

# Introduction

These videos are about 6 minutes each and provide a quick overview of the Book of Exodus in English:

Overview of Chapters 1 – 18: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jH\\_aojNJM3E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jH_aojNJM3E)

Overview of Chapters 19-40: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNpTha80yyE>

The timing in these charts may slightly differ but they present a good summary of the structure of the Book of Exodus:



## EXODUS

GENESIS	350 Years	Groan of the Israelites	<b>Bondage</b>	<b>Deliverance</b>		<b>Journey</b>	<b>Law</b>	<b>Tabernacle</b>	Glory of the Lord
			Israelites became numerous	Blood	Boils	Cloud and fire	Moral	Outer court	
			New Pharaoh	Frogs	Hail	Red Sea	Civil	150 feet x 75 feet	
			Plan to destroy Israelites	Gnats	Locusts	Grumbling	Social	Inner court	
			Moses	Flies	Darkness			45 feet x 15 feet	
				Livestock	Death				
				Passover					
				Exodus					
			CHAPTERS 1-2	CHAPTERS 3-12	CHAPTERS 13-18	CHAPTERS 19-24	CHAPTERS 25-40		
			Location	Egypt		En route	Mount Sinai		
Time	430 years		3 months	1 year					
Theme	Suffering and liberation of people of God		Guidance of God	Worship of God					
Key Verses	6:6; 12:40-42; 19:5-6								
Christ in Exodus	Passover lamb (chapter 12); sacrificial offering, tabernacle, articles of worship (chapters 25-40); His leadership and deliverance are pictured in Moses; His purity and intercession are pictured in the high priest.								

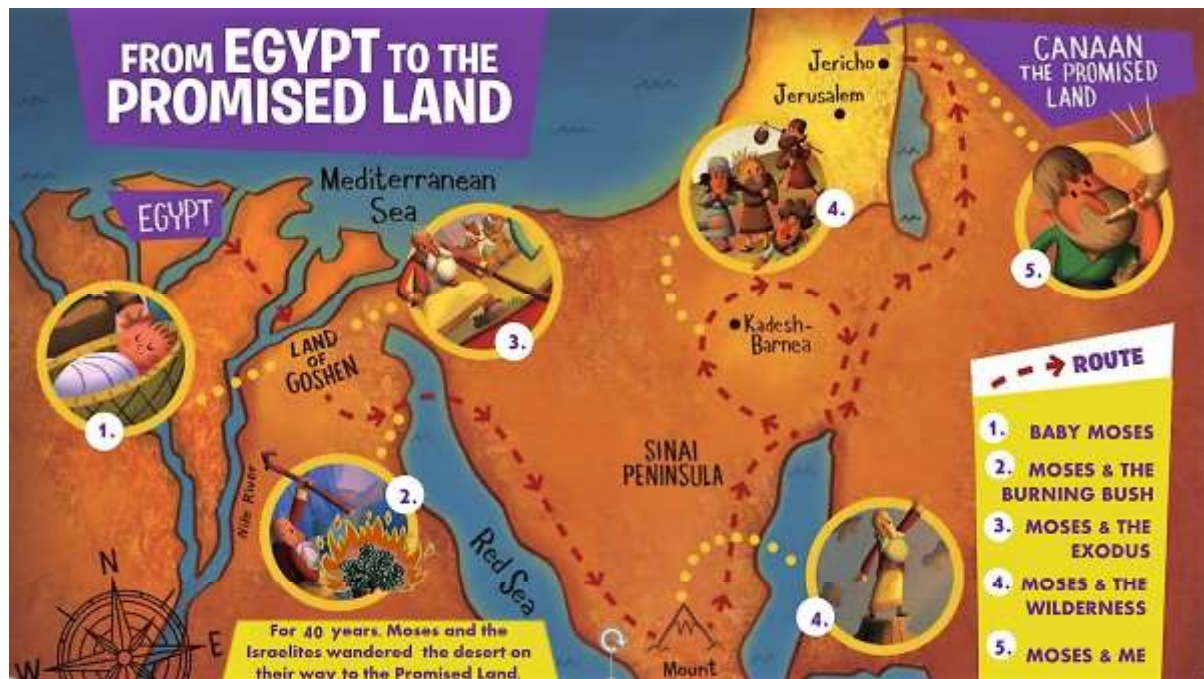
# The Book of Exodus

Focus	Slavery				Salvation								Sanctification							
Divisions	Birth of Moses		Call of Moses		Conflict with Pharaoh		Exodus from Egypt		Red Sea Crossing		Journey to Sinai		Laws & Ceremonies		Tabernacle Blueprints		Golden Calf		Tabernacle Dedication	
	1	2	3	6	7	10	11	12	13	15	16	18	19	24	25	31	32	34	35	40
Topics	Deliverance from Oppression												Preparation for Worship							
	Getting Israel Out of Egypt												Getting Egypt Out of Israel							
Place	In Egypt				On the March								At Sinai							
Time	430 Years (15% of Exodus)				2 Months (30% of Exodus)								10 Months (55% of Exodus)							
Author	Moses																			

