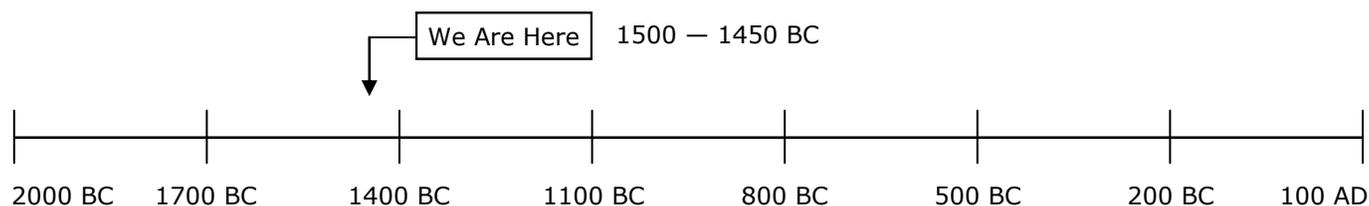


From Slaves to Citizens

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Week 6: February 5-11 — *Exodus 13-34*

11.5% Complete — 323 Days to Go



Helpful Resources

Map of the Exodus (p.101), Tabernacle Blueprints (p.57), Tabernacle of Moses (p.81, 83)

Making Sense of It All

- The Big Picture

Now that the Israelites were free from Egypt, they journeyed across the desert to the land of their ancestors (Canaan). Along the way, God taught them more about Himself, His expectations, and His guidelines for them as a nation. Here are some phases of this learning process:

1. **God's Protection:** The people needed to learn to trust that God loved them and that He would protect them from harm (i.e. from Egypt's army, Amalekites, diseases, etc.).
2. **God's Provision:** The Israelites needed to learn to trust that God would provide for their needs (i.e. water, bread called "manna," and meat in the form of quail).
3. **Getting Personal:** God met with and spoke to the people at Mt. Horeb (*19:16-20; 24:9-11*). This event moved the people to fear God and to trust His servant Moses.
4. **Laying Down the Law:** One of the necessities for Israel to become a peaceful, efficient, God-honoring nation was for the Lord to communicate His expectations.

Moral Law: The Ten Commandments provided the overarching principles that undergirded the other laws; they were (and still are) God's standards for right and wrong.

Civil Law: These laws, which covered a wide range of topics, were guidelines for living as a civilized people.

Ceremonial Law: These expectations pertained to Israel's worship of God; He provided details concerning the Tabernacle, their offerings and sacrifices, priests, and festivals.

Through the counsel of his father-in-law, Jethro, Moses selected godly leaders to help him teach the laws of God to the people and to keep them accountable as their judges.

5. **Cutting a Covenant:** God made a promise to the people. If they worshiped Him alone and obeyed Him, He would bless them; it was made binding by blood (*19:3-6; 24:1-18*).
6. **More Massebah:** To remind the people of the exodus, God commanded them to establish memorials — dedicating the first-born (*13:1-16*) and annual festivals (*23:14-19*).

7. **A Place of Worship:** God gave Moses details to build a portable sanctuary for Him to dwell among the people; it was called the Tabernacle.

- Prophetic Passages

1. **Of the Amalekites** (17:8-16) predicting the struggle that the Jews would have with this tribe; however, God would ultimately destroy them for attacking His people.
2. **Of Canaan** (23:20-33) foretold of God's fighting on behalf of Israel to remove the pagan tribes of Canaanites from out of their way, so that they could reclaim the Promised Land.

- Pictures of Christ

1. **Life and Ministry of Moses:** see the chart entitled, "Christ in the Life of Moses."
2. **Dedication of the Firstborn** (13:1-16) foreshadowed the sacred firstborn of God (*John 3:16*) and of Joseph and Mary (*Luke 2:7*) who would die for the sins of man.
3. **The Manna** (16:1-18) was a picture of Christ as the "Bread of Life" (*John 6:31-41*).
4. **Water from the Rock** (17:1-7) foreshadowed Christ as "Living Water" (*John 4:13, 14*).
5. **Angel of the Lord** (23:20, 21): He was distinct from any other angel as He bore the name of God and was able to forgive sins, perhaps a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ.
6. **The Tabernacle** (25-30) is the clearest picture of Christ in the Old Testament; see the chart entitled "Christ in the Tabernacle" for more details.

- Personal Application

1. **Provision of God:** It is clear that God provided for His people. One example was how God provided the riches of Egypt so that the people could give it back to God for the construction of the Tabernacle. However, like Israel, we abuse God's provision and use His resources to make for ourselves holy cows or idols. God's provision to us is to be used for His glory, not ours; it is not to be perverted for satisfying our sinful pleasures.
2. **The Serious Side of Worship:** Through the intricate details of the Tabernacle and the precise instructions to those who would be serving in it, we can gather that God can only be approached on His terms, not ours; and, we can see that God takes seriously the act of worship. Even though we do not use the sacrificial Tabernacle system, we should not enter into His presence lightly, but rather in all seriousness, reverence, and respect.

The Bottom Line

We are no longer *slaves* to sin but *citizens* of heaven; God has made a *way* for us to be *with* Him.

Questions to Consider

1. Have you misused God's resources to erect for yourself holy cows? Where are these idols in your life and what should you do about them?
2. What are some ways that we disrespect God in our worship today? How can we be better prepared to "enter into His presence"?