

Lesson 1 / The Miraculous Deliverance of Israel

The late science fiction writer, Robert A. Heinlein, wrote the classic novel *Stranger in a Strange Land*. It is about a man from Mars who found himself living in a strange culture called Planet Earth. In a similar manner, believers in Jesus Christ, who are citizens of heaven, have been called to live here as aliens and sojourners on this planet until we arrive at our final destination, which is the kingdom of heaven.

Just as the ancient nation of Israel lived in relationship to the personal living God of the universe among a pagan culture that viewed them as somewhat strange, so we, too, as the people of God, must live in a culture that is often hostile to our beliefs and practices. In fact, the individual Christian experience is parallel to the journey that Israel took through the wilderness as recorded in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Each of us who has accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior understands the journey from slavery to freedom in the Promised Land that God leads us into. What the children of Israel experienced in their journey toward freedom has much to share with us as modern believers.

In *Milestones to Maturity: Growing in the Laws of Grace*, we will explore the powerful truths that the children of Israel learned while following the God of redemption. The Pentateuch's books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy contain such a rich wealth of information that it would take volumes just to begin to understand the depth and breadth of Israel's experience with God. Obviously, time and space do not permit an exhaustive undertaking here. For those

interested in further study, I suggest books, such as Lawrence O. Richards's *Complete Bible Handbook* (Word Books, 1982); Bruce Wilkinson's and Kenneth Boa's *Talk Through the Bible* (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1983); Warren Wiersbe's *With the Word* (Oliver Nelson, 1991); James E. Smith's *The Pentateuch, a Survey* (Restoration Press, 1989); Herbert Lockyer's *All the Miracles of the Bible* (Zondervan, 1961).

The thrust of the book *Milestones to Maturity: Growing in the Laws of Grace* is to help you understand some of the key spiritual truths that God was teaching His people as He led them from slavery to the Promised Land. These truths are the "milestones to maturity" that enabled the people of God to "grow in the laws of grace." Likewise, as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ leads us out from the bondage and slavery of sin into His Promised Land, He teaches us spiritual keys to victory through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy are Old Testament books that are literally bursting with applicable truths that can help our daily lives. Studying these books is like walking through a gold mine that is rich in gold: everywhere you look you can see precious nuggets and streaks of glowing gold.

As much as possible this study guide focuses on what the Bible actually says and is not an interpretation. In each scripture verse there is a wealth of information. Before you read *Milestones to Maturity*, I encourage you to spend time in prayer to God, asking Him to use this study guide to affect your life powerfully through the truth of God's Word contained in it. The key to appreciating the Wilderness Books is in seeing within God's teachings to Israel those living truths that the Holy Spirit can apply to our lives today.

As we open our eyes to these truths, we allow the Lord to do the kind of inner work that will release us to move from slavery at any point in our lives to real victory in Him.

INTRODUCTION

The Book of Exodus, the second book of the Pentateuch, continues the Genesis account, which deals with how a small family of seventy people became a mighty nation of millions. The Hebrew nation lived in almost constant slavery for 430



years. Exodus is the historical account of Moses, a type of Christ, who leads the people out of bondage in Egypt. The Exodus account includes how God supernaturally delivered His people out of bondage and their subsequent journey from Egypt to Sinai where they received God's Law and instructions on how to build an earthly tabernacle for God. The story of Israel's journey of deliverance from slavery under Pharaoh to the Promised Land is a type of how Jesus Christ saves the Christian from the bondage of sin. In addition, the Christian is freed from slavery under Satan in the world system and is led by Jesus Christ supernaturally to the Promised Land or the kingdom of heaven.

First Corinthians 10:11 says, "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." The key truth here is that the truths found in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy are not written just for historical understanding. They contain powerful spiritual truths for us as believers today. Jesus Christ delivers us from the power of sin and leads us into the kingdom of heaven. Although our final destination is a very real place called heaven, where we will live eternally with God, kingdom living begins here on earth as we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and appropriate kingdom principles in our lives. The story of Israel's journey out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land contains numerous truths regarding our personal spiritual journey out of slavery under Satan to freedom under the lordship of Christ.

