

# **Read the Bible in a Year**

Week 6 - July 11th, 2021

**Read on Your Own this Week:**

*Psalms 16-18*

Matthew 21-24

**Readings in Class:**

Exodus 9-23

## **A Brief Overview of Exodus 9-23**

As we continue through Exodus. We meet the Lord who does battle with the spiritual and earthly forces to rescue his people in quite a dramatic fashion in the greatest act of salvation in the Old Testament.

Chapters 9-11 cover the remaining plagues and threaten a final, ominous one. This final plague is the Passover which God finally achieves the rescue of his people from bondage.

Chapter 12 covers the festival that the Israelites are to observe once a year on the date to commemorate God's actions to rescue them and then ends with the final plague and the Exodus itself from Egypt. 600,000 men plus women and children make it out.

Chapter 13 covers God establishing with his people the consecration of the Firstborn Son and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Chapters 14-15 are the climax of the First half of the book Exodus (1-19) The Red Sea is divided and the people cross over.

Chapters 16-18 serve as a transition to the second half of the book (20-40) and also as an opening volley to a question that haunts the rest of the Old Testament: Will God's people serve God, or will they be like Pharaoh and have hard hearts? God gives and gives and his people complain and do not listen. By the time chapters 16-18 end, the prospects already are grim. Israel has the same problem as did Pharaoh. And the question becomes, what will God do in response? The back half of Exodus will see this played out.

Chapter 19 serves as the concluding chapter to the first half of the narrative as God gets ready to meet the people he rescued from slavery into Egypt. This fulfills God's promise and sign to Moses back in chapter 3 that God would bring Moses back to Sinai as a sign that God would do what he did.

The remaining chapters, 20-23, in our reading for this week deal with what is called the Book of the Covenant, also for our purposes can be called the "Old Covenant." That term, Book of the Covenant, will be said in just about every section in the rest of the OT, so when you see that

term listed later on, it is referring to Exodus 20-23, which is the Old Covenant. This is the contract between God and his people, with all its terms, conditions, promises, and curses.

It begins with the 10 Commandments, or as is called in Hebrew, the 10 Words. Followed by additional commandments and ways that God's People are to show that they are God's people. These are not just laws as they are also statements and descriptions of who God's people are and live.

When we pick this up next week in Chapter 24, we will begin with the ratification and the signing of the covenant in blood and fellowship.

### **Plagues or Wonders?**

It is perhaps worth noting that while we often call the terrible disasters that the Lord inflicts on Egypt plagues. God himself says that they are His Wonders, "But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders..." Exodus 3:19-20

The plagues, while harsh for the Egyptians and those aligned with gods of Egypt, are properly called God's Wonders for the Israelites. For by these wonders, God accomplishes the salvation of his people and their redemption out of Egypt.

You can think of the ministry of Jesus in like manner with the wonders of Egypt. Jesus is one who does "Signs and Wonders." Just like the 10 wonders of Egypt, so too are Christ's wonders signs for the salvation of his people and judgment over the devil and his demons, over death, and sin. The work of the cross is God's ultimate wonder one in history. Jesus notes that the cross is the sign by which the ruler of this world is judged. Paul writes that the cross is how Christ disarmed the powers and authorities in the heavenly places.

What Jesus is doing in the Gospels is a new and final Exodus for all God's people, which now includes you. So really the Exodus in the OT is a type of the Exodus that God does in Christ, complete with a washing through the Red Sea (Baptism) and of the eating of a heavenly food (The Lord's Supper)

### **The Dating of the Exodus:**

There are a couple ways to date the Exodus based on how you divide the time of the Judges later on. But the traditional and widely used date among scholars and theologians is 1446 BC.

### **Firstborn Son:**

Another point that connects us with the life and work of Christ is the idea of redeeming the firstborn. Every firstborn that came from man or beast belongs to God and was to be offered to him. However, God demands that mankind offer a sacrifice in the place of the first-born son. This is the act of redeeming, which becomes a key biblical point from here on out. Jesus is sacrificed as the firstborn of all creation in order to redeem us. The contrast here highlights the work that Jesus gives and does for us.