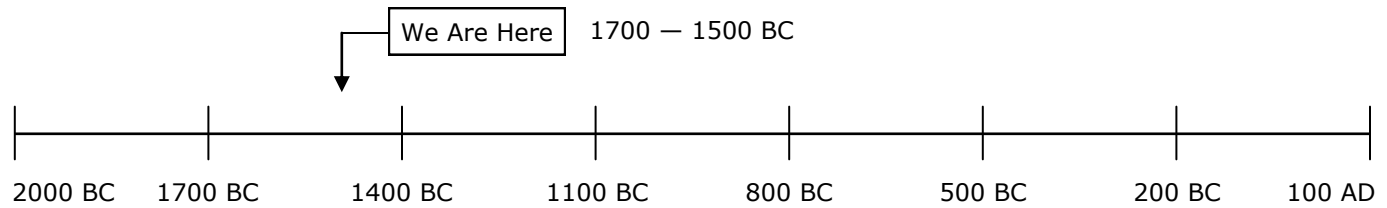


Bringing Down the House

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Week 5: January 29-February 4 — *Job 35-42; Exodus 1-12*

9.6% Complete — 330 Days to Go



Helpful Resources

Map of the Exodus (p.101), The Pillars of Egypt (p.53), Christ in the Life of Moses (p.55)

Making Sense of It All

- The Sovereignty of God

As we close the book of *Job* (38-42) and start *Exodus*, one thing is clear — God is in charge. He is sovereign over individuals (Joseph, Job) and He is sovereign over nations (Israel, Egypt). He is still sovereign today, overruling in the affairs of men and in your life.

- The Big Picture

As we begin *Exodus*, we continue the drama from the book of *Genesis*. The Israelites are still in Egypt. Joseph has moved his family from Canaan to Egypt, in order to protect them from the famine. While there, they enjoyed great prosperity. However, a new Pharaoh arose who did not know Joseph and did not remember what he had done for Egypt; he treated the Israelites harshly, even forcing them into slavery. The first 12 chapters of *Exodus* explain God's plan to redeem His people, to free them from their slavery, and to relocate them to the Promised Land of Abraham (Canaan). In order to achieve this miraculous work, God raised up a marvelous leader in Moses, who used God's words and powers to deliver His people.

- Evil in Egypt

Why does God allow evil to exist? Why doesn't He just rid the earth of evil once and for all? Why didn't He just consume Egypt with fire, like Sodom and Gomorrah, and be done with it? God will end the existence of evil ultimately, when He finishes Satan, but He has chosen to allow evil's existence for now; for without the existence of evil, we would never understand how good God is. Apart from our sin and shame, we would not recognize God's great love and endless mercy. God allows evil to exist so that He might demonstrate His awesome power and prove to His people that He is sovereign. We must remember that evil cannot foil God's plans, but rather He uses it in His plan for good (*Ex. 9:14-16; Prov. 16:4; Rom. 9:17, 22, 23*).

- Who Hardened Pharaoh's Heart?

Ten times the Bible states that God hardened Pharaoh's heart, and ten times it states that Pharaoh hardened his own heart. Which was it? Both. Demonstrated here is the doctrine of concurrence, which refers to two or more parties acting simultaneously. As with the evil of Joseph's brothers, God used it for His greater purposes. Because of pride, Pharaoh hardened his own heart, but having ordained this hardening (see *Romans 1:24*), God used it for good.

- Prophetic Passages

1. **Of the Exodus** (3:7-22; 6:6-8) foretold of His delivery of Israel from bondage.
2. **Of Pharaoh** (3:19, 20; 4:21; 6:1; 7:2-5) foretold of his insolence and God's plagues.
3. **Of the Passover** (11:1-7; 12:12, 23) foretold of the plague of death and the Exodus.

- Bringing Down the House

The plagues that God sent to Egypt were unleashed to judge its Egypt's idols and to remove every sacred pillar of its "invincible" house. See the chart, "Pillars of Egypt," for details.

- Pictures of Christ

1. **Life and Ministry of Moses**: see the chart entitled, "Christ in the Life of Moses."
2. **The Exodus** is a portrait of Christ's redemptive mission to deliver all men from sin.
3. **The Passover Lamb** (12:1-13, 21) is a symbol of the ministry of Christ. The Lamb was one year old (life and vitality), and it was unblemished, perfect, and spotless, as Christ is. Once it was slain, its blood was to be applied so that death would "pass over" God's people and set them free. Christ's blood, the Lamb of God, saves us from sin and death.
4. **Feast of Unleavened Bread** (12:7, 8, 14-28): The night the Israelites left Egypt, they consumed the Lamb, bitter herbs, and unleavened bread. All three were reminders of what God did — bitter herbs reminded them of bitter slavery, the Lamb of the Passover and the unleavened bread reminded them of their hurried exit. Christ is the Lamb and the Bread (1 Cor. 5). Leaven is symbolic of sin; thus, Christ is the unleavened bread.

- Personal Application

1. **Personal Reminder**: If you look beyond the story and see the spiritual war in the background, you cannot help but be reminded of your own salvation. By a miracle of God, your soul was transferred from the realm of darkness into hope and into a journey that will end with the Promised Land. Take some time this week to thank God for all He has done to lead you out of slavery into new life.
2. **National Reminder**: Because of Joseph, a "resurrected" Jew, and his God, Egypt was blessed; but one day, a new Pharaoh arose who did not know Joseph or his God. He and his nation forgot its past and persecuted God's people. America, once blessed by Christianity, centered around a resurrected Jew, has forgotten its past. A new generation has arisen that does not know Jesus or its Christian heritage; it has forsaken God and persecuted His people. As America hardens its heart to God, it is only asking for plagues. God is sovereign over nations, and, in time, He will judge America for her sins.

The Bottom Line

We all put our *faith* in something; only *faith in God* will endure the trials of life.

Questions to Consider

1. What are the pillars on which your life is built? Are they biblical? Will they endure?
2. Have you forgotten what God has done in America? Pray for revival and renewal.