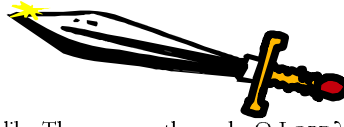


# EXODUS

## STRUCTURE & CONTENT



“Who is like Thee among the gods, O LORD?  
Who is like Thee, majestic in holiness,  
Awesome in praises, working wonders?”

## God as Warrior King

As Exodus opens, the people of Israel are slaves of the oppressive Pharaoh. Moses has failed in his effort to save them. God has heard their groaning and remembers his covenant, but what will he (can he?) do about it? (1:1-2:25)

### Preparation (3:1-4:31)

God **reveals** himself and his plan to Moses as he stands on **holy** ground:  
He will *come down* and deliver Israel from the power of Egypt;  
He will *bring them up* to a good and spacious land;  
He will do this through Moses, the reluctant mediator.

The people agree to the plan and **worship** God.

### Confrontation (5:1-13:16)

Moses' first attempt ends in failure. Pharaoh hardens Israel's labor and the suffering people **reject** Moses. God says that this is part of his plan.

In a series of 10 plagues, God demonstrates that he is the true king. The final plague of the firstborn ravages Egypt and provides Israel with an everlasting memorial to God's Passover. Egypt expels Israel.

### Triumph (13:17-15:21)

At the Red Sea, Israel's faith **wavers**, but God gives them an everlasting image of his saving might. Pharaoh's rebellion results in the destruction of him and his army.

Israel **worships** on the other side of the sea in songs of praise.



“All that  
spoken  
we will

## God as God

Now that God has delivered Israel, what the wilderness and lack basic necessities. V

### Providing for Needs (15:22-17:7)

In three cycles, Israel **grumbles** because return to Egypt. But manna and miraculou

### Nationhood (17:8-18:27)

Moses leads the people under God, both civil judgments, where he sets up a hierarc

### Covenant and Law (19:1-24:18)

At Sinai, because of God's salvation, *the pe*

God instructs the people to prepare to because of his **holiness**. He then appear mountain. God gives them the Decalogu laws express both God's principles for life

After hearing the law, *the people agree* to fellowship meal with God.

Israel is now a nation under God, with hi are the chosen mediators of his will.

## THEMES

### Presence

At the opening of Exodus, God seemed absent. But he reveals his presence to Moses at the burning bush. God's presence as Israel's saving, warrior king is powerfully revealed in the plagues and at the Red Sea.

In the wilderness, the people hunger a is present with them. But God terrifie Sinai. He then provides his ethical pre:

### Holiness

As he approaches the burning bush, Moses is warned of God's holiness. He cannot approach God in any way he chooses, but must remove his sandals. Moses learns to talk with God face-to-face, as with a friend.

God instructs them on how to prepare reveals that Israel will be a kingdom o learn that time is holy and not to gathe

### Grumbling

Israel grumbles when faced with difficulty. Moses rejects God's call to be a deliverer. Israel grumbles when Moses' first demand to Pharaoh 'fails.' Caught at the Red Sea, the people bemoan that they ever left Egypt.

After seeing God's power, Israel still facing hunger and thirst. Forgetting h with full stomachs. They forget each n

### Worship

God declares that freed Israel will worship him at Horeb. The people bow in worship when they hear that God sees their affliction and when he warns them of the Passover plague. They sing in worship after the Red Sea.

God commands the people not to wo He also warns them not to worship receiving the law, the people worship t

## BEYOND EXODUS

### Tabernacle

The tabernacle was where God placed his glorious presence during the wilderness wanderings. When Israel was established in the land, his glory filled the temple. When they reduced God to magic, he withdrew his presence and the temple was destroyed. The incarnation of Jesus was his “tabernacling” amongst us. The church is now God's presence in the world. In the New Jerusalem, all creation will be filled with his presence.

