

LESSON TEXT: Exodus 1:1---4:31

Prepared by Paul T. Butler

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

Exodus is the sequel to Genesis. An interval of 350 years occurs between the close of Genesis and the opening of Exodus. The Hebrew title of the book *Aileh Shemouth* means, "These are The Names." The Greek name *Exodos* means "Deliverance." Exodus commences in gloom and closes in glory. It opens telling how God came down in grace to deliver an enslaved people and ends declaring how God came down in glory to dwell in the midst of a redeemed people. The people of Israel believed the old covenant Word of God as it came through Moses and marched out of Egypt toward the promised land as the patriarchs had anticipated. So may we believe the New Covenant Word of God and be freed from the bondage of sin and march toward heaven.

Exodus is a book of preparations: (1) Moses' preparation; (2) Egypt's preparation; (3) Israel's preparation. Exodus also records the "birth" of the nation Israel---the disfranchisement of the people in Egypt, the deliverance of the people in the wilderness, and the decrees for the people from God.

In later life, Genesis and Exodus were David Livingstone's favorite books, Moses being his favorite Bible hero. These books fed the fires of holy enthusiasm and courage in that great missionary-explorer.

Christ, the "prophet like unto Moses," is typified in Exodus both as the Passover Lamb slain for the salvation of sinners and the Bread of Life, or manna sent down from heaven, for the sustenance of those who will receive him. He is, moreover, the true Law-Giver and Mediator of whom Moses was but a type. What happened to the Israelites is to our profit, and their deliverance is the prototype of Christ's deliverance of the "redeemed of all ages."

"Moses...considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward." Hebrews 11:24-

28

QUESTIONS:

1. Why were the more numerous, armed, Egyptians so afraid of the Israelites?
2. Who were the midwives? Why didn't they do as they were ordered? Were they right to lie to Pharaoh?
3. Why did Moses kill the Egyptian (cf. Acts 7:24-25)? Why did the Hebrews reject his leadership?
4. How could Moses please God by marrying a Midianite?
5. Why did God decide to deliver the Israelites from Egyptian bondage? Cf. Acts 7:1-8
6. Who is God? What does (Yaweh) "I Am" mean?
7. Was it right for God to tell the Hebrews to take jewelry from the Egyptians?
8. Why was Moses fearful the Hebrews would not listen to him?
9. Why would Moses disagree with God about his abilities?
10. Why did God try to kill Moses? How was Moses saved?
11. In addition to all his preparation, what else did Moses need to become the deliverer of God's people (cf. Heb. 11:23-28).

Did you know that the largest biblical painting in the world is located in the Forest Lawn Cemetery, Los Angeles, CA, and it is entitled, *Crucifixion*.

Did you know that a "jeroboam" and a "methuselah" are large wine bottles?

Mosheh is the Hebrew word for "Moses" and means, "drawn out, or delivered"

Moses was faithful in God's house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; but Christ was faithful as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. Hebrews 3:5-6

LESSON TEXT: Exodus 5:1---11:10

Prepared by Paul T. Butler

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

The world was always 20 minutes ahead of a man in Coventry, England. "In 1922," he said, "the clocks were advanced 20 minutes. I never accepted this. Nobody was going to take 20 minutes out of my life." So he kept his watch set for the old time. He was 20 minutes late for every appointment. As a result, the determined man was fired from half a dozen jobs. "They won't beat me," he declared, "I'm going to die 20 minutes late to show them I was right."

That one is humorous. This one isn't: Henry Nelson, of Wilmington, Delaware, was a veteran of WWII. He had served as an instructor in the Army Chemical Warfare Dept., yet he ignored a warning by the superintendent of the Riverside Housing Development that the apartment he lived in was being fumigated with hydrogen-cyanide gas. He tore down the barricade at the door and went in after two blankets. The neighbors saw him remove the sign and barricade and go in, and they called the Housing office. But when employees arrived it was too late. Nelson lay sprawled on the living room floor with the two blankets in his arms. Despite both written and verbal warnings, and despite his training in the Army, he had gone to his death.

