

THE EXODUS – THE BIRTH OF A NATION

Genesis is the “Book of Beginnings”. There we find the creation of the world, the fall of mankind, the universal flood, and development of the nations. Out of those nations, God chose one man named Abraham through whom He would build a special nation called Israel. Genesis primarily emphasizes the family of Abraham and God’s covenant relationship with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Exodus is a continuation of the story of Genesis, but it transitions from the family of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob, to the birth of their extended family as a NATION in the event we call “the Exodus”. So, the focus goes from a family emphasis in Genesis to that of a special nation in Exodus. The emphasis moves from God’s covenant relationship with the patriarchs to His covenant relationship with the Hebrew nation that developed out of them.

Exodus is where God shows Himself to be faithful in keeping His covenant promises to Abraham and his descendants. The events, instructions, and revelation in Exodus are all framed to show the LORD is FAITHFUL to His covenant promises to Abraham (cf. Ex. 2:24, 3:6, 14-17, 6:2-8).

Thus, Exodus is where God reveals His eternal, memorial, covenant Name YHWH (cf. Ex. 3:14, 6:3). In effect, the entire book is an unfolding of the significance and meaning of the Name YHWH, which signifies “the eternal sovereign God in everlasting covenant relationship with Israel”.

Exodus is the fulfillment of the prophecy in Genesis 15:13-14, which predicted that Abraham’s descendants would be afflicted in a foreign country for 400 years and then come out with great possessions.

The main theme of the book is REDEMPTION, which means “*to deliver from bondage*”. God’s mighty acts of DELIVERANCE show both His covenant FAITHFULNESS and His sovereign POWER over all as the One true God. Thus, the ONE true God is shown to be the God of Israel.

The Uniqueness of “The Exodus”

The overarching theme of Exodus is the fulfillment of God’s promise to the patriarchs that He would make of their descendants a great nation. This is carried out in the context of Egypt being the greatest superpower on earth at the time opposing it. It was carried out despite the obstinacy and unbelief of the Jews themselves. Thus, The Exodus highlights the power and character of God.

Exodus might well be considered the central book in the OT because it records God's act of delivering Israel and then establishing them as a covenant nation, uniquely chosen to serve and represent God.

The Exodus is the MOST profound event in ancient Israel's history. In terms of prominence, it even eclipses the creation account and the universal flood.

This is the great moment in which YHWH revealed the truth of WHO He is for the entire world to see. Constantly thereafter, God refers back to The Exodus as a MAJOR marker of Who He has been revealed to be. No incident in the history of Israel is referred to more frequently in the OT than that of the Exodus.

Exodus 20:2 (NKJV)

2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Hosea 13:4 (NKJV)

4 "Yet I am the Lord your God Ever since the land of Egypt, And you shall know no God but Me; For there is no savior besides Me.

Micah 7:15 (NKJV)

15 "As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders."

In the Old Testament the Exodus stands out as the STANDARD of God's power to deliver His people. This standard is only surpassed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as revealed in the New Testament (cf. Eph. 1:19-21).

Thus, The Exodus provides a HIGH POINT in redemptive history in which many patterns, types, and concepts find further development and fulfillment in the Scriptures, especially in regard to the Lord Jesus Christ.