

# Exodus 1 & 2 – The Great Rescue

1. Imagine you conduct a survey on the streets of Sydney. The question is “What is Christianity?” What answers could you imagine people giving?
  
2. Read Exodus 1 & 2. Try and give a title for each of the following sections:
  - 1:1-7
  
  - 1:8-22
  
  - 2:1-10
  
  - 2:11-22
  
  - 2:23-24
  
3. The book of Exodus opens with God’s people in Slavery in Egypt. This seems a long way from the promises God made to Abraham. Or is it?
  - a) Read Genesis 15 - What was promised to Abraham?
  
  
  - b) Read Genesis 46:1-7 & Genesis 50:22-26 – What was promised to Abraham’s descendents in Egypt?
  
  
  - c) Read Exodus 1:1-7 – What aspects of the Genesis 15 promises have already been fulfilled? Which still remain to be fulfilled?
  
4. In what ways do we see God working in Exodus 1 & 2? What does this teach us about the character of God?
  
  
5. What was commendable about Moses’ action in 2:11-22? See what the New Testament says about it in Acts 7:17-29 & Hebrews 11:24-26. In what way is Moses’ example a challenge to us?
  
  
6. At the beginning of Exodus, God’s people are in need of rescue. In coming weeks we will see how God will rescue his people from slavery, through his servant Moses. In the New Testament God will ultimately fulfil his promises to Abraham by rescuing his people from an even more serious slavery through “the servant”, Jesus. In what ways does Exodus 1 & 2 foreshadow what will happen when Jesus comes? (Some Hints: Matthew 2:13-23, Acts 7:51-53, John 8:31-38).
  
  
7. How does Exodus 1 & 2 help us to answer the question “What is Christianity”?

# Exodus 3 & 4 – The God of the Exodus

1. In what experiences of life do people find it hardest to actively trust in God's promises?
2. Read Exodus 3:1-10. How do think Moses would have felt about what God said to him?
3. In the next section (3:11-4:17), Moses comes up with 4 objections and one refusal. Try to identify these and summarize God's responses.
4. What does this passage (esp. Chapter 3) teach us about God?  
(Hints – How does God refer to himself? What is the meaning of his name? What is the significance of his giving his name? Are there any connections with Genesis 15?)
5. What reasons can you see (from the passage) for Moses to trust in God's word, rather than his own judgment of things?
6. What do these New Testament passages teach us about Jesus in light of Exodus 3?  

John 8:48-58

Mark 6:45-52 (Note – In verse 50 the NIV "It is I" translates the Greek "I am")

Hebrews 13:8
7. In what areas do you struggle to believe and obey Jesus rather than the voice of your own judgment/experience? What have you learned from this study that could help you in these areas?

## Exodus 5 -10 – The Powerful God

1. In Exodus 5:2 Pharaoh says “Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go?” When do we see people (even ourselves) demonstrating a similar attitude towards God?

2. Read Exodus 5-10. To aid comprehension, make a brief summary of each section by completing the following table. (There may not be an entry for every column every time)

Passage	What title would you give this section?	Why wont Pharaoh let Israel go?	Why is God doing all this? <sup>1</sup>	Any Other Observations
5:1-21				
5:22-7:7				
7:8-13				
7:14-24				
7:25-8:15				
8:16-19				
8:20-32				
9:1-7				
9:8-12				
9:13-35				
10:1-20				
10:21-29				

3. In what ways does this passage challenge commonly held perceptions of God (including yours)?

<sup>1</sup> Don't miss these verses: 6:7, 7:5, 8:19, 9:16. See also Joshua 2:8-11 & 4:23-24 and Romans 9:16-24.



## Exodus 11-13 – The Redeemer God

1. Do you think it is important for Australia (as a nation) to recall and tell the stories of our history on public holidays like Anzac and Australia Day? Why or why not? What impact does this collective remembering have on us in the present?
2. The most significant event in the history of Israel, in establishing their national identity, was when God rescued them from slavery in Egypt. Read Exodus 11-13. From the passage:
3. What did Israel need to do to escape the killing of their firstborns?
4. In what (three) ways were they to remember this event? <sup>2</sup>
  - a. 12:14-20
  - b. 12:24-28
  - c. 13:11-13
5. What future impact was God intending for these reminders?
6. In these events the writer seems keen to let us know that some “loose ends” are tied up. If time permits compare the following verses. Why do you think we are told these things?

