

Key to EXODUS

1. STATISTICS:

Some 30 years elapsed between Genesis and Exodus. The Children of Israel increased exceedingly to 3,000,000 souls. A change in the reigning dynasty sentenced them to cruel slavery. Exodus tells the story of their "going out." Writer is Moses (24:4) and time covered is about 80 years from his birth.

2. THEME:

The theme is threefold: the faithfulness, the power, the wisdom of GOD. First, GOD was faithful to His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. So, by His power, He opened the iron gates of Egypt. When Sinai was reached, GOD provided an infinitely wise law by which the Children of Israel were to live.

3. OUTLINE:

Preparation for deliverance (1-13) Priesthood (28, 29)
Journey to Sinai (14-19) Idolatry (32, 33)
Laws given (20 - 24) Covenant (34)
Tabernacle (25 - 27; 30, 31) Tabernacle erection (35-40)

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

This book breathes the presence of GOD. He was aware of the plight of His people and did something about it.

Exodus is particularly the book of a great servant of GOD, Moses. Here is a man who talked with GOD face to face.

The Mosaic Law is GOD's highest for His people. It is heavenly wisdom simplified for earthly living.

The Israelites' journey to the Promised Land has become a giant object lesson for the Christian life today.

Here began the sad story (chapter 32) of man's failure which was repeated continually in Israel's history.

5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

Moses' life was divided into three periods:

40 years in schools of Egypt;
40 years in school of GOD (tending sheep in the desert);

40 years in service.

At the end of his life he was still strong and able (Deuteronomy 34:7).

The ten plagues were directed against the Egyptian government, but were also a demonstration against the gods of Egypt. For instance, the first two plagues showed JEHOVAH superior to the god of the Nile; the third against the earthgod Seb and the priests who could not officiate with lice upon them.

The Israelites could not be delivered until they came "under the blood" of the Passover. This is the central fact in GOD's relationship and a continual reminder of sin and need for cleansing.

GOD immediately took up His residence among His people. They could see the sign of His presence in the pillar of fire and cloud.

The Ten Commandments are given as an epitome of the law, easily taught and easily remembered.

6. INTERESTING FEATURES:

Exodus begins the original "Pilgrim's Progress."

How much manna was required for 40 years? (16:15)

Note how meticulous GOD is about details - (Hebrews 8:5).

7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

Exodus is geographically and historically accurate; believe it entirely. However, its main value today is to take the experiences, trials, and deliverances and apply them to the Christian life.

~ end of Exodus ~

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