (Part 4 of 9)

What are the lessons from the life of Moses?

1. Exodus 2:1-15. God trained Moses for 40 years in the best secular education but he grew arrogant and wanted to deliver the Israelites in his own strength and failed. So, he fled to Midian.
2. Exodus 2:16-25. God allowed Moses to spend another 40 years in the wilderness to shepherd sheep. This balanced Moses' training and humbled him. Moses' mission was to take care of 2 to 3 million people like a shepherd looking after his sheep, so he needed preparation. This was also how King David was trained as a shepherd in the book of 1 Samuel before he became King of Israel.
3. Moses was trained how to live in the wilderness so that he could lead the 2 to 3 million people on how to live and travel through the wilderness later on.
4. So, we should never look down on our secular training e.g. Daniel and Apostle Paul were also well-trained secularly for the roles God gave them. So, do not be too spiritual and look down on the secular training that God is giving to you.
5. Exodus 3:1-21. When God called Moses at the burning bush, Moses gave 5 excuses that were no different from the excuses Christians of today give every time they are approached to serve others:
 - a) I am nobody.
 - b) I do not know what to say.
 - c) They will not listen to me.
 - d) But I am not a good speaker.
 - e) Why not send someone else?

So, if God sends you, remember Moses and how God helped Moses to overcome his fears by revealing His name to Moses:

- a) God said His name is "I AM" (in Exodus 3:14) which means He is an eternal, unchanging God. God will not be "I was", "I am" and "I will be".
- b) God also revealed to Moses that His personal name was Yahweh which means "Always" versus His generic name "E".

- c) The purpose of God revealing these is to say that He is always an eternal, unchanging God and He will not forsake Moses or us. Hence, we have no fear because He will be with us always as in Matthew 28:19-20. His grace will see us through as in 2 Corinthians 12:9.
- d) Jesus, Himself, said "I AM" 7 times e.g. I am the good Shepherd, I am the Bread of Life, etc. Jesus lives in us through His Holy Spirit to empower us to do His will.

Book of Exodus (Part 5 of 9)

What can we learn about God in the way He dealt with the Pharaoh?

1. It may seem to us that God arbitrarily chose someone and hardened his heart as Romans 9:15 says, "I will have mercy on whomever I have mercy....." But this is not so.
2. We should note that the Pharaoh chose to have a hardened heart first as we saw him killing male babies of Moses' age and treated the slaves roughly. In the account of Exodus, it was Pharaoh who first hardened his own heart (this happened 7 times), then God allowed him to be hardened. Our God is not only sovereign but also merciful and just. God waited for a long time before He sent Moses and even the 10 plagues or tests. Pharaoh failed to respond to God's call to repentance even up to the last test.
3. Exodus 7:14-12:30. When God sent the 10 plagues, He sent them step by step:
 - a) First, He sent those plagues that only caused disturbances to the land (e.g. frogs).
 - b) After that, He sent diseases but only on the animals.
 - c) Then, He sent threats that endangered human lives, e.g. hailstones can kill but it would be safe as long as the people take shelter. We must learn to take shelter under God's wings.
 - d) Finally, God caused death of the first-born of animals and men.
 - e) We can see God's patience and mercy in this step by step punishment that increased in intensity and severity. The plagues hit nature first, then the animals, and finally the people.

Book of Exodus (Part 6 of 9)

What lessons can we learn from the Passover?

1. Exodus 12:5. The lamb to be sacrificed as the Passover lamb had to be a one-year-old male lamb. On the 10th day of the 1st month, the selected Passover lamb was to be inspected to ensure that it was an unblemished lamb and then it was to be kept in the house.
2. Exodus 12:6-14. On the 14th day of the same month, the Passover lamb was to be killed and its blood was to be smeared onto the doorpost of the house. Then, the rest of the animal had to be roasted and not boiled, and to be eaten by the family. Everyone had to be fully dressed as if they were ready to go. The angel of death then passed over the door which had the blood on it so that the firstborn of that house was spared.

