

Lesson 5: Protection



Old Testament

New Testament

Where in the Bible?

Exodus is the second book in the Old Testament.

The Old Testament: Pentateuch

We have seen that the first five books of the Bible are known as the **Pentateuch** — meaning “the five scrolls.” But they are often referred to as “the Five Books of Moses.” Beginning with Exodus, Moses becomes the chief character in the rest of these books.

Biblical Time Period: Exodus

The word **Exodus** means “to leave.” For many years, the Israelites had endured a period of forced slavery in Egypt, working to build cities for the Pharaoh. But God heard the prayers of his people and raised up Moses as a prophet and deliverer to lead God’s people to freedom.

Through many signs and wonders, God revealed his power and freed his peoples. This important time in history is often referred to in Scripture as a foreshadowing of our deliverance in Christ from our bondage to sin.

Introduction

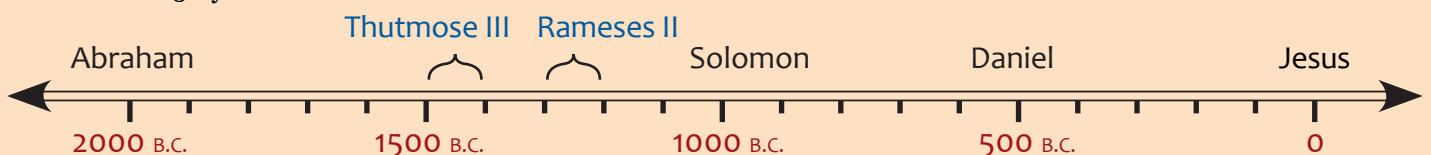
The opening chapters of the Book of Exodus show the conditions under which the Hebrews lived in Egypt as slaves. The Pharaoh tried to limit the Hebrew population by killing all the baby sons born to them. But Moses’ mother and sister had a plan to save him from this fate.

Read: Exodus 1:8- 2:10

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

When in Time?

The word Pharaoh (FAIR-o) was a title like *King* or *President*, not a proper name. Many scholars suggest that the Pharaoh described in the Book of Exodus was **Rameses II**, who ruled from 1279-1213 B.C.; other scholars say it may have been **Thutmose III**, who ruled from 1479-1425 B.C. Each of these Pharaohs ruled Egypt for more than 50 years.



“Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt” (Exodus 3:10).

Discuss: Exodus 1:8- 2:10

1. According to verses 8-10, how was this Pharaoh different from the one we read about in Lesson 4? Why did he want the male Hebrew babies killed? What was he afraid of?
2. What is the job of a midwife? What were the names of the Hebrew midwives in this story? Why did they disobey the Pharaoh? Would you have had the courage to do the same?
3. The name of Moses' mother isn't in this text, but you can find her name in Exodus 6:20, along with the names of his father and brother. What are the names of everyone in the family, including Moses' sister?
4. Why did Moses' mother spread tar ("bitumen and pitch") on the basket (v. 2:3)? What was she hoping would happen to the basket and baby?
5. Who found baby Moses in the basket? Where? What was she doing there? And why did she need to find someone to nurse the baby?
6. In Egyptian, the word *moses* refers to a son being born. Read the note in your Bible for verse 2:10. Who gave Moses his name? How are both the Egyptian and Hebrew meanings appropriate?
7. As Moses grew and became an adult, God used him to lead the Hebrew people to freedom. How did saving Moses lead to the saving of many others? When we Christians trust that we are "saved" by Jesus, how does God then use us to save others?
8. Read Hebrews 11:23-26. According to these verses, what motivated Moses' parents to do what they did? In what ways did Moses choose a hard life, just like Jesus did? What did they all share?

Where in the World?

The map shows a closeup of the land of Egypt. The great Nile River was the source of water for this whole region. It was this same river where Moses was set adrift as a baby in a reed basket.

On the east side of the Nile River was the land of Goshen, where the Hebrews lived and worked as slaves. They were being forced to build the Pharaoh's cities of Pithom and Raamses.

- a) On the map to the right, label the Nile River in the land of Egypt.

Directly to the east of Goshen was the long finger of the upper Red Sea (in modern days, this narrow body of water is called the Gulf of Suez).

- b) On the map to the right, label the Red Sea.
- c) Then, circle the place where God parted the waters to allow the Hebrews to cross through.

