

# ***Exodus - a Student Guide***

---

## **THE CENTRAL QUESTION:**

### **What does this book/story say to us about God?**

This question may be broken down further as follows:

- a. Why did God do it/allow it?
  - b. Why did He record it for our study?
- 

1. After picking out Abraham's family to be His representatives to the world, why did God leave them down there in Egypt for so long, until they had apparently forgotten everything they had ever known about Him, and had been brought to such grinding slavery? Do you think the other nations in Moses' day would have respected the "God" of a nation of slaves? Did God choose the children of Israel for special privileges or special responsibilities?
2. Why do you think there was a decree to kill all the male children? (Exodus 1:16,22) If you could have asked one of the Israelites about their God as all the male babies were being killed (Exodus 1:15-22), how do you think they would have described Him? Did the devil have anything to do with this? If so, why?
3. Why did God ask Moses to take off his shoes before approaching the bush? (Exodus 3:5) What are the implications of God choosing the name "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:13,14) for Himself? Why would God choose a verb rather than a noun as a name? This same name is used in the book of Genesis. Had Moses already heard of this name, or was the book of Genesis written after this disclosure?
4. Why did Moses apparently not tell Jethro his father-in-law the truth about his plans for going to Egypt? (Exodus 4:18) Why did Moses apparently lie to Pharaoh in requesting permission to go into the wilderness for only three days to worship their God? (Exodus 5:3)
5. What is the meaning of, or reason for the incident with Moses' son on the way to Egypt? (Exodus 4:24-26) What is the meaning of "The anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses"? (Exodus 4:14)
6. How would you respond today if someone appeared to you as Moses did showing the three miraculous "signs" as proof of his divine mission? (See Exodus 4:1-9) If this is a good kind of proof or evidence, should God be using more of it today?
7. What was the purpose of the ten plagues? Why is God apparently using might and power (Compare Zechariah 4:6) to get the children of Israel out of Egypt? Who killed the firstborn in Egypt, and why? Does God destroy the wicked in the end? (See 1 Chronicles 10:3,4,13,14) Did God harden Pharaoh's heart or did Pharaoh harden his own heart (Exodus 9:34-10:1)? If so what does that mean?
8. Why could God help the children of Israel win the battle against the Amalekites only when Moses' arms were up? (Exodus 17:11) Was this some kind of magic?
9. Why did God give the children of Israel meat to eat, if He knew it was not good for them? (Exodus 16:1-15) Compare Numbers 11:4-34; 21:4-9.
10. At Mt. Sinai, was it the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit that was manifested on top of the mountain? (Exodus 19,20; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4; John 5:39; Luke 24:44) Why did God consider it necessary to come down on Mt. Sinai as He did? What was He trying to teach them (us) about Himself? What do you think God actually accomplished by this display of power? Why did He behave so differently 1400 years later on the Mt. of Olives (Matthew 23:37-39), or the Mt. of Beatitudes (Matthew 5)?
11. Do you think that God overdid the "fear" experience at Mt. Sinai? If so how do you explain what was happening 40 days later while Moses was still on top of the Mount? Why do you think the Israelites were so terrified after the Sinai experience? Why wasn't Moses afraid? (Exodus 20:19,20) Or was he? (Hebrews 12:18-21)
12. Why does God say He will visit "the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations"? (Exodus 20:5) Moses knew this wasn't right! (Job 21:19,20; Ezekiel 18; Deuteronomy

24:16)

13. Do you think the ten commandments are descriptive laws (like the law of gravity they describe how things actually work) or proscriptive laws (they are given by someone in authority to tell us what we may or may not do—like speed limit laws)?
14. What is the meaning of “he shall serve him *forever*” (Exodus 21:6)?
15. What were the people asking for in Exodus 20:18,19? Why?
16. After reading through the entire experience of the Israelites while they were camped at the base of Mt. Sinai, do you think God wants us to fear Him, to be His obedient servants, or to be His friends? (like Moses-Exodus 33:11-13,17; 34:8,9; Numbers 12:6-8)
17. How could the Israelites be kind to strangers and foreigners if they were to utterly destroy anyone who offered any sacrifice to any “god” except the Lord? (Exodus 22:20,21)
18. What is wrong with boiling a kid in its mother’s milk? (Exodus 23:19, Exodus 34:26, Deuteronomy 14:21)
19. Why are only the men asked to attend the annual festivals to worship God (Exodus 23:17)?
20. Why was the “angel” who was sent to lead the children of Israel so unforgiving (Exodus 23:21; 32:11-14;32:34,35; 33:1-6)? Why is God pictured as so stern in some of these passages?
21. What is the meaning and purpose of “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth”? (Exodus 21:23-25; Leviticus 24:19,20; Deuteronomy 19:16-21; See Matthew 5:38-42) Do you think this was ever God’s ideal?
22. Why was it necessary for Moses and the others who were called up into the mount to wait for extended periods of time before they were ready to approach God? What changes actually took place during this time? What do you think happened to Moses that caused his face to shine (Exodus 34:29-35)? Did Moses ever describe God’s back? (Exodus 33:23) Why couldn’t Moses see God’s face (Exodus 33:20)? Was God saying, “If I catch you peeking at Me, I’ll kill you?” Or was there some other reason why Moses couldn’t look at Him?
23. What was God’s original plan for the conquest of the land of Canaan (Exodus 23:27,28)?
24. Why did a God who said, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image” (Exodus 20:4) immediately ask them to make the ark with its two golden angels? (Exodus 25:10-22)
25. When God began giving the commandments, why didn’t He say simply, “There are no other gods” instead of “Thou shalt have no other gods before me?” Does God just want to be pre-eminent among others or is He the only God? (Exodus 20:3)
26. Why did God say, “Thou shalt not kill” and then order His own children to kill so many times: **the man who gathered sticks on Sabbath** (Numbers 15:32-36); **anyone who worships Molech** (Leviticus 20:2); **the man who cursed** (Leviticus 24:10-18); or **who murders someone** (Numbers 35:16-24); **false prophets** (Deuteronomy 13:1-5); **promoters of a new religion** (Deuteronomy 13:6-18; 17:2-5); or **someone who is disrespectful to his parents** (Deuteronomy 21:18-21); **who commits adultery** (Deuteronomy 22:20-27); or **people who steal** (Joshua 7)?

© Copyright 1998-2005, Kenneth Hart  
khart@llu.edu

Last Modified: February 7, 2006  
C:\My Documents\WP\ISSG\EXODUSssg.wpd