The stubbornness of Pharaoh is even more tragic! That will be our lesson in Exodus 5-11. Actually, the lesson will ultimately show the triumphant grace of God in the defeat of Israel's enemy. But there is great calamity in the intractable willfulness of the king of Egypt. While he had verbal and visible evidence of Jehovah's wishes and power, because of his unyielding defiance, thousands of Egyptian people lost their children in the plagues, their properties, and eventually thousands of soldiers lost their lives in the Red Sea. All because of one man's single-minded contempt for God! **Make sure the whole family is in Bible School to learn what God does about stubbornness and unbelief!**

"There is no calamity which a great nation can invite which equals that which follows a supine submission to wrong and injustice."

---Grover Cleveland

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Pharaoh first set his mind against the Israelites worshiping God in the wilderness? 5:1-14 Have you run across this same attitude today?
2. What was the reaction of the Israelites, 5:15-31 and of Moses, 5:22--6:1? How would you have reacted?
3. Why did the Lord **repeat** the covenant promises? 6:2-9---and the genealogical listing, 6:14-25? What did Moses' "uncircumcised lips" have to do with this?
4. Is it possible to see miracles, acknowledge that Jehovah is God, 7:5, and still harden one's heart against God? 7:3
5. Why did God choose to bring disaster upon Egypt through rivers, frogs, gnats, flies, cattle, boils, hail, locusts and **children**? Chapters 7-8-9
6. How did the Egyptian magicians make their rods into serpents? 7:8-13
7. How many times did Pharaoh say he would let Israel go? q.v. 8:8,25,28; 9:27; 10:8,16,24
8. How many times did the Egyptians advise Pharaoh to grant Moses's wishes? q.v. 8:19; 9:11; 10:7 Why didn't Pharaoh listen to his advisers?
9. What was to be God's *coup de grace* upon Pharaoh? 11:4-10 Is it possible for anyone to be that obstinate toward God? Know anyone like this?

Did you know that Abraham is the first person in the Bible said to have prayed to Jehovah?

Did you know that Abraham's nephew, Lot, was the father of the Moabites and Ammonites?
"Some minds are like finished concrete---thoroughly mixed-up and permanently set." ---Anon.

LESSON TEXT: Exodus 12:1---18:27

Prepared by Paul T. Butler

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

Human beings are obsessed with the making of memorials. At Newport, RI, there stands a monument to Michele Felice Corne who first dared to eat a tomato, despite the age-old idea up to that time that tomatoes were poisonous. A monument to a man's leg was erected on the Saratoga battlefield in honor of Benedict Arnold, one-time hero of the Continental Army. Arnold later tried to betray West Point and then fled to England to escape a traitor's death. Because Arnold was instrumental in winning one of the crucial battles of America's War for Independence, where his leg was wounded, amputated and interred, General Depeyster had the monument erected at his own expense. The rest of the betrayer's body and his face were not to be commemorated. "Smack-dad" in the middle of the highway at Modlothian, VA, there is a singular monument to an old-time country doctor. He had done such service to the community that the people wanted to erect a memorial to him in the village while he was still alive. But the doctor was too modest for that and said, "When I die, you all just bury me wherever I be." Shortly afterward, as he was driving his buggy on his way to a sick patient, he died there in the middle of the road; and there today, in the middle of the road, so that you have to drive around it as you pass through the village, stands that singular monument.

God has always given man memorials by which man is to remember, honor and serve him. This coming Lord's Day we will be studying the **types (memorials) of salvation**. When God gives man a memorial, he always provides that the remembering be demonstrated by some action connected with the memorial. You will want to have the whole family in Bible School to study God's Memorials.

"Mere mental memory is cheap. Real remembering regulates our resources and routine."