a) Exodus 12:35-36	Genesis 15:13-14	Exodus 3:21-22
b) Exodus 13:19	Genesis 50:24-26	Exodus 11:1-3
7. In the Passover who and/or what dies? Who goes free? (See also 4:21-23) In God’s ultimate rescue in Jesus – who/or what dies? Who goes free?
8. Look at the following New Testament passages. What do they teach us about the connections and/or contrasts between the Passover and God’s rescue through Jesus’ death? What implications follow?
  - i. John 1:29-34
  - ii. Luke 22:7-20
  - iii. 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
  - iv. 1 Peter 1:17-21

---

<sup>2</sup> “Unleavened bread” means bread cooked without yeast. In those days yeast was obtained by saving some old bread and leaving it to ferment and so provide yeast for the next bake. The bread being unleavened speaks of the urgency to leave and be on the move (i.e. they didn’t have time to cook it with yeast – See 12:34 & 39). Later in the Bible yeast came to stand for impurity – picking up the idea of the old bread mixed with the new (Mark 8:14, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

## Exodus 14-15 – The Warrior God

1. At the start of Exodus 14 the people have already been redeemed. They have been freed from slavery. However, they are not yet safely in the Promised Land of Canaan. As Christians we have been redeemed from sin through Jesus, but we are not yet in the Promised Land of heaven. What things do we sometimes fear (rightly or wrongly) will stop us making it to heaven?
2. Read Exodus 13:17-14:12. What was threatening the Israelites? How did they respond?
3. There is great statement of faith in verses 13-14. What reason would Moses have such faith in God? (Look back at 13:17-14:4 and to what God has revealed about himself earlier in the book)
4. Read Exodus 14:15-31. What does this teach us about God and his saving work? What lesson did the Israelites learn that day?
5. Who else learns about God here? See 14:4, 17-18, & 25. Also 15:15-16.
6. Read Moses and Miriam's songs in 15:1-21. What do they understand that God has done for them already and will do in the future?
7. Read Romans 8:28-39. How does our knowledge of God from Exodus help us to believe these promises? What part do we need to play (remember Exodus 14:13-14)?
8. What should we pray about in response to what we learn of God from Exodus 14 & 15?

# Exodus 16-18 – The Provider God

1. What are common topics that people grumble and complain about? In your experience, how are Christians the same or different to the world around us (in the area of grumbling)?
  
2. In chapter 15 Moses and the Israelites sing a great song of praise for what God had done and was still to do in saving them. Before the mud had even dried on their boots (after crossing the sea floor) we find their mood has changed. Read each passage and complete the table below.

Passage	Why was Israel grumbling?	How did Moses and/or God respond?	From the passage, is there anything God's people should have learned from this?
Exodus 15:1-2 (At Marah)			
Exodus 16:1-36 (In the Desert of Sin)			
Exodus 17:1-7 (Massah & Meribah)			

3. (If time permits) How else did God provide for the people? Exodus 17:1-16, 18:1-27.
  
4. Read Psalm 95. What was Israel's real problem?
  
5. How does the New Testament apply this section of Exodus to us?
  - a. John 6:25-59
  
  - b. Hebrews 3:1-4:13
  
  - c. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
  
6. What is the connection between faith and grumbling? What grumbling should we confess and repent of?

# Exodus 19-24 – God’s People

1. Do you think Christian Churches should have the “Ten Commandments” up on their walls? Why or why not?
2. God has rescued Israel from Egypt and brought them to Mount Sinai (19:1-2). In Exodus 19-24 God makes a covenant (an agreement/contract) with them. Read Exodus 19:1-8
  - What is the existing relationship between God and Israel?
  - What does God now promise to do?
  - What do the people promise to do?
  - In this context, why would God’s people need to know God’s law?
3. Read Exodus 19:9-25. What impact would these preparations have made on the people? (See also 20:18-19)
4. In chapters 20-23 God gives Israel his law. Why should Israel keep God’s Law? Will this be a pleasure or a burden? (See 20:2 also Deuteronomy 6 & Psalm 19:7-11)
5. As Christians we are no longer subject to Israel’s law (Galatians 3:19-25). Why should New Covenant people seek to live godly lives?
  - Titus 2:11-14
  - 1 Peter 2:9-12
  - Ephesians 2:8-10
6. As time permits read 20:1-23:33. Keeping in mind that Israel lived in ancient times & in a rural setting, what principles can you find in these instructions that help us to know how to live as God’s New Covenant people?
7. “In one breath Christians talk about “unconditional acceptance” (that there is nothing we can do to contribute to our salvation) – but in the next breath they’re talking about obedience, and the importance of living a godly life. It seems like we’re initially accepted by grace, but then we move onto a list of laws to keep – like bible reading, church and evangelism.” How would you respond to a comment like this from a disillusioned Christian?

