

THE GOSPEL STORY

Lesson 4 "by a mighty hand"

Text Under Consideration: Exodus 1-19

Scriptural & Historical Context:

We have moved forward several centuries in our study from the events in lesson 3. Abraham lived around 2000 years before Jesus, and our best estimate is that the events of the Exodus took place around 1440 years before Jesus' life. However, the events of the Exodus continue the narrative from the life of Abraham. Recall that God promised that Abraham's descendants would become a great nation, inherit the land of Canaan and ultimately bless all families of the earth (Genesis 12.1-3,7). To assure Abraham that the promises would be fulfilled, the Lord made a covenant with the patriarch (Genesis 15.18). Now note the details God provided regarding the future of Abraham's offspring: "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions." (Genesis 15:13-14, ESV)

The rest of Genesis records how Abraham and Sarah did have the promised son, Isaac then had twin sons named Esau and Jacob. The record focuses on Jacob, whose name would be changed to Israel (Genesis 32.28) and would have twelve sons. One of those sons, Joseph, was sold by his brothers into slavery, but would eventually rise to prominence in Egypt (Genesis 37; 41). Joseph understood this did not occur by accident: "And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his

Creation
Genesis 1-2 · Undated

The Flood
Genesis 6-9 · c. 2350 BC (trad.)

Abraham
Genesis 12-25 · c. 2000-1800 BC

The Exodus
Exodus · c. 1446 or 1270 BC

Conquest of Canaan
Joshua · c. 1406-1380 BC

David's Reign
2 Samuel · c. 1010-970 BC

Babylonian Captivity
2 Kings 25 · c. 605-539 BC

Return from Captivity
Ezra, Nehemiah · c. 538-432 BC

Life of Jesus
Gospels · c. 6/4 BC – AD 30/33

Establishment of the Church
Acts 2 · c. AD 30/33 (Pentecost)

house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.” (Genesis 45:7–8, ESV)

Genesis concludes with Jacob and his family leaving Canaan and settling in Egypt. While in Egypt Israel grew into a great nation (Exodus 1.7), fulfilling God’s first promise to Abraham. However, the Lord had also foretold that Abraham’s descendants would be afflicted (Genesis 15.13), which is how the book of Exodus begins: “Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph... they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens.” (Exodus 1.8,11).

Key Verses & Events:

- 📖 Israel oppressed in Egypt (Exodus 1).
- 📖 Moses is born, raised in Pharaoh’s house but flees when he kills an Egyptian (Exodus 2).
- 📖 The Lord appears to Moses in a burning bush; sends Moses and Aaron to bring Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 3-4).
- 📖 God demonstrates His power over the gods of Egypt by means of ten plagues; Israel’s exodus from Egypt takes place (Exodus 7-12).
- 📖 Israel crosses the Red Sea on dry land, but the army of Egypt is destroyed (Exodus 14).
- 📖 Moses leads Israel to Mt. Sinai, the same mountain where Moses saw the burning bush (Exodus 19).

The Story

1. Israel was _____ to free themselves — the Exodus was impossible from a human standpoint; deliverance had to come from outside.
2. God acted out of covenant _____, not Israel’s _____ — He heard their cries and “remembered His covenant” with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, which moved Him to act.
3. God’s _____ had to be demonstrated _____ — Pharaoh would not relent without compulsion, so God struck Egypt with ten plagues to force his hand.
4. The plagues were a direct challenge to Egyptian _____ — God’s power was displayed not just over nature but over Egypt’s entire religious and political system, including Pharaoh himself.
5. The _____ had to _____ for God to “pass over” Israel — God Himself went “out in the midst of Egypt,” and only the blood of innocent lambs could cause Him to pass over Israel and spare them from His wrath.
6. The Exodus was meant to produce _____ and _____ in Israel — having witnessed what no other nation had ever seen, Israel was called to recognize there is no other God and respond by keeping His commands.