

OLD TESTAMENT 1

UNIT FOUR THE BOOK OF EXODUS

THE PURPOSE OF EXODUS

➤ EXODUS AND GENESIS

- The pattern of the Book of Genesis:

CREATION	REBELLION	PROMISE	ISRAEL
Relationship with God	Spread of sin/judgement	of restoration through Israel	becoming a great people
Genesis 1-2	Genesis 8-11	Genesis 12:1-3	Genesis 12-50

- Exodus begins with Israel on the way to becoming a great people.

➤ THE GOALS OF THE EXODUS

- Israel is oppressed and outside the land which God had promised they would occupy.
- The Book of Exodus is mainly concerned with the way in which the redemption from Egypt was to be brought about.
- The task is to liberate the people of Israel with a view to placing them in the promised land.

➤ IMPORTANCE OF THE TABERNACLE

- Much of the second half of Exodus is given over to the building of the tabernacle.
- The book ends on the note of the building of the tabernacle, and so, with the idea of Israel at worship.
- Exodus represents a movement from slavery to liberation expressed in worship.
- The tabernacle shows the way God is to be approached.
- It is a visible reminder of God's presence and therefore his Lordship.
- The tabernacle is where God has graciously chosen to be present among his people.
- Exodus takes us from Israel in slavery to Israel bound to another Lord, whose service is perfect freedom.

AN OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

➤ EXODUS HAS FOUR MAJOR SECTIONS

1	Chapters 1-11: Israel enslaved in Egypt The oppression of the people, the call of Moses and the encounter between Moses and Pharaoh.
2	Chapters 12-18: Israel redeemed from Egypt The exodus itself and God's care for Israel on the journey to Mount Sinai.
3	Chapters 19-31: Israel bound by covenant to the Lord The implications of the special relationship between God and Israel, confirmed at Mount Sinai.
4	Chapters 32-40: Israel recalled to the service of God The rebellion of the people, the making of the golden calf, the renewal of the covenant by God, the building of the tabernacle.

THE CALL OF MOSES

➤ EXODUS 3: MOSES CALLED AT MIDIAN

- Moses is sent back to Egypt, from which he has fled, to liberate his people.
- Moses becomes the mediator to Israel of new facets of God's character in his relationship with Israel.

MOSES THE PROPHET

- The call of Moses prepares for the call of Israel.
- Moses is the defining personality in the foundation of the nation of Israel.
- There are features of all Israelite offices displayed in the activity of Moses.
 - Priest: from the tribe of Levi and at times exercised priestly functions.
 - Judge: set patterns which the heroic figures of the era of the judges would follow.
 - Prophet: divine messenger to the community, proclaiming God's will and mediating and interceding for the people.
- Moses sets a pattern for the Old Testament prophetic office.
- Call of Moses described in terms familiar in the calls of later prophets.
 - Divine confrontation (Exodus 3:1-4a)
 - Introductory word (verses 4b-9)
 - Commission (verse 10)
 - Objections (verse 11)
 - Divine reassurance (verse 12a)
 - Promise of a sign (verse 12b)
- Moses initiates the covenant relationship between Israel & Yahweh.
- Later prophets would try to maintain this relationship.
- Role of Israelite prophecy: to return Israel to the relationship Moses was instrumental in forging.
- Not just Moses but Israel as a whole let into new form of relationship with God.

THE NAME OF GOD

- THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A NAME
 - A name is a statement about the subject.
 - Knowing the name of God established a relationship and made worship possible.
- “THE GOD OF YOUR FATHERS”
 - A reminder of the highly individual nature of the religion of the patriarchs.
- THE NAME “YAHWEH”
 - Yahweh, conventionally translated “LORD”, was given to Israel alone.
 - Several Old Testament names for God, including “El” and “Elohim”, but “Yahweh” is more important.
 - The name must not be used inappropriately.
 - To hallow the name of Yahweh meant for the Israelites to acknowledge the demands of the covenant relationship.

CONCLUSION

- Formerly God related to the patriarchs, now he will relate to the nation as a whole.
- God will be known by Israel in his future acts.
- Yahweh requires that from now on he be known by this new covenant name.
- In all of its national fortunes, Yahweh will be with Israel.