---Wilbur Fields, in, *Exploring Exodus*

QUESTIONS:

1. Name at least four lessons **we** may learn from the Israelite Passover. Where is it pointed to as a symbol of the entire Christian experience? 12:1-51
2. Is there a lesson for **us** in God's commandment that the Israelites were to teach about these feasts to their children? 12:25-27; 13:8-10 What is it? Are we doing it?
3. What is the **symbolic** significance of the Feast of Unleavened Bread? 13:3-10.
4. What was to be done with the **first** born of Israel 13:1-2? Why? How? 13:13
5. Why did God **circumvent** the land of the Philistines? 13:17-22
6. What is the **spiritual** significance of the event in chapter 14? 1 Cor. 10:1-4
7. What is the **purpose** of the song and the singing in chapter 15?
8. What was the manna and the water from the rock to teach Israel? 16:1--17:7 What does all this **typify** for Christians? cf. John 6 & 7.
9. Why did victory come when Moses lifted up his hands and defeat come when he lowered them? 17:8-16 Is there a message for **us** here? What?
10. Was Jethro's advice to Moses **good** advice? 18:1-27 Why? Is it good advice for those who serve God **today**? Are we following it?

**One of the most moving poems in the English language is
Rudyard**

**Kipling's "Recessional." It was written for the second jubilee of
Queen Victoria. Everyone expected a poem of praise for the
Queen.**

Instead, Kipling called the nation to remember things forgotten.

He wrote,

**"Lo, all our pomp of yesterday is one with Nineveh and Tyre."
In every stanza the same refrain is repeated, "Lest we forget,
Lest we forget!"**

---1000 Windows, by Robert Shannon

LESSON TEXT: Exodus 19:1---20:16

Prepared by Paul T. Butler

The editor of a small weekly newspaper in a town in the West was hard put one week for copy to fill his columns. So, he had his compositor set up the Ten Commandments, and ran them without making any editorial comment. Three days after the paper was published he received a letter saying: "Please cancel my subscription. You're getting too personal!"

Indeed, the Law of God is **very personal!** After all, God made man and he knows everything about man. When God reveals his "Law" (which is his will and his character) it goes to the core of the inner human being. God's Law reaches in and lays bare the essence of human existence---conscience and motivation (cf. Heb. 4:12-13).

There are 3,000,000 laws in the United States. If a man could familiarize himself with time at the rate of two a day, he could be qualified to act as a law-abiding citizen in the space of 9000 years! Emperor Justinian ordered all the laws of ancient Rome to be compiled. With 16 assistants, a Roman scribe, Tribonian, came up with 2000 **volumes** after 3 years work! While **all** the Law of God is not found in the Decalogue (Jewish rabbis say the Law contained only 630 commandments), yet, the Ten Commandments summarize God's law for mankind.

Remember? When a rich, young, ruler asked Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life, Jesus replied, "If you would enter life, keep the commandments" Matt. 19:17. Jesus told his followers, "...unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" Matt. 5:20. **The Ten Commandments are relevant to our relationship to God today!** Be in Bible School and learn about God's Law.

"Law is valuable not because it is law,
but because there is right in it."

---Henry Ward Beecher

QUESTIONS:

1. Was God threatening the Israelites when he said, You have seen what I did to the Egyptians? 19:4 Does God threaten in the New Testament?
2. Why did God want the Israelites as his own possession among **all** peoples? 19:5 Wouldn't some other race have been as satisfactory?
3. What did God want the Israelites for? 19:5 What was Israel's response?
4. What did the Lord's command that Israel **consecrate** itself involve? 19:10-25. Why didn't the Lord want the Israelites to see him? 19:21
5. Why did God begin the Ten Commandments with, I am the Lord your God... 20:1. What is wrong with having more than one God?
6. Do any of the Ten Commandments apply to Christians? Which ones? Which ones do not? How does one select? 20:3-17
7. Which of the Ten Commandments did the rich-young-ruler fail to keep?
8. How did Jesus fulfill the Ten Commandments (see Matt. 5:17)
9. How did these Commandments prove the people of Israel? 20:18-20
10. Why demand their altars be made of earth and without steps? 20:21-26
- 11.

Did you know? The Ten Commandments are in the building that houses the United States Supreme Court.

