

C. A Survey Study of the Book of Exodus

(Remember that we use the same form approach in the surveys of all these books.)

1. An Overview:

Exodus has traditionally been regarded as Moses personal record of events--almost as his diary. As the second of the five books in the Pentateuch it has been considered a part of the "Law of Moses" long before the Christian era. Moses is the author and probably wrote the book while the nation was encamped at Sinai during the giving of the Law and the construction of the Tabernacle. Exodus is history and law--the resulting style is prose narrative and didactic. There are few genealogical references (1:1-5; 6:13-25) and one poetic section -- the Song of Moses and Miriam (15:1--18, 21) which celebrate the destruction of the Egyptian army.

In Outline Form Exodus centers on two events..the flight from Egypt and the giving of the Law at Sinai. Most outlines should cite them.

In simple form it looks like this:

- I. Israel in Egypt (1-11)
 - A. Suffering under Pharaoh 1
 - B. The deliverer called 2-4
 - C. Struggling with Pharaoh 5-11
- II. The Exodus to Sinai 12-19
 - A. Preparation for flight 12
 - B. Escape and deliverance 13-18
 - C. Arrival at Sinai 19
- III. Covenant and Law 20-31
 - A. The "Ten Words" 20
 - B. The Book of the Covenant 21-24
 - C. Preparation for the Tabernacle 25-31
- IV. The covenant broken and Restored 32-40
 - A. The Golden Calf 32
 - B. The Restored Law 33-34
 - C. The Tabernacle 35-40

Or, more simply yet,

- I. Bound by Slavery in Egypt 1-12
- II. Escape to Freedom 13-19
- III. Bound by Law to the Lord 20-40

Related to the History of Redemption, Exodus plays an important role in describing that work. The children of Abraham, to whom the promise had been given, have become a people. Exodus describes their transformation into a nation through deliverance and covenant at Sinai. The exodus itself foreshadowed the redemptive work of Christ and, as the supreme act of God in Israel's history, is referred to repeatedly in the rest of the Old Testament (for example, Ps. 78, Isa. 43:16-17.) Exodus 12 introduces the next step in unfolding the meaning of sacrifice: a single sacrifice now atones for an entire household. The Tabernacle foreshadows Christ in many of its parts and illustrates the presence of the Lord among his people which we now enjoy in full. It is a deliverance by blood and power that is dramatized in Exodus..a deliverance predictive of that which we know so well in this age.