Before we go further, read Exodus 1:1—13:16, which details the account of the miraculous deliverance of Israel. Taking the one hour required to comprehensively overview this pivotal event will be worth the time as we progress. Go ahead; do it now!

**ISRAEL'S SUFFERING IN EGYPT:
A PEOPLE UNDER BONDAGE AND IN SLAVERY
(Exodus 1:1–22)**

Here we see that God is a covenant-keeping God. We read in Exodus 1:7, "But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly

mighty; and the land was filled with them.” God kept His covenant (or agreement) that He made with Abraham when he was ninety-nine years old. Read Genesis 17:1–5 and apply the promise God made to Abraham then to what was happening in Exodus 1:7.

Describe how God’s covenant promise to Abraham was fulfilled in Exodus 1:7.

In Genesis 1:28 we read, “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’” These were God’s instructions to Adam and Eve before the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden. God is a God of fruitfulness, multiplication, and dominion. This is an important principle to comprehend. The Fall of Man produced a loss of fruitfulness, multiplication, and dominion. We read the account of God’s redemption of mankind from the slavery of sin through the blood of the covenant, which has its full expression in the blood of the Lamb—Jesus Christ. We see that God is restoring to man the dominion, fruitfulness, and multiplication that he lost through disobedience of God’s Word.



BIBLE EXTRA

In Deuteronomy 28 we read specifically how God promises to reestablish fruitfulness, dominion, and multiplication in the lives of His people. The lesson to learn here is that when we obey God’s covenant we should expect fruitfulness, multiplication, and dominion at every dimension of life. In John 10:10 we read, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they might have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.”

God’s plan for man is always abundance and increase. However, since the Fall of Man in the Garden, shortages,



lack, poverty, infertility, and loss abound due to the entrance of sin into the human race. Egypt is a type of our present world system. Pharaoh is a type of Satan whom the Bible calls the “god of this age.” This present world system is not God’s plan for mankind. It is a fallen world that is polluted with sin. Leviticus 25:23 says, “The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land *is* Mine: for you *are* strangers and sojourners with Me.” In other words, we are just passing through this life. This world in its present fallen state is not our real home. The apostle John reminds us, “For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:16, 17).

In light of 1 John 2:16, 17, what is our relationship to be with this present world system? How does it parallel the children of Israel’s experience in Egypt ?

Pharaoh is a type of Satan, and this present world system is to Christians like Egypt was to the children of Israel. Pharaoh set “taskmasters” over the children of Israel to afflict them. In Exodus 1:11 we read, “Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses.” As in ancient Egypt, this present world system is a slave planet for God’s people. Although we may have temporary pleasures and God’s blessings in this world, we must remember that this present world system is not our real home. God gives us a promise of deliverance and freedom.



BIBLE EXTRA

Satan attempts to set “taskmasters” over God’s people so that he can afflict them with burdens. These “taskmasters” may be people or situations. However, behind these “task-

masters" are very real principalities and powers (Eph. 6:12) who are attempting to afflict God's people with burdens. In Jesus Christ, God has a specific plan of deliverance for His people. It is not God's will that His people have brutal "taskmasters" over them. God is a covenant-keeping God. He has a plan of freedom for us if we will obey Him and have complete faith in His Word.

In Acts 10:38 we read, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." Pharaoh oppressed the children of Israel in Egypt by afflicting them. Similarly, Satan oppresses people today under the present world system. However, Jesus Christ heals all those who are "oppressed by the devil."

List ways that you have had "taskmasters" afflict you or the people you know. Learn to recognize that behind these people or situations there is often a real "taskmaster," Satan, who is attempting to destroy you or limit your effectiveness in life.

Moses is a deliverer and a type of Jesus Christ. God, who is the covenant-keeping God, sent Moses as a deliverer for His people in the midst of their oppression in Egypt. In the same way, Jesus Christ is a deliverer for God's people in the midst of oppression in this present world system. God is a God of love. Since the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden, God has been in the business of rescuing and saving humankind.

MOSES AS A TYPE OF CHRIST (Exodus 2:1—4:31)

When Moses was born, Pharaoh had ordered the firstborn boys of all the children of Israel killed (Ex. 1:16). When Jesus Christ was born, King Herod had ordered that all male children of Israel under two years old be killed (Matt. 2:16). In this way, Moses was a type of Christ; and in both instances,



Satan was using men in an effort to stop God's method of salvation for His people.