## Overview of Exodus

KEY: **[J]** = Jethro, home  → = Burning bush, mission  → = Mt. Sinai, mission

Salvation of Moses		Commissioning of Moses		Salvation of Israel														Commissioning of Israel																					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
1	2	3:1-4:17	4:18-6:1	6:2-7:7	7:8-11:10		12:1-13:16		13:17-15:21		15:22-18:27		19:1-20:17		20:18-23:33		24	25-31		32-34		35-40																	
Israel is saved		God calls Moses		Moses returns and confronts Pharaoh		Signs of judgment (plagues)		Passover & firstborn		Crossing the sea		Signs of grace in the wilderness		Ten Commandments		Theophany at Mt. Sinai		Book of the Covenant (laws)		Covenant ceremony		Instructions for building the tabernacle (How God wants to be present)		Instructions for building the tabernacle (How Israel wants God to be present)		Golden calf worship		Israel accepts God's presence on God's terms		Building of the tabernacle									



### Servant's Preparation:

Series of sermons in English by Father Paul Guirguis at St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church of Washington D.C.:

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUOkm9KAoXg>

Part 2: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hE3cUA\\_EIQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hE3cUA_EIQ)

Part 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGbWWOAPhsM>

Part 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qi9GV-JvN9Y>

Part 5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WE1XvnA-t4>

Part 6: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svC5cGFuSCO>

Part 7: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRZAlwNZCbI>

Part 8: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1Mv3-cTETY>

Part 9: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vM7MfaGk2LM>

Part 10: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EjitPOXIQE>

Interpretation of the Book of Exodus in Arabic by Father Daoud Lamei (series):

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvMAQ886ucevBfV1HR8AFpQHykLzJPlmB>

Panorama of the Book of Exodus in Arabic by Father Louka Maher:

[https://youtu.be/ Vt9r4gfO7s](https://youtu.be/Vt9r4gfO7s)

**Meaning of Exodus:** Departure, going out. It refers to the departure of the children of Israel from Egypt.

### **Author of the Book:**

Moses the Prophet. That is clear from the following:

- 1- The book begins with the word “Now”; as though this book is a continuation of the book before it, “Genesis”, written by the prophet Moses.
- 2- This book relates to us certain events with extreme accuracy and with many details, indicating that the author is an eyewitness, moreover, that he is the leader of that Exodus mission.
- 3- It records certain events that concern Moses personally. For example, his killing the Egyptian secretly, and that “*he looked this way and that way*” before killing him. As well, it recounted the conversation between him and the Hebrew man who was afflicting his brethren; and told us about him taking his wife and his two sons on donkeys; and about the circumcision of his son ..., etc.
- 4- The Samaritans, though enemies of the Jews, they accepted this book as one of the five books of Moses “the Pentateuch”. They would not accept the book, unless they were certain of it.

### **Time of the Exodus:**

Scholars differ in their views on the exact time of the exodus. The most common belief is that the Exodus took place around the year 1290 B. C., during the reign of “Ramses II”. Those who adopt this view believe that the Jews were afflicted in the days of “Seti I” (1309 -- 1290 B.C.), and continued to be in the days of his successor “Ramses II” (1290 - 1224 B.C.). They based their view on the fact that the children of Israel built the storehouses of the cities of “Pithom” and “Rameses”, saying that the name “Ramses” is that of the Pharaoh in whose time the exodus took place. But this view is not to be taken into consideration, because this name could have been used in a time long before that of Ramses the second.

The most probable view is that the Exodus took place at about 1447 B.C., during the reign of the eighteenth dynasty, in the days of “Tohotmes III”, or in those of “Amenophes II”. This fits with Judges 11: 26, in which Jephthah, who lived about 1100 years B.C., mentions that 300 years have passed since the Hebrews entered the land, namely, they entered it about 1400 B.C.; So, if we add the 40 years of their wandering in the wilderness, the time of their exodus would be at about 1440 B.C. This view fits with what came in 1 Kings 6:1, that the house of the Lord was built in the year 480 after the exodus from the land of Egypt. So, if King Solomon began building the temple at the year 957 or 966 B.C., the exodus would have taken place at about the year 1447 B.C. That date also coincides with the discoveries in

Jericho and Hazor, and with what was recorded on the plates of “Tal-El- Amarnah”, that a nation would come to the land of the Philistines around this time, or shortly after.

