

# OLD TESTAMENT 1

## UNIT FIVE

### THE REDEMPTION OF ISRAEL

#### JUDGEMENT OF EGYPT AND REDEMPTION OF ISRAEL

##### ➤ MOSES VERSUS PHARAOH

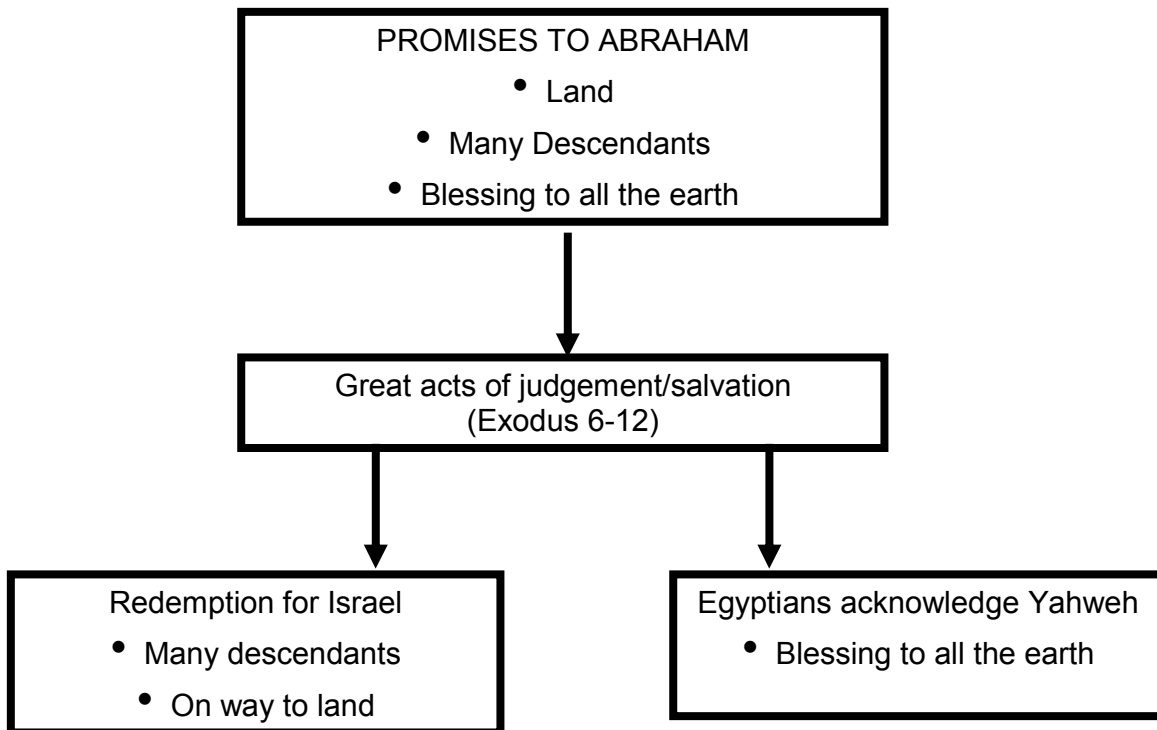
- The conflict centres on the claims of the LORD and Pharaoh in relation to the Hebrew people.
- Pharaoh claims not to know the LORD, and the text describes how this is rectified!
- Exodus is more significant than just a political liberation.
- The contest is between two conflicting faiths, and each plague was an attack on Egyptian religious practices.

##### ➤ THE EXODUS AS SALVATION

- The exodus provides most of the Old Testament's vocabulary of salvation.
- Moses acts to save Israel from Egypt and also from Egyptian paganism.
- Liberation from Egypt meant freedom to worship Yahweh.

## ➤ THE EXODUS AS JUDGEMENT

- The judgements on Egypt relate to Genesis 12:3: “Whoever curses you I will curse”.
- Judgement occurs so the Pharaoh might acknowledge the LORD and so that Israel might be redeemed.
- Ultimate goal of judgement and redemption: that the name of God may be proclaimed in all the earth.



- THE HARDENING OF PHARAOH'S HEART
  - The conflict between God and Pharaoh took so long because of the hardening of Pharaoh's heart.
  - Pharaoh does not thwart God's purpose, but rather advances it by allowing God to demonstrate his power.
- THE PASSOVER
  - The Passover is instituted in the context of the tenth and final plague.
  - There is an emphasis on remembering as the purpose of the later celebrations of the Passover.

## THE SONG AT THE SEA (EXODUS 15)

- THE LORD, 'MY FATHER'S GOD' (vv. 1-3)
  - The opening verses of this song celebrate God's victory over Pharaoh.
  - God's intervention is explained in the context of a prior commitment to Israel (the covenant with Abram).
- THE VICTORY (vv. 4-12)
  - The victory over Pharaoh is won by Yahweh alone.
  - The sea is passive and powerless in Yahweh's hands.
  - The notion of Yahweh's 'holy war' intervention is introduced.

## ➤ THE CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND (vv. 13-18)

- These verses picture the entry into the promised land and what the conquest will be like.
- Israel passes through frightened peoples who stand in awe as they enter the promised land.
- Images of war replaced by an image of peace.
- Palestine described as 'holy mountain' (verse 17), a place of contact between heaven and earth.
- Palestine is the place where God will be known and worshipped, where God's sovereignty will be recognized.

## GOD'S PROCLAMATION FOR ISRAEL (EXODUS 19:3-6)

### ➤ A PARALLEL TO INTERNATIONAL TREATIES.

- There is a similarity between this proclamation and treaties between powerful kings and subject peoples:
  - A review of the king's past actions.
  - Stipulations of what was required of the people.
  - Promises/warnings about what would happen if the people complied with or broke the treaty.

- 'KINGDOM OF PRIESTS' AND 'HOLY NATION'.
  - Parallel phrases – 'kingdom' corresponds to 'nation' and 'of priests' corresponds to 'holy'.
  - This shows that Israel is to be set apart from other nations.
  - As the 'holy nation', Israel is to give undivided allegiance to the Lord.
- YAHWEH'S ELECTION OF ISRAEL.
  - In 'holy nation', holy means 'separated'.
  - The election of Israel involves 'separation for service'.
- 'MY OWN POSSESSION'.
  - Elsewhere in the Old Testament this refers to the personal property of a king instead of the realm over which he rules.
  - This expression shows Israel's worth and status.
- 'NATION'.
  - The word 'nation' is rarely used in the Old Testament to refer to Israel.
  - Its use here reminds us of the promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:2).

# SINAI AND THE COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

- Both Israel and Abraham are the objects of special choice.
- Both will 'serve the world'.
  
- ISRAEL IS TO BE:
  - Chosen out of all nations.
  - A treasured kingdom of priests.