"The Ten Commandments are not--Ten Suggestions."
----Ted Koppel

LESSON TEXT: Exodus 21:1---23:33

Prepared by Paul T. Butler

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

There is a huge painting hanging in the Supreme Court building of the little country of Switzerland. It was painted by an artist named Paul Robert, and the title is *Justice Instructing the Judges*. In the foreground are the litigants--the wife against the husband, the architect against the builder, etc. Above them stand the Swiss judges with their little white dickeys. How are these people going to judge the various litigations? A whole sociological theory is opened up. The artist's answer is simply this: **Justice** (usually blindfolded, with her sword vertical) **is not blindfolded, with her sword pointing downward to a book on which is written, "The Word of God."**

Yes, even as Christians, this side of the cross and under grace, we can still learn much about God's will for man on earth in the Law of Moses. The Law of God is an expression of the will or character of God just like the law of a nation expresses the will or character of a nation's people. We are going to be studying the will of God as we study the law of Moses. What God's will is in many of the social and political circumstances of life will be plainly detailed. We will learn God's will about kid-napping, human freedom, parent-child relationships, public safety, property loss, employee relationships, personal liability, women's rights, capital punishment, etc.

The OT Law definitely expresses God's will for social **order**. God adamantly abhors social disorder and rebellion. He would not tolerate it in the Israelites and he will not tolerate it now. Eventually, God is going to judge and punish all who by their sinfulness contribute to social anarchy (crime). God tells us in the OT Law how people within a society are to deal with those who tear down social order by their flaunting of God's Law. **BE IN BIBLE SCHOOL AND LEARN IT!**

"We adults spend far too much time preparing the path for our youth and far too little time preparing our youth for the path."

---a Judge in a Juvenile Court

QUESTIONS:

1. Does God condone slavery? Ex. 21:1-22 Why these commandments?
2. Why execute one killer and not the other? 21:12-14 What=s the difference?
3. Are these crimes severe enough, 21:15-17, to warrant execution? Why?
4. Would you like to live under the law of *lex talionis* (retaliation) 21:22-25?
5. Should property owners be liable? 21:28-36 Why? How much? When?
6. Would laws against thievery be appropriate for today=s society? 22:1-5
7. What has saying, "This is it!" to do with the laws about private property? 2:9
8. Do you think fortune tellers and idolaters should be executed? 22:18-20 Ever?
9. Is it right to legislate that you must help someone who hates you? 23:4-5
10. Is a God who would drive people out of the land upon which they live and give it to the Israelites, a God you believe you can worship? 23:20-33 Why?

"Justice is the ligament which holds civilized beings and civilized nations together." ----Daniel Webster

"Justice is the insurance which we have on our lives and property; obedience is the premium which we pay for it." ---William Penn

"Children are innocent and love justice, while most adults are wicked and prefer mercy." ---G. K. Chesterton

"Justice and power must be brought together, so that whatever is just may be powerful, and whatever is powerful may be just."

---Blaise Pascal

"Whenever a separation is made between liberty and justice, neither, in my opinion, is safe." ---Edmund Burke

LESSON TEXT: Exodus 24:1---31:18

Prepared by Paul T. Butler

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

When one person wants to express love to another, very often the first things that comes to mind is: "Let's get together for a meal." When people want to share or enjoy one another's fellowship they always try to eat together. That is what God did with the representatives of Israel (Moses, Aaron and Hur). God invited them to see him and to **eat** in his presence. This is what Jesus does with us. But our eating is that of the eternal Bread come down out of Heaven (John 6:35-65).

Suppose God wants to perpetuate his glorious presence among his people. Suppose God must deal with spiritually immature people who cannot comprehend him dwelling *invisibly* in their presence. What is God to do? He builds himself a house and a seat and says that is where his presence will dwell. God's house will have to be beautiful, expensive, utilitarian, and spiritually instructive. That is what God did for the Israelites in the **Tabernacle**. But God could never be confined to buildings (Isa. 66:1-2; Acts 7:49-50; 17:24). God's glorious presence dwells in the minds and souls of believers who make up his holy temple (the church) today (Eph. 2:21-22).

