

FROM EGYPT TO CANAAN

STUDY I - A FAMILY OF CAPTIVES

READ: Exodus 1; Acts 7:1-19

The concept of family has been very important in our study of Genesis. The establishing of the human family is covered in Genesis 1 through 11. First God created Adam and Eve, then their family is expanded through Cain and Seth and finally we learn of the reestablishing of the family in Noah. Beginning in Genesis Chapter 12 the promises of God to Abraham related to his family and its future. A similar promise was given to both Isaac and Jacob. From the first God's plan was to expand and prosper this family.

Now as we begin to study Exodus we have the same family, hound together by its connection to the Patriarchs, greatly expanded in numbers but it is now a family of captives.

1. Read Genesis 50:26; how does this verse suitably conclude the book of Genesis?
2. What is the purpose of the family summary recorded in Exodus 1:1-5?
3. How are Vs. 6-7 related to the promises God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
4. Compare V.8 with Acts 7:18 and explain what is being taught?
5. What is the motivation behind the strategy outlined in vs. 9-10?
6. Read Vs. 11-14; these verses are both encouraging and discouraging. Explain.
7. How does the King's attempt at infanticide backfire and what is the result for the midwives?
8. Are there occasions today when laws are morally wrong? If so, how should Christians react to them?
9. In the providence of God, what is the result of the threat to the male children as recorded in Exodus 2:1-10?
10. Moses' parents obey the letter of the law as presented in Exodus 1:22, but they disobey the spirit of the law. Is this justified? Do we ever face a similar dilemma?

STUDY II- THE RELUCTANT DELIVERER

READ; Exodus2-6.

Throughout Genesis God raised up individuals to take a leadership role for Him. These leaders exhibited characteristics which pleased God. Each person was trained in one way or another to undertake the responsibilities God had in mind for them. Whether that responsibility involved a flood, relocating in Canaan to establish a family, or preparing for captivity God had the right person picked for the right job. Now in Exodus, as God plans to deliver Israel from captivity He chooses, prepares and calls Moses. He would be a reluctant deliverer.

1. Identify the acts of faith and the acts of common sense in the actions of Moses' mother, Exodus 2:1-10.
2. Make a list of the things to be learned about Moses in 2:11-22.
3. Read Chapter 3:1-4:17; what additional information is given about Moses.
4. Make a list of the things to be learned about God in chapter 3:1-4:17.
5. The name by which God reveals Himself in 3:14 is different, refer to Chapter 6:2-3. What is the significance of this new name?
6. Moses is reluctant to accept God's call, this reluctance results in the addition of Aaron to God's plan, note Chapter 4:14-17. What lessons should be drawn from this incident?
7. Put Pharaoh's statement in Chapter 5:2 in your own words.
8. Read Chapter 5:22-23; this reaction is very human. Why do things, that seem to be God's will, not work out as we think they should?
9. Make a list of the promises given to Israel by God in chapter 6:6-8. Summarize the promises in a brief statement in your own words.
10. His lack of eloquence seems to be a real burden to Moses, Note 4:10; 6:12; 6:30. Why should this be since God reassures him so directly in 4:11-12? Think carefully about your own life and your reasons for doing or not doing what is difficult. Are your reasons valid?

STUDY III - THE GREAT ESCAPE

READ Exodus 7-12:30 and Genesis 15:12-16

The migration of Israel to Egypt was never meant to be permanent. At the outset God promised Jacob, Gen.46:4 "I will go down to Egypt with you and I will surely bring you back again." Joseph also knew that the sojourn would be temporary, he says in Genesis 50:25; "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place." However, as the years passed and the pressure grew it was difficult to maintain optimism. But it was the pressure that made them look to God for deliverance. God acts when He is ready, but as we learn in Exodus His people must be ready too.

1. Read Exodus 7:1-5; summarize God's plan for His people and for Egypt. What is God's purpose?
2. Make a list of the plagues. We would all find the Passover the most devastating, of the others which one would you dread most?
3. Note the following verses: 7:13; 7:22; 8:15; 8:19; 8:32; and 9:7. What is common in them all?
4. Note the following verses: 9:12; 10:1; 10:20; 10:27 and 11:10. What is common in them all?
5. God has a predetermined plan for Egypt, yet He appears, up to a point, to be allowing them a choice. What does this teach us about human will and divine sovereignty?
6. Note Exodus 8:22. What change is introduced now in the plagues at this point? Why?
7. Explain the Passover in your own words.
8. Part of I Cor. 5:7 reads: "For Christ, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed." What similarities between Exodus 11 and 12 and the Lord Jesus prompts Paul's declaration.
9. Note Exodus 12:1-2 and 12:14. Why is the Passover to become an occasion of remembrance for Israel? What replaces it as a memorial for the church? Why?
10. Read Genesis 15:13-16. How are the prophecies of V.14 fulfilled?

STUDY IV - THE BIRTH OF A NATION

READ Exodus 19-20

Israel took three months to travel from Egypt to Sinai. On that journey they experienced several miracles such as; the crossing of the Red Sea, the manna, water from the rock and the victory of Joshua over the Amalakites. As they traveled away from Egypt they sang, whined, lamented, and grumbled. They had been a family of captives, now released they lacked the skills required to be a nation of freemen.