3. 1,500 years later, Jesus was also brought into Jerusalem on the same 10th day of the 1st month. He was examined by the authorities and they concluded that there was “no fault found in Him”. Jesus is indeed the unblemished Lamb of God qualified to be the Passover Lamb. On the 14th day at 3pm, Jesus said, “It is finished” after much suffering on the Cross for our sins. God judged Him for our sins which He took on for us. The blood of Jesus is our covering and propitiation for our sins.
4. Exodus 13:15. The Jews were to eat only unleavened bread in the next 7 days after the Passover. Leaven is symbolic of sin. Hence in the same way, after trusting Christ, a Christian must search his life to put away any sin and surrender to Him totally.
5. Exodus 12:26-27. Today, even after 3,500 years had passed since the Exodus from Egypt, the Jewish families still celebrate the Passover meal. The youngest in the family will ask, “What does this meal mean?” The oldest in the family will answer, “This is done in remembrance that the firstborn of the Egyptians were killed but the firstborn of the Jews were spared due to the blood of the Passover lamb on the doorpost.” Yet sadly, most Jews today still do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah and the Passover Lamb of God. They wanted a physical, conquering king as their Messiah and are still waiting for Him.

Book of Exodus (Part 7 of 9)

The Exodus - What were the events that took place after the Passover meal?

1. God led the Israelites by a pillar of fire at night and a pillar of cloud by day for a period of 40 years. Christians should know that God do not just save us from the bondage of sins but also lead us to Christ-likeness day by day.
2. Exodus 14. God parted the Red Sea and allowed the Israelites to cross over on dry land but drowned the Egyptian army who chased them.
3. Exodus 15:23. There was no water to drink in the wilderness and they came to a place called Marah where the water was bitter. Moses was told to cut a tree and throw it into the bitter water to turn it sweet for the people to drink. This is a type of Christ who was hung on a tree (i.e. the Cross, made of wood from a tree). When we trust in Jesus, God removed the bitterness in our life and make it sweet and pleasant. We Christians experience the peace and joy in our heart because we have the Holy Spirit indwelling in us.
4. Exodus 16. God dropped manna from the sky as food for the Israelites. The word, “Manna” means “What is it?” This was like tiny wafer which was sweet like honey and it sustained the Jews for 40 years. (Again, note that the number 40 is a number for testing.) The manna had all the nutrition needed to sustain them. This was literally bread dropped from the sky. In John 6:51, Jesus said, “I am the Living Bread which came down from heaven.” Christians are sustained by Christ and in Him, we will be victorious in our Christian life.
5. Exodus 17:6. When the people complained of thirst, Moses struck the rock once and the water came out. In 1 Corinthians 10:4, Christ was likened to the spiritual Rock in the wilderness which Moses struck. Christ provides the refreshment during the sorrows and burdens in our life. We can look to the spring of living water in Christ who lives in us.

Book of Exodus (Part 8 of 9)

What happened at Mount Sinai?

1. Exodus 19:1-20:17. The Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai. Moses told the people to prepare to meet God. Moses went up the mountain. God descended in fire and Moses walked up into the awesome presence of God and stayed there for 40 days. God communicated His instructions to Moses, not just the 10 commandments.
2. Exodus 20. God taught Moses so that he could teach others. He gave Moses the Book of Covenant which included moral behaviours and principles for everyone to follow. It included community laws on how to live in the society, e.g. how they should treat their wives, land, children and neighbours. It also had instructions on how to worship Him, how to build the Tabernacle, as well as detailed instructions on the ministry of the priests.
3. It is important for us, Christians to memorise the 10 commandments though the details of the laws are meant for the Jews and may not be applicable to us. BUT it is important to know why God gave these laws.
4. The Israelites saw God's grace and now they were to respond to God and live by His laws and obey Him.

Book of Exodus (Part 9 of 9) – continuation of "What happened at Mount Sinai?"

5. After Moses went up to Mount Sinai to receive the Law, the people wondered where Moses was as he had stayed there for 40 days. Aaron then agreed with the Israelites to make a golden calf for them to worship. The golden calf symbolises strength and fertility, etc.
6. The people were sinning in a wild party. When a nation practises idolatry, there will be a lot of immorality. Because when you are aware that there is a big God looking at you, you will behave better. To them, idols are just small gods who cannot see and hear, so they can be immoral.
7. After God punished the Israelites for their idolatry of the golden calf, Moses went up to Mount Sinai again for another 40 days.
8. Exodus Chapter 25. Moses built an amazing Tabernacle according to God's provided pattern in Exodus 25:9.
 - a) God provided the resources by getting the Egyptians to give them what was needed for the Tabernacle before the Israelites left Egypt.
 - b) The Spirit of wisdom was given to the workmen who were appointed to work on the Tabernacle. God's wisdom is not only for knowing His Word only. We make God so scholarly at times. All Christians can use our talents or skill sets to serve others, not necessary using our scholastic talents only.
9. God came down to dwell in the Tabernacle.