

Monday

Exodus 1:1–2:10

Jacob's 12 sons and their descendants lived in Egypt for a long, long time – for more than 400 years! More and more children were born, and Jacob's family became a great nation, just like God had promised Abraham. They were called Israelites, since God had changed Jacob's name to Israel.

Eventually a new Pharaoh became king in Egypt. The new Pharaoh did not remember that Joseph had served the people of Egypt 400 years earlier, and he worried that there might be too many Israelites. He felt threatened by them, like they could take over his country if they wanted to, because there were more Israelites than there were Egyptians. The Pharaoh made life very hard for the Israelites, forcing them to become slaves of the Egyptians.

When the Israelites continued to have many more children, Pharaoh did something even more terrible. He ordered the Israelites to not have any more children. If they did, the child would not be allowed to live.

But there was one Israelite woman, who was expecting a baby, and who believed that Pharaoh's law was wrong and against the law of God. When her baby was born, it was a boy. The mother loved her baby boy very much and hid him for three months. When she could no longer hide him, she took some of the plants that grew along the river and she wove them into a basket. Then she covered the basket with something like black tar to keep water out of the basket.

When the basket was safe and waterproof, the baby's mother put her precious baby in the basket and placed the basket in the Nile River, right along the riverbank, among the reeds. The baby's big sister, Miriam, stayed by the basket to watch over the little brother.

Then an amazing thing happened. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to the river to take a bath. When she got into the water, she saw a basket floating among the reeds, and she sent her servant to get it. When Pharaoh's daughter opened the basket, she found a crying baby boy. Pharaoh's daughter felt sorry for the little baby and wanted to help him.

Then Miriam, the baby's sister, came out of her hiding place. Miriam ran up to Pharaoh's daughter and asked her if she wanted her to find someone to take care of the baby. Pharaoh's daughter agreed, and Miriam ran and got her mother – the baby's very own mother! Miriam brought her mother to Pharaoh's daughter. Then Pharaoh's daughter asked her to take the baby home and take care of him until he was older. When the baby grew older, his mother took him to live with Pharaoh's daughter, who name him Moses.

When Moses grew up and became a man, God used him to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt. It was through Moses that God gave his law and made his covenant with his people. Many generations later, God would send his only Son, Jesus – first to be born as a baby and then to grow up and set his people free from slavery to sin. Through Jesus, God would make a new and better covenant called the gospel, for the salvation of all who put their faith in Jesus as their Savior.

- **Why was Moses' mother willing to hide baby Moses, in spite of the Pharaoh's law?**

Close with prayer

Tuesday

Exodus 2:11–4:31

When Moses had grown up, he saw how terribly the Egyptians were treating the Israelites as their slaves. One day, Moses saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite slave. Moses was so angry that he killed the Egyptian and buried his body in the sand. But Pharaoh found out, and he tried to kill Moses. So Moses ran away to live in a different area called Midian. He live there for about 40 years, working as a shepherd.

One day, when Moses was keeping watch over the sheep, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but it wasn't burning up.

God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses answered, "Here I am."

Then God said, "Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

God said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord told Moses that he had seen the suffering of his people in Egypt, and he had come to rescue them. God said to Moses, "Come, I will sent you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Moses did not want to do this difficult job, and he didn't think he'd be able to. God promised that he would be with Moses, but Moses didn't think the Israelites would believe that God had appeared to him.

Then God did two miracles two miracles to prove that he had appeared to Moses and called him to lead the people of Israel. First, the Lord told Moses to throw his staff on the ground. Moses did what God said, and the staff became a snake! Then the Lord told Moses to catch the snake by the tail. When Moses did this, the snake became a staff again.

Next the Lord told Moses to put his hand inside his robe and pull it out again. When Moses did, his hand was white with a skin disease called leprosy. Again God told Moses to put his hand in his robe and pull it out; this time, it came out healed. God told Moses that if the Israelites did not believe he had come from God, he could do these two miraculous signs to prove it.

Still, Moses did not think he could lead the people of Israel. Finally, God promised Moses that his brother, Aaron, would help Moses confront Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

Together, Moses and Aaron went to the people of Israel and told them all that had happened. They showed the God's signs. The people believe that God wanted to save them, and they bowed their heads and worshipped God.

Many years later, God would send his own Son, Jesus, to save his people. When we put our faith in Jesus, he rescues us from slavery to sin and gives us eternal life!

• **Are there times you were afraid God's commands were too difficult for you to follow?**

Close with prayer

Wednesday
Exodus 5–10

God through Moses, told Pharaoh that he must “let me people go.” The Israelites were Pharaoh’s slaves, working to build his cities and pyramids. Now, through Moses, God was working to set his people free.

When Moses told Pharaoh to let the people go, Pharaoh said, “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.” Then Pharaoh treated the Israelites even more cruelly than before.

The Lord instructed Moses to speak to Pharaoh what God commanded. He told Moses that Pharaoh would not listen to him. Because of the hardness of Pharaoh’s heart, God would use his great power show Egyptians who he is and to bring his people out of Egypt. The Egyptians would see that God is the Lord. God sent a series of plagues, disastrous bad things that happened throughout Egypt.

So Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded. With the first plague, God turned all the water in Egypt’s great Nile River and all the water everywhere else in Egypt into blood. But Pharaoh still would not listen. So God sent another plague: thousands of frogs all over Egypt. They were even in in people’s beds and in their food! Pharaoh begged Moses to ask the Lord to take away the frogs, but when the Lord too them away, Pharaoh still would not let the people go.

Then God told Moses that Aaron should stretch out his staff and hit the dirt so that the dust would become gnats. The gnats covered all the people and animals, but Pharaoh still refused to obey God.