And what kind of people would qualify to dwell continually in the presence of God? Who would be fit to share in God's presence? What would they do? They would be a body of sanctified priests. They would obey, serve and praise God and participate in the blessings of God growing in the likeness of God. That is what God began with Aaron and the tribe of Levi. But God intended that body of sanctified priests to be completed in Jesus Christ and in Christians (Heb. 5:1ff; 7:1ff; 1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6; 20:6).

Sanctified people living in covenant relationship to God, the Covenant-Maker, is what we shall study in Exodus 24-31. You can't afford to miss Bible School and this lesson. Be sure to read these chapters before next Sunday.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Moses throw the blood upon the people? 24:8
2. What did God look like when the men of Israel saw him? 24:10-11
3. Why was God emphatic that Moses make the Tabernacle according to the pattern he was shown? 25:9,40 (Heb. 8:1-5; 9:9)
4. Why was the Tabernacle in the form of a tent? 26:7ff
5. What was the mercy seat? 26:34 (see also Ex. 25:17-22)
6. Why was a court surrounding the Tabernacle ordained? 27:9
7. Do you think God over-dressed his priests? 28:1ff What was God's purpose in the uniform of the priesthood? Why not robes for today's clergy?
8. Were all those inconvenient and "yucky" things done to the priests to consecrate them necessary? 29:1ff What did they mean?
9. Why did God make the ransom shekel payment a necessity? 30:11-16 Why are "compulsory" offerings forbidden in the NT (see 2 Cor. 9:7)
10. Why is the Sabbath given such a central, foundational emphasis? 31:12-17

"The waters of Noah brought death to sinners in his time. The same water saved Noah, by God's grace. Water was judgment and water separated the living from the dead. The water (baptism) of Christ is also a kind of judgment. It is a judgment on sin. It is both God's judgment and the convert's. One's old life is sinful; they agreed on that judgment. The soul that sinneth, it shall die--is agreed upon by each. The water is also a pledge by both. The sinner pledges to God his life and God pledges admission to the covenant....The gospel offers to a sin-sick civilization a cleansing of conscience. The sinner has God's assurance of forgiveness if he says, "Yes." Baptism is man's answer to God...God pledged in a very physical way at Calvary. He expects man to do the same."

---Mont Smith, in, *What The Bible Says About Covenant*

"Every major philosophic and theological idea in the Bible is related in some way to covenant. It is a rare religious idea in the Bible that is not tied in some way to an aspect of a covenant."

---Mont Smith, in, *What The Bible Says About Covenant*

LESSON TEXT: Exodus 32:1---34:35
Prepared by Paul T. Butler

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

When the Washington Redskins trounced Dallas for the conference championship a number of years ago, millions of fans saw the team kneel in the dressing room after the game and pray. When Washington lost the Super Bowl to Miami, no cameras were on hand but the team prayed again. Following the Super Bowl defeat, team members, while disappointed, nevertheless listened while the coach expounded a theology of defeat. "The country," he said, "is success-oriented and is interested only in success stories of businessmen, athletes, and beauty queens. Perhaps God has a message through the team that fumbles four times and loses the game, because we learn from our mistakes and failures."

In this lesson text (Ex. 32-34) we study Israel's first major failure and defeat on their trek to the Promised Land. They make a golden calf and become idolaters. The Lord commanded and Moses and the Levites slew 3000 Israelites.

Moses could have flung out his hands in exasperation and gone back to Egypt or the land of Midian with his sympathetic father-in-law. **But Moses prayed.** Moses prayed a lot! At least three times Moses talked with God about **this failure**. And Moses learned a lot! He learned more about God, about himself, about his people, and about serving God in the midst of failures than in the midst of successes!

Be in Bible School and learn that while men often fail in spite of divine graciousness, that divine grace is ever ready to give victory to those who turn to it in penitent perseverance and prayer.