### Features of the Book:

St. Augustine talks about the close tie between the Old Testament and the New Testament saying: [The New is in the Old concealed; and the Old is in the New revealed.] This is most clearly demonstrated in the Book of Exodus:

- The evangelist St. Matthew saw in the Lord Christ the new Israel and the new Moses. The evangelist used the words of the prophet ‘Hosea’, *“Out of Egypt I called My Son”* (Hosea 11: 1), as a prophecy about the flight of the Lord Christ to Egypt (Matthew 2: 15).
- As the old Israel got baptized in the Red Sea (Ex. 14), the Lord Christ, also, carrying the Church in Him -- the new Israel -- got baptized in the waters of the River Jordan (Matthew 3: 13 - 17).
- The Lord Christ spent 40 days in the wilderness (Matthew 4: 1 - 11), as though He was recalling the 40 years spent by the first Israel in the wilderness, and the 40 days, spent by the prophet Moses on Mount Sinai (Ex. 24: 18).
- The first Moses, who received the Law, presented it to the children of Israel, after it was revealed to him on Mount Sinai (Ex. 24: 3 - 8); and the Lord Christ -- the New Moses -- who, Himself, is the Word of God, presented His Law to the people on the Mount (Matthew 5, 6). The covenant of Sinai has been a symbol of the New covenant.
- What comes in the Book of Exodus is a confirmation of God’s promises, to set *“a kingdom of priests and a holy nation”* (Ex. 19: 6), whose people will enjoy a heavenly food and a spiritual drink, and will set a Sanctuary for God to dwell in their midst (Ex. 25). It was only the onset for a divine friendship with mankind that would be realized in its perfection in the New Testament.
- The Lord Christ Himself said: *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up”* (John 3: 14). And the apostles clarified the symbolism between the Passover Lamb and the Messiah (I Corinthians 5:7); and that the Rock that followed the Jews was the Lord Christ Himself.

### The book of Redemption or of Salvation:

This book begins with affliction and oppression, and ends up with the appearance of the glory of God in the tabernacle, where God dwelt among His people (Ex. 40). It began with the darkness that prevailed upon the land of bondage, and ended with glory. This book proved to us that this change, which is ‘salvation’ was not the fruit of human work, but was, rather, a crucial need for an intervention from God Himself; He, alone, can save and deliver, through the pouring of the holy blood (the sacrifice of Passover). The book, as a whole, shows us with vivid and practical images the features of our way to salvation.

### The book of the Passover:



Although the people suffered severely from bondage, they did not think of escaping the place until God sent them Moses telling them about the land of milk and honey, which is Jerusalem. Only then, could they no longer endure servitude or submit to it. For us also, the discovery of the heavenly Canaan, makes us feel the bitterness of the bondage of sin, and, under the divine leadership, we can escape to the barren wilderness, which, although with no rivers, plants, nor dwelling places, would become for us a place for praise and chant (Ex. 15), and a way of crossing over, where we can experience, every day, God's works for our salvation. It is as though the secret of our continuous crossover lies in our discovery of the higher Jerusalem, and in our meditation in it, through insight.

### **The book of freedom:**

Pharaoh enslaved the people against their will. Yet much more important is man's surrender through his own will to the inner servitude and his submission to its yoke. This is assuming that it is the source of his peace and pleasure, although it delivers him to oppression and will present him with death. God delivered them through Moses from the bondage of Pharaoh. But, even after their crossover, they remained in the bondage of lust by: (1) sitting near the pots of meat in Egypt (Ex. 16: 3), and by (2) their temporary enjoyment of carnal lusts that led them to worship the Egyptian golden calf, that had remained deep in their hearts (Ex. 32).

Moses himself, was in need of internal liberation, in order to be worthy of receiving the rod of God? He was enslaved to his ego – the “self”. So when he assumed, at the beginning, that he was capable of saving the people by his own arm, God let him stay for 40 years in the wilderness, so as to cure him from the bad influence of the 40 years he spent in the royal palace. He had to be also liberated from the bondage of fear of old age. Yet, once he comprehended the concept of freedom, as a permanent existence with God *“I shall be with you, and with your mouth”*, he could receive the rod of God, to shepherd the people on their way to freedom.