Next God sent swarms of flies. The swarms of flies were so thick that people couldn’t even take a breath without inhaling some flies! The flies were everywhere in Egypt, except in the places where the Israelites lived. At first, Pharaoh said the Israelites could leave his land for a few days, so the Lord removed the flies. But Pharaoh changed his mind, and he did not let the people go.

So God sent yet another plague: a terrible sickness on the animals of the Egyptians. All the horses, donkeys, camels, cows, and sheep belonging to the Egyptians died, while none of the animals belonging to the Israelites died. Still Pharaoh would not let the people go.

God kept telling Moses what to do next. God sent plague after plague on Egypt. There were painful sores called boils on the skin of the Egyptians and on their animals. A terrible hailstorm ruined crops in their fields. Then a plague of locusts ate the new little plants that had begun to grow. This made Pharaoh afraid. But as soon as the locusts were gone, he hardened his heart and changed his mind again. So God told Moses to stretch his hand toward heaven, and a great darkness lasted for three days.

Through all the dreadful plagues, God was working to deliver the Israelites from slavery. Pharaoh and the people of Egypt experienced the consequences for their sinful treatment of the Israelites. But God kept Israel safe from all the plagues.

- **What do the plagues show us about God’s power and view of sin?**

Close with prayer to God who delivers us from evil.

Thursday

Exodus 11-12

God was setting his people free from slavery in Egypt. God had sent Moses and his brother Aaron to tell Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, to let the Israelites go. But because Pharaoh would not obey God, bad things happened to the people of Egypt.

These bad things were called plagues – and after nine plagues, the land of Egypt was ruined. But Pharaoh still would not let the Israelites leave. Finally, the Lord said to Moses, “Yet there remains one more plague I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here.”

Moses told Pharaoh what God has said. Moses told him that God would go through the land of Egypt, and the oldest son of every family would die. There would be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt. The firstborn of every animal would die, too. But no harm would come to the Israelites or to their animals.

Then Moses went to the Israelites and told them what God wanted them to do. Each family was to choose a lamb without blemish – a perfect lamb that had nothing wrong with it. They were to kill the lamb and put some of its blood on the doorposts of their houses. “None of you should go out of the door of your house until morning,” Moses warned people. “For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the doorposts, the Lord will pass over that house and will not allow the destroyer to strike you.”

God gave Moses and the Israelites other important instructions, too. They were to eat the lamb roasted over a fire with bitter herbs. He told them to dress in traveling clothes, with their belts fastened, sandals on, and a staff nearby.

God told Moses that his people were to celebrate this night every year – it was the night of the Lord's Passover – when the Lord “passed over” their houses marked with the blood of the lamb and did not harm them. Every year, they were to commemorate the meal by eating another lamb with defect to remember what God had done for them on this night.

Everything happened just as God had said. At midnight, the oldest son in every family in Egypt died. The people of Egypt cried bitter tears. Each family had lost someone. The Israelites stayed inside their houses, trusting God to see the blood of the lamb upon their home. And the Israelites had faith in God, trusting that he would save them.

Finally, after this last terrible plague, Pharaoh let God's people go. The Egyptians were terrified by this plague. They gave the Israelites silver and gold, jewelry and clothes, and made the Israelites hurry away from their land. At last, God's people were free!

The Passover lamb was a picture of what Jesus would be for God's people. All of us deserve God's judgment because of our sin. We deserve to die eternally with the rest and worst of people. But the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, cleanses the sins of all who have faith in him. We are covered by his blood, covered with his perfection to save us from God's judgment.

- **Why did God pass over the houses of the Israelites?**
- **What were God's people supposed to do every year to remember what God had done for them on the night of Passover?**
- **How is Jesus the Passover Lamb for all who have faith in him?**

Close with prayer.

Friday

Exodus 13:17–15:21

After the tenth and worst plague Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go. God led them from Egypt, toward the Red Sea. The Lord went before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. But as soon as the Israelites left Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind again! “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go?” Pharaoh said.

Quickly, Pharaoh got his chariot and army ready, taking more than 600 chariots with him. The Egyptians chased them down until they came near the Israelites while they were camped at the shore of the Red Sea. When the Israelites saw the chariots coming and chasing after them, and they were afraid. “What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt?” they complained to Moses. “It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”

Moses believe that God would save the Israelites, and he wanted God's people to believe it too. “Fear not,” Moses said, “stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. The Lord will fight for you, and you only have to be still.”

The Lord told Moses to lift up his hands with his staff over the sea. The Lord pushed the sea apart and divided its waters, so that the Israelites were able to walk through the sea on dry ground with a wall of water on their right and a wall of water on their left.

The mighty Egyptian army chased the Israelites into the sea on the dry ground. But God made the Egyptians panic, causing their chariot wheels to get caught in mud. “Let's flee from the Israelites,” the Egyptian soldiers said, “for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.” But it was too late to flee. The Lord told Moses, “Stretch out your hands with your staff again over the sea, that the water may go back upon the ground, upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.” Moses stretched out his hand. The waters rushed back to their normal place, drowning the Egyptians in the Red Sea. Not one of them survived.

God's people saw his great power, and they feared the Lord. They also trusted the Lord and his servant, Moses. The Israelites could never have fought Pharaoh's army on their own. God fought for them and destroyed their enemies. Likewise, sinful people cannot fight sin and death on their own. The Lord Jesus Christ fought for his people and defeated out terrible enemy, Satan, on the cross to free us. He fought for us, and we have only to trust him and be still. Through faith in his death and resurrection, Jesus gives us the victory over our greatest enemy.

Close with prayer