Many would see our modern-day abortion holocaust as Satan's attempt at destroying the possibilities that God might have in the lives of the unborn. Remember, in Genesis 1:28 we find that God is a God of fruitfulness and multiplication. Satan hates fruitfulness and multiplication. He attempts to abort both human lives and the dreams inside men and women. Look up John 10:10. What does this passage of Scripture tell us about the Adversary?

Clearly, Satan's perverted nature is the exact opposite of God's nature. While God desires increase, multiplication, and abundance, Satan thrives on stealing, killing, and destruction. In distinct contrast to Satan, Jesus Christ came to give us the abundant life.

How does the murder of the young male children of Israel in both Pharaoh's and Herod's times reveal the heart of Satan?

What is the difference between Satan's plan for our lives and God's plan for our lives?

Exodus 3:3–20 tells the story of God's call on Moses' life. What does Exodus 3:11 tell us about Moses' response?

Many of us, when we hear God's call on our lives for ministry or to accomplish a specific assignment, shrink back in fear. One reason we do this is that as we look at our own human resources, we feel inadequate to complete the task. Instead of looking to ourselves, we should be focusing on the supernatural resources God makes available to us when He calls us to do something. Like Moses, we make the mistake of saying, "Who *am* I?" instead of acknowledging with the apostle Paul:

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power. (Eph. 1:17-19)

What highlights about God's purpose in you do you find in Ephesians 1:17-19?

When God calls us to do something, He wants us to understand that it is by His resources, not ours, that it will get done. From your own life experience, write down things that God has called you to do and how He has miraculously supplied the resources you need.

In Exodus 3:9-15 we read how God is a covenant-keeping God. Note in verse 15 that God calls Himself the



“God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” In relationship to the fact that God is a covenant-keeping God, why does He give Himself this name?

In Exodus 3:7 we read, “And the LORD said: ‘I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.’” Here we discover that God is infinitely compassionate and loving. He truly cares about the needs and pain of His people.



WORD WEALTH

Know, yada. To know, to perceive, to distinguish, to recognize, to acknowledge, to be acquainted with; in a few instances to “know intimately,” that is, sexually; also to acknowledge, recognize, esteem, and endorse.¹

In Matthew 10:30, 31 Jesus Christ tells His disciples, “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” In the previous passages, Jesus Christ was telling them that not even a sparrow falls to the ground without the Father’s will. He was teaching them the tremendous compassion and care that a loving Heavenly Father has for His people. Just as God knows the number of hairs upon our head, He also knows about our sorrows. This is very difficult for us to comprehend. In our human understanding, we cannot fathom how a God so big

who runs the entire universe would be that intimately concerned about our lives or our sorrows. Yet the Bible says that God is love, and one of the aspects of this divine love is that God is intimately concerned with the lives of His people.

In Exodus 4:1–9 God promises to use miraculous signs in front of Pharaoh and the people of Egypt. God is a supernatural God, and He sometimes chooses to speak through signs and wonders.

What kind of supernatural signs did God use in each of the following passages?

Ex. 4:1–17

2 Cor. 12:12

Heb. 2:4

When God calls a man to ministry, how will He supernaturally fit him to fulfill that call?

In Exodus 4:1–9 how did God move Moses from the place of saying “Who *am* I?” to the position of supernatural authority and recognizing that his sufficiency was in God and not of himself?



**GOD'S COVENANT-KEEPING PROMISE OF DELIVERANCE
COMES TRUE
(Exodus 5:1—11:10)**

In Exodus 5:1–21 we see that the taskmaster increases the oppression. The taskmasters force the children of Israel to fulfill their daily quota in building bricks even after they take the straw away from them. Dr. Jack Hayford calls this the “treadmill experience.” They are working harder and actually going nowhere. Satan establishes “treadmill experiences” in the lives of believers. However, God is a covenant-keeping God, and He promises them deliverance. The *Spirit-Filled Life Bible* describes a covenant as an agreement between two parties. Usually one party was superior to the other. It contained permanent pledges made to each other, ratified by a ritual or a ceremony, such as circumcision.

Read Genesis 17:1–11. How did the covenant that God made with Abraham apply to Exodus 6?