"Don't pray to escape trouble. Don't pray to be comfortable in your feelings. Pray to do the will of God in every situation. Nothing else is worth praying for."
----Sam Shoemaker

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did the delay of Moses coming down from the mountain prompt people to ask Aaron to make them a "god" to go before them? 32:1
2. Why did Aaron do what the people asked? 32:2-6 He was brave before Pharaoh---why did he cave in to the Israelites?
3. Was it proper for Moses to make intercession for these idolaters? 32:11-14 Would God ever prohibit intercession? See Jer. 11:14; 14:11; 15:1; 16:5
4. Have you ever wondered why Aaron was not slain with the 3000? 32:21-34 He made the golden calf and tried to lie---why did he escape punishment?
5. God said he would not go up among this sinful people 33:3---did he ever abide with Israel again? When? Why?
6. Just what kind of relationship did Moses have with the Lord 33:17 that other Israelites didn't have? Why: see 2 Cor. 3:7-18 What do Christians have?
7. What is the terrible thing God would do with the Israelites? 34:10
8. What kinds of covenants with the Canaanites did God prohibit? 34:11-16 Why?
9. Why did God have to assure the Israelites, "neither shall any man desire your land when you go up.." 34:24
10. Why did Moses put a veil upon his face after seeing the Lord? 34:29-35

"Adversity makes men, and prosperity makes monsters."
----Victor Hugo

LESSON TEXT: Exodus 35:1---40:38

Prepared by Paul T. Butler

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

General “Monty” Montgomery of the British army in WWII was a professed Christian. He often revealed basic principles of obedience which should govern people under the Lordship of Christ. When “Monty” came to command in North Africa, to rescue the allied forces from that chaotic debacle, he expected his commands to be carried out. He said, “Orders no longer formed the basis for discussion, but for action...Previously, orders had generally been questioned by subordinates right down the chain of command. I was determined to stop this state of affairs at once!” General Montgomery had found the basic cause for the lost battles in North Africa!

Next to the one who does not pay his bill, the doctor’s most annoying patient is the one who refuses to follow orders. Recently it was estimated that between 60-90 percent of all patients take only half of their prescriptions, cheat on diets, continue to smoke, or never return for checkups despite careful prescriptions and cautious advice.

Obedience! God wanted above all else obedience from Israel. Obedience is the very essence of trust (faith). To obey is to pay the highest honor possible. The word *obey* was once included in marriage vows! The closing chapters of Exodus reiterates the exemplary obedience of Moses and indicates that even the majority of Israelites were beginning to learn there was blessedness in obeying God.

And lest we forget: “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.” Romans 15:4. SEE YOU IN BIBLE SCHOOL!

“God always gives his best to those who leave the choice to him.”
---Jim Elliot, missionary martyred in Ecuador

QUESTIONS:

1. How could God expect an offering to be generous and willing when he *commanded* that it be given? 35:4-5 Isn’t a command coercion?
2. How would the Israelites have had their hearts stirred and spirits moved? 35:21
3. Why did God insist each Israelite give to build the tabernacle? 35:25-29 God could have supplied all the materials miraculously---he supplied manna!
4. Do all abilities and intelligence come from the Lord? 36:1 How?
5. Is there ever a point at which believers give too much to the Lord? 36:5-7 (see 2 Cor. 9:8-12; Mark 12:41-44) Why did Moses restrain givers?
6. Why did Moses have all the things for the tabernacle counted? 38:21
7. Why is the phrase, “...as the Lord had commanded Moses” repeated so often? 39:1,5,7,21,26,29,31,32
8. Why did the people’s work on the tabernacle cause Moses to bless them? 39:42-43 What would a blessing from Moses be worth?
9. Why give Moses credit for finishing the work on the tabernacle? 40:33
10. God withdrew his presence, 33:3; here, his presence is back, 40:34-38---Why? To what extent? Did his presence stay? (See Ezek. 8:6; 9:3; 10:4,18 and Matthew 23:37-39).

“Letters usually end with a phrase that English teachers call the complimentary close. Nowadays, it’s usually--Cordially-- or --Sincerely. It used to be--Yours truly Before that, there was commonly used that odd phrase--Your obedient servant. That’s the way our prayers should close. That should characterize our whole attitude toward God: --Your obedient servant.”
1000 Windows, Robert C. Shannon