### **The Book of commandment and worship:**

Despite the fact that there is a separate book for the divine commandment, or the Law, and for the Mosaic worship, Moses was keen on ending the book of salvation with two things: receiving the law, and the tabernacle of the gathering. It is as though the crossover, being a setting forth to freedom through the union and permanent existence with God, is to be realized through the word of God (the commandment), and worship (the tabernacle). The commandment leads the soul to enter the heavens, while worship is a crossover to fellowship with the heavenly in their liturgies.

# Units

## **UNIT ONE: THE EVENTS OF SALVATION IN EGYPT**

**CHAPTER 1:** Need for a Savior

**CHAPTER 2:** Preparing Moses for ministry

**CHAPTER 3:** The burning bush

**CHAPTER 4:** Moses' encounter with the people

**CHAPTER 5 & 6:** Moses' encounter with Pharaoh

**CHAPTER 7 to 10:** The ten plagues

**CHAPTER 11 & 12:** The Passover

## **UNIT TWO: FROM EGYPT TO SINAI**

**CHAPTER 13:** Consecration of the firstborn

**CHAPTER 14:** Crossing of the Red Sea

**CHAPTER 15:** The song of triumph

**CHAPTER 16:** The temptation of food

**CHAPTER 17:** The temptation of water to drink

**CHAPTER 18:** Moses' encounter with Jethro

## **UNIT THREE: IN SINAI**

**CHAPTER 19:** Preparations for the Law

**CHAPTER 20:** The Ten Commandments

**CHAPTER 21 to 23:** The Law

**CHAPTER 24:** The divine covenant and the role of the congregation

**CHAPTER 25:** The Ark, the table, and the lampstand

**CHAPTER 26 & 27:** The tabernacle of meeting and the bronze altar

**CHAPTER 28 & 29:** Priesthood garments & consecration of priests

**CHAPTER 30:** The altar of incense and the laver

**CHAPTER 31:** The final talk

**CHAPTER 32 to 34:** The golden calf and the covenant renewed

**CHAPTER 35 to 40:** Making, setting, and dedicating the tabernacle



# UNIT ONE: THE EVENTS OF SALVATION IN EGYPT

## CHAPTER 1: Need for a Savior

### **Servant's Preparation:**

Read Exodus Chapter 1.

Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of Exodus by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty:

<http://www.orthodoxebooks.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Exodus%20-%20Father%20Tadros%20Yacoub%20Malaty.pdf>

### **Brief introduction:**

At the beginning of each lesson, please review book overview questions:

- ✓ *What is the meaning of Exodus?* Departure, going out. It refers to the departure of the children of Israel from Egypt.
- ✓ *Who wrote the Book of Exodus?* Moses the Prophet
- ✓ *What is the structure of the Book of Exodus?* It tells the story of bondage of the Israelites in Egypt, their exodus from Egypt to Sinai and the story of their journey in Sinai.

### **Main Points in the Chapter:**

1. Origin of the nation of Israel in Egypt (1 – 7)
2. Their submission to servitude (8 – 14)
3. The killing of males (15 – 22)





### Lesson:

Explain the main events of the chapter with a picture for each event, reading parts of the chapter, or incorporate the events of the chapter in the skit in the Activities section below.

- Joseph and his brothers and all that generation died, but the children of Israel grew and multiplied exceedingly.
- The new king of Egypt did not know Joseph and all he had done, and he was afraid that if the Israelites kept multiplying they will become stronger than the Egyptians and will fight against them.
- To subdue the Israelites, the king of Egypt ordered that they be put to very hard labor until their lives became bitter.

- He even ordered the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, to kill the newborn male babies but to let the newborn female babies live. But the midwives feared God and did not obey the king. So God blessed the midwives and the Israelites kept growing and multiplying.
- Finally, the king ordered all the people to kill every newborn Hebrew son!

### **Lesson Aim:**

The Lord can help us do the right thing, even when we're afraid, like He helped Shiphrah and Puah. He also blesses us when we do the right thing.

### **Activities:**

**Needed:** volunteer to play Shiphrah (you can be Shiphrah if you want), baby doll, soft play balls or scrap paper to make paper wads

#### **Game: Simon Says**

You give students commands of what to do, acting out the motions. The trick is that you have to say, "Simon says..." to do the action. Sometimes, you'll give a command and act out a motion without saying, "Simon says" first. If students listen to you and complete the command, they're out. Sometimes, you'll act out a different motion than you tell the students to perform. If they perform the wrong action, they're out.

Play until only one student is left in the game. Let them be Simon for the next round and continue playing as long as time allows.

#### **Skit**

Ask students, What would you do if your teacher or coach asked you to do something wrong? (This will probably never happen, but let's imagine.) Would you do it?