Exodus 5:13, 14 illustrates the “treadmill experience.” Describe the “treadmill experience” in your own words.

In Exodus 5:21 we see the children of Israel reacting in fear instead of faith to their situation. God had sent them a deliverer, and as soon as things got rough they began to complain. Why were they angry at Moses and Aaron?

Exodus 6:2–8 records God’s strong promise to deliver the children of Israel as He swore in His covenant. In Exodus 6:3 the words “God Almighty” are used to translate from the Hebrew *El-Shaddai*, that is, “The God Who Is Enough,” “The All-Powerful” and “The One Who Is Self-Sufficient,” which showed that God was the source of all blessing.²

Write down how God is *El-Shaddai* in your life as you face battles and have needs.

Even though God promised this tremendous deliverance, the Hebrew slaves did not believe God’s word of deliverance. In his Bible study *Learning How to Live Again*, Dr. Jack Hayford explains that a key in the deliverance of the slaves was learning how to get rid of the slave mentality, which they had developed during their years of servitude. This slave mentality can be found in the lives of believers in Jesus Christ. In Matthew 13:58 we read, “Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.” A slave mind-set that says, “It’s too good to be true,” as well as cynicism and doubt, can lock out the possibility of God’s miraculous provision.

In Exodus 7:3–5 God tells Moses and Aaron that He is going to perform signs and wonders so that the Egyptians will know that He is Lord. Review the following passages and identify the ten plagues God brought on Pharaoh and his people.

1. 7:20
2. 8:6
3. 8:17
4. 8:24
5. 9:6
6. 9:10
7. 9:23
8. 10:13



9. 10:22

10. 12:29

The final visitation of God, the death of the firstborn, demonstrates to the Egyptians that He is the Lord of life and death. Their false god Osiris was proven to be impotent as a giver of life in the face of Yahweh's judgment. God shows signs and wonders in the land of Egypt so that the Egyptians might know that He is Lord. God speaks to people through signs and wonders on a personal basis and on a national scale. In Ezekiel 38:23 and in John 11:47, we see God working signs and wonders for the purpose of calling people to Himself.



AT A GLANCE

The Ten Plagues on Egypt ^a	
The Plague	The Effect
1. Blood (7:20)	Pharaoh hardened (7:22)
2. Frogs (8:6)	Pharaoh begs relief, promises freedom (8:8), but is hardened (8:15)
3. Lice (8:17)	Pharaoh hardened (8:19)
4. Flies (8:24)	Pharaoh bargains (8:28), but is hardened (8:32)
5. Livestock diseased (9:6)	Pharaoh hardened (9:7)
6. Boils (9:10)	Pharaoh hardened (9:12)
7. Hail (9:23)	Pharaoh begs relief (9:27), promises freedom (9:28), but is hardened (9:35)
8. Locusts (10:13)	Pharaoh bargains (10:11), begs relief (10:17), but is hardened (10:20)
9. Darkness (10:22)	Pharaoh bargains (10:24), but is hardened (10:27)
10. Death of firstborn (12:29)	Pharaoh and Egyptians beg Israel to leave Egypt (12:31-33)
God multiplied His signs and wonders in the land of Egypt that the Egyptians might know that He is the Lord.	

THE EXODUS (Exodus 12:1—13:16)



FAITH ALIVE

Read Exodus 12:1–51 and Luke 22:14–20. The original Passover was a feast that celebrated the deliverance of the children of Israel because of their covenant with God. When they placed the blood of a lamb on their doorposts the death plague passed over their homes. This foreshadowed the work of Jesus Christ, who is the true Passover Lamb of God. When we accept Jesus Christ into our lives by faith and are washed clean from our sins by the blood of the Lamb, we can live forever with God in Paradise. The deathforce of sin is broken and we have eternal life in Christ.

In Luke 22:14–20 how is the New Covenant promise for the believer in Jesus Christ similar to the deliverance promised by Moses in the Old Testament? Apply this truth to your own life.

1. *Spirit-Filled Life Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991), 89, “Word Wealth: 3:7 know.”

2. *Ibid.*, 91, note on 6:3.

3. *Ibid.*, 92, Chart: “The Ten Plagues on Egypt.”