**Exodus: the way out**

**Exodus Background**

What is Exodus about? 5 things

Birth & Call of Moses

10 Plagues of Egypt

Crossing of the Reed Sea

Tabernacle

Giving of the Torah/Law/Covenant at Sinai

Who wrote this material? Was it just oral?

Exod. 17:14;

Exod. 24:4,

John says … Jn. 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses…(Jn 7:19-22; Lk. 24:44)

How is it viewed elsewhere in the Bible? Metaphor for deliverance, great redemptive act in OT

***Exodus in the Prophets***

Prophets--Hos 11:1:
Jesus comes out of Egypt --Mat. 2:15
Passover🡪 Lord’s supper 1 Cor. 5:7
Plagues in Revelation echo

**Exodus in Psalms**

Great Hallel (Ps 114-118)

When Israel came out of Egypt,

**What is Egypt like?**

Gift of the Nile

History
 Old Kingdom: Pyramid age 2700-2100 BC

First Intermediate Period: 2160-1991 BC

Middle Kingdom: 1991-1670 BC arts & literature

Second Intermediate Period: 1670-1568 BC: Hyksos

New Kingdom: 1568-1085 BC; Expansion to Euphrates– Third Intermediate Period – David/Solomon



**Pharaoh’s ways of dominating Jews**

Multiplying of the seed and Pharaoh as resisting God’s plan (Ex. 1:7-9)

Taskmasters (Exod 1:8-14)

Midwives (Exod 1:15-21)

Is it okay to lie sometimes? Altruistic sinning

Does God bless liars?

Does this mean total relativism?

Throw them into the river (Ex. 1:22)

Moses—drawn out (Ex. 2)

**Moses: 3 Stages of life**

Pharaoh’s daughter’s son (40 yrs)

Desert Shepherd in Midian (40 yrs)

Deliverer (40 yrs) Leading in Desert

**What was Moses relationship to God like?**

Call of Moses, Exodus--response to prayer

Is it ever alright to resist God’s will?

No fitness (Exod 3:11)—I am with you

No message (Exod 3:13)--YHWH

No belief (Exod 4:1) –What’s in hand?

No gift of speech (Exod 4:10)—Who made

Send someone else (Exod 4:13)—Aaron, prophet? –7:1f

**Burning bush: angel or God?**

Exod 3:2-6

On holy ground & holy things

**What does “I am” mean?**

On names in ANE

Self-existent one: I am what I am (need nothing)

Sovereignty view: I will be what I will be (you will see)

Covenant keeper: I am what I said I would be (what I promised to the patriarchs)

**Exod 6:3 contradicts Gen 49:18?**

Critical Scholarship: Sources/Editors

J = Jehovah writer (ca 850 BC)

E = Elohim writer (ca 750 BC)

D = Deuteronomist writer (620 BC)

P = Priestly writer (ca 450 BC)

Simple to complex evolution

Solution: meaning of name YHWH not known—covenant keeper

**What is happening with Zipporah in Ex. 4:24-26**

Who did God attack?

Why did God attack?

Similar stories: Jacob, Balaam

**Circumcision of Gershom: 3 approaches**

B.S. Childs: Boy sick, boy circumcised, etiological tale on importance of circumcision

Walter Kaiser: Moses sick; boy circumcised
 🡪 obedience

Ross: Moses sick, boy circumcised,
Zipporah (adolescent circumcision); she earlier refused neonate circumcision; she’s upset and leaves

**When did Moses cross the Reed sea?**

1445 BC (Early date) – 1 Kgs 6:1—480 before Solomon; Jud. 11:26—300 years before Jephthah, Merneptah Stele—1200 Israel in land, Amarna Letters—1400 BC

1260 BC (Late date)—Rameses—1200 BC, Burn levels (Lachish), 40 yrs. 🡪 20 yrs. Generation—shrink 480 yrs. to 240

**How many left Egypt?**

Exod 12:37; 38:26; Num. 2:32=600,000 men

600,000 men

600,000 women

1,200,000 children (+ cattle)

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2, 400,000 How much is this? water, food, wadis, mid-wives; taking Canaan

Shrinking the number: eleph=clans or chiefs, hyperbole, later number inserted

How do you deal with conflicts like this?

**Plague Cycles:**

3 Reasons for Plagues:

Judgment on gods of Egypt (Exod 12:12)

That they/you may know that I am YHWH (Exod 7:5, 17; 8:22; 10:2...)

Lex talionis: Ex. 4:23: My firstborn, therefore your firstborn

**Does God harden people’s hearts?**

Who hardened Pharaoh’s heart?

God hardened it (Exod 4:21; 7:3)

Pharaoh hardened it (8:15, 32; 9:34f)