In Exodus 19 through Numbers 10 we will see what happens at Sinai. In that year the family is organized, instructed, and molded. They receive moral and civil law, their religion is systematized, their goals defined. When the time comes to leave Sinai the family of slaves will be the nation of Israel.

1. What two important points are included in Exodus 19:4, why are they important to Israel?
2. What is promised as a result of obedience in Exodus 19:5 and 6?
3. Why was obedience so important for God's people then, why does it continue to be important now?
4. Note the response that Israel makes to God in Exodus 19:8; is it sincere? Is it true?
5. When we make commitments to God do we always follow through? List some of the things that contribute to our failure to follow through?
6. Read Exodus 19:10-24. Why are such careful and strict instructions given to Israel in these verses? What can we learn from these instructions?
7. Why is God's uniqueness and position the first subject of the commandments?
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8. What is God's purpose in giving the law to Israel? What is the significance of the law to us?
9. Notice that the sequence followed in the law is God, family, ourselves, our neighbours. Explain why this order is important for Israel and for us.
10. Read Exodus 20:22-23. Why is idolatry so repugnant to God?

STUDY V - A CENTRE FOR WORSHIP

READ: Exodus 25-31 and 40

Worship, up until now, had always been the spontaneous response of God's people to God. Worship is an acknowledgment of God's worthiness, worship involves sacrifices, praise and thanksgiving. The Patriarchs built and left behind a string of altars across Canaan and no doubt, although there isn't a record, they worshiped in Egypt too. At Sinai Israel's worship would be organized, and they would have the opportunity to become, "A Kingdom of Priests." Now they would have a central place for worship, a complex and structured form of sacrifices, and a separate priestly order. No longer would the firstborn of the family be the family priest, one tribe and one family from that tribe would control the worship of the whole nation. This priesthood would lead the nation to God but they would also serve to keep the people away.

1. Why does God command Moses to build the Tabernacle? According to Exodus 25:9 and other verses, God was the architect for the Tabernacle. Why was this important?
2. Read Exodus 25:1-7. Who provided the materials for the building? Where did the materials come from?
3. What size was the Tabernacle? How many rooms were in it? What were the rooms called?
4. Describe the ark of the covenant. Where was this piece of furniture to be used? How was it to be used?
5. Read Exodus 40:34-38. What happened when the Tabernacle was finally completed and erected?
6. Read Hebrews 9:1-14. What were the limitations of the Old Testament system of worship? How are these limitations corrected now?
7. Why was it important for Israel to have a physical building as a center of worship?
8. According to the Lord Jesus in John 4:21-24; the New Testament worship pattern is to be different from what we see in Exodus? Explain.
9. In John 4:23 we are told that the Father seeks worshipers, why is worship so important to God, to Israel and to us?
10. For Israel God's presence was seen in a cloud over the Tabernacle, how do we know God's presence with us? Are there any specific signs?

STUDY VI- SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

READ Exodus 28, 29, 32, and Numbers 3

As noted in the introduction to Study V, God originally planned on having a "Kingdom of Priests." However, after the "golden calf" incident the tribe of Levi are substituted for the consecrated firstborn in every family, see Numbers 3:11-13.

A priest is someone who represents man to God. In Israel the priesthood would be in Aaron's family generation by generation, they would be assisted by other families of Levites. The priests were specially set apart in the requirements of personal holiness, in their special clothes, in their duties and consecration. The spiritual leadership of Israel was to be holy as mediators between man and God.

1. Read Exodus 28:1-5. At this point Aaron and his sons are called to be priests, why are special clothes crafted for them?
2. Define the word consecration. Why are Aaron and his sons consecrated?
3. Is there any similar present day equivalent to priestly consecration in the church? What form does consecration take today?
4. Read Exodus 28:6-30 and explain the purpose of the ephod and breastplate in the priest's costume.
5. The consecration ceremony in Chapter 29 is very elaborate. What does it emphasize? Note 29:20-21, why do you think the priest's right ear, thumb and toe are anointed?
6. According to Hebrews, Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest. Read Hebrews 5:1-10 and Hebrews 7:11-8:6 and list the ways the priesthood of Jesus is different from Aaron's priesthood.
7. Read Numbers 3:1-10;
 - a) What is the significance of the death of Aaron's two sons?
 - b) What role will the Levites have to fill in the worship system?
 - c) Why is the priestly ministry to be limited to Aaron's family?
8. Who are the priests in the New Testament service of God?
9. Read Jeremiah 2:7-8; 5:30-31. What happens when priests fail?
10. Explain what happens today when the leadership of the church is spiritual and when it is not.

STUDY VII - SPIRITUAL SERVICE

READ Leviticus 1-6:7

The offering of sacrifices to God was well known among mankind when Israel came to Sinai. The first recorded sacrifices in the Bible are those offered by Cain and Abel, however there was an earlier sacrifice made by God Himself inferred in Genesis 3. Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all offered sacrifices. These were offered on altars they built themselves and the animal was totally burned as an act of worship.