### Passover and Exodus

The exodus stood in Israel's memory as proof of God's love and power. The prophets envisioned the return from exile as a new exodus. Jesus re-lived the exodus through his own baptism, wilderness temptation, and law-giving on the mountain. He offered himself as the new Passover lamb. Now Christians also experience God's power, the wilderness, and being “passed-over” because of another's blood – and subsequently belonging to God.



at the LORD has  
we will do, and  
l be obedient”

## erning King

t will be their fate? They are stranded in  
Was this exodus a crazy idea?

they lack food and water – they long to  
ous water reveal “the glory of the LORD.”

h into battle with the Amalekites and in  
chical government for the people.

people agree to covenant with him.

o meet with him, which requires care  
rs in smoke, fire and earthquake on the  
ie and the Book of the Covenant. These  
e and case law for their practical life.

obey it, **worshipping** in sacrifice and a

um as their governor. Moses and the law

and thirst and quickly forget that God  
es them with his awesome presence at  
ssence in the law.

ve for his holy appearance at Sinai. He  
of priests and a holy nation. They also  
er manna on the Sabbath.

ll grumbles and mistrusts him when  
his grace, they wish for slavery again  
miracle when the next trouble comes.

orship idols, the works of their hands.  
o the gods of the Canaanites. After  
their gracious, covenanting God.



“And the glory of  
the LORD  
filled the  
tabernacle”

## God as a Holy King

Israel is God’s chosen and established nation, but how can this **sinful** people be  
in relationship with a **holy** God?

### Instructions for the Tabernacle (25:1-31:18)

God tells Moses to build a tabernacle, a **dwelling** place for God. The instructions  
are meticulous so that it will be built “just so.” Each detail marks it as special,  
from the precious gold to the aromatic anointing oil that is only for the priests. It  
provides a buffer between the sinful people and the **holy presence** of God.

### Idolatrous Worship (32:1-35:3)

As Moses learns of **holiness** on the mountain, the people **grumble** and **worship**  
a golden calf, naming it as their delivering god. God, in his **holiness**, threatens to  
utterly destroy them and begin again with Moses. But Moses intercedes between  
God and the people. God graciously renews his covenant with the people as they  
**worship** before his **holiness**.

### Building the Tabernacle (35:4-40:33)

The building of the tabernacle is a meticulous replay of the instructions,  
emphasizing the people’s obedience. “The Israelites did everything just as the  
LORD commanded Moses.” Moses performs the final inspection and set-up.

### God Dwells in the Midst of Israel

The closing scene of the book shows God’s glory filling the tabernacle. God the  
**holy** one **dwells** with his **grumbling** people so they may **worship** him.

The tabernacle is a powerful image of God dwelling among his people as  
their king at the center of the camp and leading them into battle. Exodus  
ends with testimony that God was with Israel through all of their journeys.

The tabernacle had ever-increasing sanctity as one approached the Holy of  
Holies, showing that God’s presence is holy. Special care was needed to  
approach God, with many restrictions, yet he is approachable.

After Moses tarries on the mountain, even without any hardship, the  
people demand an idol from Aaron. Even worse, they apparently forget  
about God completely and attribute their deliverance to the golden calf.

So soon after agreeing to obey God, Israel worships an idol. Ironically,  
they do this while Moses is on the mountain receiving instructions for true  
worship. Israel repents and worships God when he renews the covenant.

### Covenant

God initiates covenant with his people by grace. He chose Abraham  
and promised to bless the world through him. He remembered this  
covenant and rescued Israel from Egypt, giving them his law. He  
promised to rule his kingdom through David. He promised to  
establish a new covenant that would be written on hearts so it could  
not be broken. Jesus, who fulfilled the covenant brought us into this  
new covenant so believers could have eternal relationship with God.

### Cycle of Sin, Judgment and Grace

Over and over again – Eden, Cain, Noah, Babel – people reject God,  
and he responds with judgment and grace. How can a rebellious  
people be the people of God? God starts again with Abraham, but  
the downward spiral continues through the wilderness, the judges and  
the monarchy, ending in exile. But God’s grace cannot be out-sinned.  
Jesus breaks the cycle by living a perfect life yet experiencing our  
judgment. Though not yet, soon the cycle will end forever.