What if you knew you would get in trouble if you didn't do what they told you to do?

What if the king or the president asked you to do something wrong? Then, would you do it?

Well, today we're going to meet a woman who believed in God and would not do the wrong thing that her king told her to do.

(Ask Shiphrah to come in.)

(Shiphrah reads the following script based on [Exodus 1:1-21](#) .)

**Shiphrah:** (enters, carrying a baby doll) Hello, everyone! My name is Shiphrah. Can you say that? Everyone say "Shiphrah". Very good!



Well, a long time ago, I lived in Egypt. The people of Israel were living in Egypt because when Joseph told Pharaoh what his dreams meant, Pharaoh made Joseph the second-in-command over the whole country. Joseph told his whole family to move to Egypt with him, and that's what they did. Jacob and all of Joseph's brothers and their whole family moved to Egypt to be with Joseph.

But, then, Joseph died, and a new Pharaoh became king. He didn't know about how Joseph had been second-in-command and he didn't care about us Israelites. In fact, he started to be afraid of us because there were so many of us Israelites in Egypt. He thought that if he let us keep having more babies and getting bigger, then we might try to join up with his enemies and leave the country.

So, because the new Pharaoh was afraid of us Israelites, he turned us into slaves and made us build his buildings for him and do all of the farming work. Pharaoh and the Egyptians were very mean to us by making us be their slaves, but God was still with us. He kept letting us have babies so that there kept being more and more Israelites.

Of course, that made that mean old Pharaoh even more afraid of us. So, one day, he called me and my partner, Puah, into his palace. Puah and I were both nurses who helped take care of the other Israelite women when they were having their babies. Pharaoh told us (using a lower voice), "Shiphrah and Puah, I don't want the Israelites to have any more baby boys. Those boys could grow up to be warriors that might fight against me. So, when you go help take care of the Israelite women when they're having their babies, I want you to look and see if their baby is a boy or a girl. If it is a girl, you can let her live. But if it is a boy, I want you to kill him."

Puah and I were so afraid. We knew Pharaoh would be mad at us if we didn't kill the baby boys, but we couldn't do that. We knew that God said killing was wrong. So we didn't do it, even though we were afraid of what Pharaoh might do to us for not listening to him.

God was so proud of us for listening to Him and not killing the baby boys, that He let us have babies of our own.

(Have students thank Shiphrah.)

### **Review Questions**

Why was Pharaoh so mean to the Israelites? (He was afraid they would join up with his enemies and fight against him.)

So, Pharaoh made the Israelites be his slaves. Then, what did he do to try to make it so that there wouldn't be any more Israelite baby boys? (He told the Israelite midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, to kill the baby boys when they born.)

Did God want the midwives to kill the baby boys? (No.)

Did the midwives do it? (No.)

Do you think it would be hard for them to not listen to Pharaoh? (Yes.)

Pharaoh told the midwives to do something wrong, but they listened to God instead of Pharaoh. It was probably hard for them to do the right thing because they knew they could get in trouble. Pharaoh could even have had them put to death for disobeying him. But they did the right thing and God rewarded them for it. Sometimes, it's hard for us to do the right things, but if we listen to God instead of other people, He will reward us.

### **Game: Pharaoh Says**

Tell students that you want them to practice not listening when someone tells them to do the wrong thing. You're going to play Simon Says, but, now, they should only listen to you when you don't say "Pharaoh says" first. If anyone does do what you tell them when you say, "Pharaoh says...", they're out.

### **Game: Despite All Obstacles**

Set up an obstacle course with two mirror paths. Divide the students into two teams. One student from each team runs the obstacle course at a time while the other team members line up along the length of the obstacle course. When they're not running, the members of the opposite team throw soft balls or paper wads at the runner from the sidelines.

If a student makes it through the obstacle course without being hit, they score a point for their team and return to the sidelines. If they are hit, they go to the sidelines to throw but not run again. After each pair runs the course, gather the balls or paper wads again for the next two to run.

The game ends when all the students have run the course. The team with the most points wins.

Afterward, explain that we have to do the right things in life even when it seems difficult. There might be things that get in the way of us doing the right thing. There might be people who try to keep us from doing the right thing, like Pharaoh tried to stop Shiphrah from doing the right thing. But we have to keep doing what we know is right.

### **Closing Prayer**

Father God, You always help us to know what the right thing is. We pray that You'll give us the courage to do what You want us to do even when other people try to stop or tell us to do the wrong things. We want to follow You above everyone else. Amen.

### ***Memory Verse:***

***20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. 21 And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.***