Now at Sinai a sacrificial system would be developed. The sacrifices would be differentiated so particular offerings would be made for particular occasions. Individual worshipers would now bring specific offerings to the priest to offer for him. The priest would lead and the offerer would participate as required. The priesthood would be a profession supported by the people to represent them to God.

1. Make a list of the offerings referred to in the reading?
2. Note the difference in the procedure for offering a burnt offering and a sin offering.
 - a) What is the purpose of a burnt offering?
 - b) What is the purpose of a sin offering?
3. The Lord Jesus is considered to be the fulfillment of all the Old Testament offerings:
 - a) How does He fulfill the burnt offering?
 - b) How does He fulfill the sin offering?
4. There are three offerings in the first group called, "sweet aroma offerings." What is the significance of the grain offering and the fellowship offering?
5. What is the difference between the two offerings in the second group called "non sweet aroma offerings?"
6. Read Leviticus 4-5:13. Explain the reason for the wide assortment of offerings permissible as sin offerings?
7. The sin and guilt offerings are for unintentional sin, 4:1-2 and 5:14. What was the offering for intentional sin?
8. Read 6:1-7. In addition to the sacrifice what other requirements are sometimes imposed?
9. Are there occasions today where restitution is required when we sin?
10. Read Hebrews 10:1-14. What differences are noted between the effectiveness of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the sacrifices offered by Israel's priests?

STUDY VIII - THE JOURNEY RESUMED

READ Numbers 10:11 - 14:45

Israel arrived at Sinai in the third month after escaping Egypt. Now, just about a year later they are ready to move on. Much has happened to organize and regulate their corporate life. They have become a nation with a structure of law and religion. Their leadership is established and trained. Their God has revealed His will and purpose and their relationship with Him has been defined. They have learned how to approach him and what to do when their actions offend their God. The time had come to leave Mt. Sinai, but as the story unfolds we see that they were really only ready organizationally.

1. Read Numbers 9:1-4. The celebration of the first Passover outside of Egypt must have brought up vivid memories; what are some of the thoughts the people may have had as they remembered Passover?

2. What prompted the resuming of the journey?

3. Note the words of Moses in Numbers 10:35-36. What significance do they have?

4. What is the first problem that comes up after the journey resumed.

5. Read Exodus 16:14-26 with Numbers 11:7-9. What is the significance of the manna and what is implied by Israel's rejection of it?

6. In recalling Egypt, Numbers 11:5, what is missing from their reminiscence? God has called Christians to Christ out of the world, what do we miss about our non-Christian past?

7. Read Numbers 11:10-15; 18-23. What is inferred about Moses in the words "Is the Lord's arm too short?" What is Moses afraid of?

8. Read Numbers 11:24-30. Refer back to Exodus 18:5-6 and 13-26; Moses is overwhelmed by his responsibility to Israel so God anoints 70 elders with the spirit. What does this teach us about Moses and leadership in general?

9. Psalm 106 refers to the incident of the quail in Vs. 14-15:
 - a) What motivated the request for meat and what does the Psalmist mean by the words "they put God to the test?"

 - b) In this incident what is the ultimate result of answered prayer?

 - c) What can we learn from this incident about God and prayer?

10. There are several lessons to be learned from Numbers 12 :1-15; list some of them.

STUDY IX - THE CALL OF JOSHUA

READ Deuteronomy 1 and 2; 31-34

The word Deuteronomy means “the second law.” The book is a recapitulation of Israel’s experience for the new generation of Israel who grew up in the wilderness and are now poised on the borders of Canaan. All the adults who left Egypt are dead except Joshua, Caleb and Moses. The nation must be told by Moses about God’s work with Israel before he is replaced for Moses will not enter the promised land either.

Consistent with what we have already learned about leadership Moses will be replaced by another divinely chosen leader. Joshua has been trained and tested by Moses, now he would take over from Moses. He will be publicly commissioned by Moses and by God. Joshua would be a great leader and would finish the work Moses had begun.

1. Read Exodus 17:8-16. We first meet Joshua here, what first impressions about Joshua do you receive?
2. Read Numbers 14:5-9. What part does Joshua play in this incident? What characteristics are revealed?
3. Read Deut. 31:1-8. Notice that Moses introduces Joshua as his successor, what does this tell us about Moses?
4. Read Deut. 31:14 and 31:23. Why does God repeat the commissioning of Joshua?
5. What lessons can we learn about the replacement of leaders from the story of Moses and Joshua?
6. According to Deut. 31:15-29, what future is ahead for Israel after the death of Moses? How do you think Joshua felt about God’s forecast?
7. Read Deut. 34:1-12. What was the result of the careful preparation and commissioning of Joshua after Moses died?
8. Joshua received several words of encouragement, Deut.31:7-8; 31:23; Josh.1:1-9; explain why both Moses and God thought this was necessary.
9. Read Joshua 1:10-11. How do these verses confirm that Joshua was the right choice for the succession?
10. What does the name Joshua mean and what important person in the New Testament is given this name?