**The Book of Exodus**

**Introduction**

**Background**

The name *Exodus* is a Greek word which means exit or departure and occurs in Lk. 9:31 (Heb. 11:22; II Pet. 1:15) referring to the Lord’s *“decease”* (*exodon* [3x]). The *Book of Exodus* received its name from the *LXX* and its name continued in the Vulgate and into English translations. The Hebrew name is *Shemoth* meaning *“names,”* and connects to the *shemoth* or *“the* ***names*** *of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt”* (Gen. 46:8). The Hebrew conjunction *“now”* (*KJV*) or *“and”* connects Exodus with Genesis as its continuation.

**The Author**

The author was *“Moses”* (766x), the one “drawn out” (*mashah*) of the water (Ex. 2:10), as Scripture revealed. He was told to write certain sections of it (Ex. 17:14; 20:22-23; 24:4; 34:4, 27-29). OT writers alluded to the Mosaic authorship (Josh. 1:7; 8:31-32; I Ki. 2:3; Mal. 4:4). NT writers as well attributed Exodus to Moses. For instance Mark attributed Ex. 3:6 to *“the book of Moses”* (Mk. 12:26). See also other writers (Lk. 2:22-23; Jn. 5:46-47; 7:19; Acts 3:22; Rom. 10:5).

**The Date of Writing and the Exodus**

The date of the writing of Exodus occurred obviously during the lifetime of Moses, sometime between his eightieth birthday (Ex. 7:7) and the end of his life at one hundred and twenty (Dt. 34:7).

The biblical date for the Exodus was about 1447/6 BC, based on receiving literally Jeremiah’s statement, saying, *“And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD”* (I Ki. 6:1).Therefore, since Saul and David had forty-year reigns each, Solomon began his reign about 967/6 BC and began building the Temple in 963/2 BC, which harmonizes with 42 generations (about 50 years each = 2100 years (Mt. 1:1-17) from the time of Abraham (2100 BC) to the time of Christ, and allows for the literal times of the Judges (Jdg. 11:26) and of the reigns of the kings of Judah and Israel (967-40 = 927- 586 = 341 years).

**The Perspective of Exodus**

After the Noachic Flood, the LORD chose a son of Noah to be His peculiar people, namely *Shem* (“name”) to bear His special name *Jehovah.* He called Abraham and made an unconditional covenant with him that his physical and spiritual descendants would ultimately live in the Promised Land during the Millennium and throughout eternity in the New Jerusalem. The LORD gave him the special piece of prized real estate in Canaan for the descendents to dwell with the LORD in the greatest city Jebus (Jerusalem = “city of peace”) in time and in eternity (Gen. 12:1-3; Rev. 21:1 ff.). The *Book of Exodus* prepared the Jews for their new home!

**The Chiasmus of Exodus**

A. The Presentation of the Person: Moses (1-6)

B. The Deliverance by Moses (7-15:21)

C. The Need for Worship (15:22-18:27)

D. The Ten Commandments (19-24:18)

C.’ The Need for Worship (25:1-31:18)

B.’ The Deliverance of Moses (32-34)

A. The Presentation of the Person: Messiah (35-40:38)

**Chapter One**

**Ex. 1:1-5**

\*The three great themes of Exodus are deliverance, morality, and worship for the LORD’s people. \*Jehovah had promised great increase for the descendents of Abraham (Gen. 12:2; 15:5).

\*Moses began to list the names (*shemoh* [Gen. 46:8]) of the people of the *“Name”* (Gen. 12:8: *Shem > Jehovah* [Ex. 6:3]), the *“children of Israel”* (644x).

\*He started with the households of the eleven sons of Jacob/Israel (since Joseph was already in Egypt) and totaled the descendents as seventy (Gen. 46:26; Acts 7:14).

\*Moses revealed that the three sons of Noah constituted seventy descendents (Gen. 10:1 ff.): Japheth (14x [vv. 2-5]), Ham (30x [vv. 6-20]) and Shem (26x [vv. 21-31) and he confirmed the seventy nations in Dt. 32:8). Perhaps the Lord sent out the seventy to reach the seventy nations (Lk. 10:1).

**Ex. 1:6-7**

\*Moses recorded the death of Joseph (Gen. 50:26 [110 years]) and the other eleven sons and that generation.

\*Nevertheless, the Israelites grew as the LORD had promised. He told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:28). Likewise He required Noah (Gen. 8:17; 9:1, 7), Abraham (Gen. 17:2-6; 22:17), Isaac (Gen. 26:4) and Jacob (Gen. 28:3, 14; 48:4). This occurred during the 430 hiatus in Egypt (Ex. 12:40-41).

**Ex 1:8-14**

\*The first problem that Israel faced was their size. The new king or Pharaoh did not know of Joseph or his contribution. He may have been Amenhotep I (1546-1525 BC).

\*Moses recorded that the king called the Jews *“the people”* (*`am*) and realized that they were greater than the Egyptians in number and were mightier (i.e., stronger).

\*Pharaoh thought that in time of war the Jews may side with the enemy (vv. 10-11). He decided to use taskmasters to afflict the Israelites. They forced the Jews to construct treasure cities (probably containing weapons in case of an attack), namely Pithom and Raamses. (They did not build the great pyramids!)

\*The more they were afflicted the more Jehovah countered with increase (vv. 12-14). The Egyptians were grieved with the increased Jews as the Jews were grieved with increased rigour!

\*Israel’s bondage was with mortar and brick and working in the fields. They needed a deliverer!