# Exodus 32-34 – God’s Glory

1. If you asked people on the street – “what is God like?” - What do you think they’d say?
  
2. God has rescued Israel from Egypt and brought them to Mount Sinai (19:1-2). In Exodus 19-24 God makes a covenant (an agreement/contract) with them. At the end of chapter 24 Moses goes up onto Mount Sinai. Most of the rest of the book is about what Israel must do for God to live with them (25:8-9). First there are detailed instructions about the tabernacle in chapters 25-31, then detailed reports of their implementation in chapters 35-40. The final study will examine all this. In the middle of this section however, a series problem arises. The people sin. How can God live with people so sinful? This issue is more fully addressed in the book of Leviticus, but the foundations are laid in Exodus 32-34.

Read Exodus 32-34 (section by section). Complete the table (there is not necessarily an entry in every column for every section).

	What are the people like?	What does Moses do?	What does God do? What is God like?	Other Observations?
32:1-14				
32:15-33:6				
33:7-11				
33:12-23				
34:1-10				
34:11-28				
34:29-35				

3. Israel broke God’s covenant with them even before God had come to dwell with them. It was like a bride committing adultery on her wedding night! Why did God persevere with the Israelites?
  
4. In what ways do we identify with the Israelites?

5. In what ways do Moses' words and actions point us to Jesus?

See John 1:10-18

1 John 1:5-2:2

Hebrews 7:23-28

Hebrews 3:1-6

6. How can sinful people like us continue to be in relationship with God?

7. What has been the most striking aspect of God's character that you've seen in the Bible tonight?

## Exodus 25-31 & 35-40 – God’s Tent

1. When & how can God be present to a human being? How might different people answer this question?
2. The story of God and Israel is like a marriage. First God “wins back” Israel by rescuing her from Pharaoh (Ch 1-18). Then he “proposes” a covenant relationship (Ch 19-23). Israel agrees and they arrange a special ceremony (Ch 24). Israel is immediately unfaithful, but God is steadfastly committed to her (32-34). Following this image, how should we understand chapters 25-32 & 35-40? Read the following verses to find out: 24:15-25:9, 29:44-46, 40:34-38.
3. In chapters 25-31 God gives detailed instructions about building a tabernacle (=tent), its layout, it’s furniture and the priests who would serve in it. In chapters 35-40 there is an equally detailed description of the Israelites completing the work. Read 25:10-22 and skim the rest to get a feel for it. The detail is overwhelming (see also 25:9, 25:40, 26:30 & 39:42-43). Can you suggest any reasons why such detail is required and recorded – twice over (1/3 of the book)?
4. Read 40:1-33. Try and draw a diagram/map of the tabernacle. What does this teach us (symbolically) about the access that God’s people can have to the presence of God?
5. In what way is Exodus 40:34-38 a fitting end to the book? On what note does the book close - climactic? Anti climactic? Satisfying? Frustrating? Other?
6. Think about the story of the Bible. When else do people have God living with them? (Some big ones - Genesis 3:8, John 1:14-18, Revelation 21:1-4). If the story of Exodus is a picture of god’s greater and ultimate work of salvation in Jesus, to what does the final (tabernacle) section correspond?

7. Read Hebrews 8:1-6 & 9:1-27.

a) Why was it necessary for Moses and Israel to build the tabernacle with the detail we've seen in Exodus 25-31 & 35-40?

b) In what ways is the new covenant, the true tabernacle, the true priesthood, etc better than the old?

c) What implications flow for us? (See also Hebrews 10:19-25)

8. What have we learned from Exodus (tonight and in previous weeks) about how it is possible for a person to enter into the presence of God?