

QUESTIONS

- 1) What 2 cities did the Hebrew slaves build for Pharaoh? _____

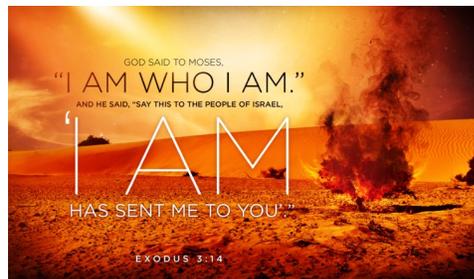
- 2) What tribe was Moses from? _____
- 3) What was the name of Moses' wife? _____
- 4) What did God give as His name? _____
- 5) Describe the signs Moses was given as evidence that God had truly sent him.

- 6) How did Pharaoh punish the Hebrew slaves after Moses' first demand to let the people go? _____

- 7) List the plagues in order:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
 7. _____
 8. _____
 9. _____
 10. _____

God vs. Egypt

When Moses and Aaron first demanded that Pharaoh let the people go, Pharaoh's response was, *"Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go"* (Ex. 5:2). Pharaoh may not have known God, but he was about to learn about Him in dramatic fashion. Pharaoh's pride and ego moved him to defiance, but God's power would bring him and the whole nation of Egypt to their knees. Moses performed signs to validate his divine purpose, and yet Pharaoh still would not listen. Thus, God demonstrated His sovereign power by reigning down ten plagues on Pharaoh and the nation of Egypt. Some have noted that the various plagues would have been a direct affront to some of the "gods" of Egypt. In truth, the Egyptian pantheon was so numerous, it is nearly impossible to ascribe one specific god as the focus of each plague. Instead, God was showing Himself to be the one true God, supreme above all supposed gods and all men. Before the final plague, God says, *"...and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord"* (12:12). God's very name, "I AM" stands against the falsehood of non-existent gods and idols. God's display of power was not just for Pharaoh and Egypt though; it taught a strong lesson to the Israelites—they were following the all-powerful I AM, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We do well to remember we serve the same "I AM" today. Never let anything come before serving the Almighty!



"That You May Grow Thereby..."

A weekly Bible reading plan



Exodus 1-13

The Great, I AM

Overview

For the next few weeks, our reading plan takes us back to the Old Testament, and back to the story of God's chosen people—the descendants of Abraham. When we ended the book of Genesis, Jacob's family had moved to Egypt to escape a severe famine. In the final chapter, Joseph passed away in the land of Egypt, and we are left wondering, "How is God going to fulfill His promise to Abraham now?"

As Exodus opens, the question becomes even harder. Generations pass between the end of Genesis and beginning of Exodus. The Israelites are no longer guests in Egypt, but they have become a slave-labor force. Israel's situation is bleak indeed, but God has not forgotten the promise He made to Abraham centuries earlier. Exodus tells how God calls a mighty prophet, Moses, to lead the nation out of Egypt. Departure is only part of the story however. Exodus tells much more than just the flight from Pharaoh—it depicts the beginning of a nation, and sets the foundational paradigm of deliverance that will be found throughout the Bible!



The Exodus Paradigm

Exodus means "to go out" or "depart." The departure from Egypt was only a portion of the story however. "Exodus" was a paradigm of deliverance. This theme is repeated throughout the Bible. Can you think of or find other places where this theme of "Exodus" is mentioned, typified, or alluded to?

Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: Exodus 1-3

Tuesday: Exodus 4-6

Wednesday: Exodus 7-9

Thursday: Exodus 10-11

Friday: Exodus 12-13

Outline: Like the book of Genesis, Exodus can be divided into two primary sections. The first portion of the book is focused in Egypt, and the mighty deliverance worked by God. After leaving Egypt, the nation travels to Mount Sinai, and the remainder of the book takes place at the foot of the mountain. Here is a brief outline of the book:

I. Israel Leaves Egypt (1-18)

1. Israel in Egypt (1)
2. The Call of Moses (2-4)
3. God vs. Egypt (5-14)
4. Journey to Sinai (15-18)

II. Israel at Mt. Sinai (19-40)

1. Giving of the Law (19-31)
2. Israel's Idolatry (32-33)
3. The Covenant Renewed (34-35)
4. Building the Tabernacle (36-40)

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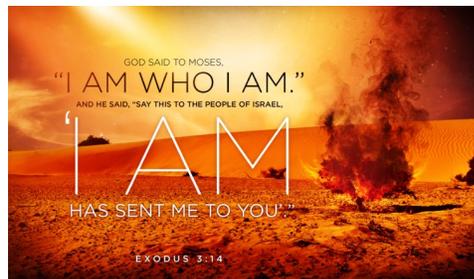
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