

Exodus

The God of the Bible is a God who is able to deliver! This is the primary message of the book of Exodus. God's chosen people, the Israelites, were forced to slavery by the hands of the Egyptians. God brought them out of this land of bondage that they would be free to worship him as a new nation. God used people as well as power to bring about this victorious exit. Through Moses and Aaron, and plague and Passover—God displayed his wonders in the land of Egypt. His wonders continued outside the land of Egypt through his caring for Israel and the glory of his tabernacle.

In Exodus chapter 3, Moses is called by God to be Israel's leader in the departure. At mount Horeb God spoke his instructions to Moses out of the burning bush. Entailed in these instructions was the name of God, the enduing of miraculous signs to Moses, the demand to Pharaoh to let the Israelites go and worship, and God's reluctant assigning of Aaron as Moses' spokesman (reluctant because Moses wouldn't take the responsibility himself). From here, Moses went on to meet his brother Aaron. Together they went to Egypt and spoke to the elders of Israel and then to Pharaoh. Israel believed the message from God, but Pharaoh did not. Thus would begin a series of terrible judgments.

God, in order to manifest his might, and, in order to free his people began to send plagues upon the Egyptians: all the waters of Egypt were turned to blood, including the Nile River; frogs infested the land; he sent gnats to torment both man and beast; he caused their cattle to die; boils, hail, and locusts were loosed upon the Egyptians; darkness covered the land; and, all of Egypt's first born died. It was during this last plague that Passover was inaugurated. While all of Egypt's firstborn were perishing, Israel was being saved by the blood of the Lamb!

Israel's final deliverance came when Pharaoh set off to follow the exiting masses of Israel to destroy them. God separated the Red Sea. His people crossed the sea on dry ground. When Pharaoh and his army followed in pursuit, God caused the sea to come crashing back to its normal state. Thus, the enemies of Israel were destroyed. This awe-inspiring occasion spurred Moses and his people to break out into song. One particular passage displays this exuberance: "Sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted; The horse and his rider He has hurled into the sea" (Exodus 15: 21).

After this, a myriad of events is recorded in Exodus. The people are given food and drink supernaturally, Moses is given the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai, the complacent Israelites fall into idolatry, and God's residual glory was seen on Moses' face. All of these events lead us to the grand conclusion of the book of Exodus: God filling the tabernacle with his glory. What a sight this must have been...God's glory cloud by day, and his fire by night. They would serve as a guide to the children of Israel for the entire wilderness journey.

The book of Exodus boldly proclaims—Our God is awesome! Miracle after miracle, God was proving to the Israelites and all the world that he alone is God. By casting down Egypt and raising up Israel, he showed that the power to destroy and build belongs to him alone. He alone was able to deliver Israel from the taskmaster's hand. He alone was able to set their feet on dry ground while surrounded by waters. And today, he alone is able to deliver us from the clutches of sin and bondage. Glory be to his Name!