



MIGHTY MEN

Mid-Week Bible Study – Living Life in 3D

Week One: Before You Enter Exodus

I. Why Exodus?

- Why in the world are we studying Exodus?
- Why would we study the Old Testament?
- What does all this have to do with us as New Testament believers?

- A People Just Like Us

- They were on a difficult journey
- They had real problems
- They had fears
- They faced seemingly unbeatable enemies
- They were under a lot of stress
- They tended to struggle with their faith
- They were prone to disobey
- They had a habit of complaining
- They were highly forgetful

- A God Unlike Us!

- This book reveals the very nature of God
- It paints a picture of the God we worship

- The God who controls history

- The God who is holy
- The God who remembers
- The God who acts in salvation
- The God who acts in judgment
- The God whose anger can be averted
- The God who speaks
- The God who is transcendent
- The God who lives among His people

II. A Brief History

- Delivered. Directed. Destined.

- Delivered

- This is a story of a people who have been delivered from bondage
- It is about God's miraculous deliverance from slavery

- It is about redemption and salvation

Directed

- This is the story of a people who were directed by God Himself
- He **ordered** their steps
- He **ordained** their path
- He **orchestrated** their plans

Destined

- This is the story of a people with a distinct destination

destine – to set apart for a certain purpose; to intend; to predetermine

- God had set them apart for a purpose and a place
- The wilderness was not their home
- Canaan is not a picture of heaven, but of **life** lived according to God’s plan

Key verse:

“By your unfailing love you lead the people you have redeemed. In your might, you guide them to your sacred home.” – Exodus 15:13 NLT

- What’s going on here? – Vs 1-7
 - These verses provide a link between the books of Genesis and Exodus
 - They are a synopsis, the “Cliff Notes” of Genesis, chapters 12-50
 - They remind us that all that is about to happen directly relates to what has already happened
- 1. 400 years later – Vs 7
 - This verse fills in a nearly 400-year gap
 - It covers the period from the death of Joseph to the time of the Exodus
 - God chooses to summarize what went on during that time in one verse!
 - The Israelites (Sons of Israel/Jacob) had prospered in Egypt
 - They had become strong
 - They had filled the land

2. Let's begin at the beginning

a. Welcome to Egypt – Genesis 47:5-6

- Jacob and his family arrive in Egypt
- They are escaping a severe famine
- His son Joseph is second-in-command in Egypt
- Pharaoh welcomes Joseph's family with open arms

b. Joseph's story – Gen. 37-41

- He was the youngest son of Jacob (Israel)
- His grandfather was Isaac
- His great-grandfather was Abraham
- He is Jacob's favorite son
- If you were writing a book about his life, these could be the chapter headings:
 - Pleasant dreams (he has two dreams)
 - Angry brothers (they plot to kill him)
 - Easy money (they sell him into slavery)
 - Happy ending (he ends up as a slave)
 - Fatal attraction (Potiphar's wife)
 - Innocent prisoner (he is thrown in jail)
 - Clear insight (Joseph interprets dreams)
 - Sleepless Sovereign (Pharaoh's dreams)
 - Hidden message (God's plan)
 - Just reward (Pharaoh elevates Joseph)
 - Just desserts (Joseph's brothers)

c. Joseph's perspective

- Joseph had a God-sized perspective
- In spite of all he had been through
- He saw God's hand in it all
 - Genesis 45:4-5
 - Genesis 45:7
 - Genesis 50:19-20 NLT

d. God's plan

- This had not caught God off guard
- He had had a plan all along
 - Genesis 15:13-16 NLT

Q: So what was the reason behind God's plan?

- To prepare Israel for their inheritance
 - To strengthen them for what lie ahead



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Week Two: The Best Laid Plans

Last week we saw that in spite of 400 years of slavery in Egypt, the descendants of Israel had prospered and grown in number. So much so, that it was going to cause some significant problems with the Egyptians in whose land they were staying. This week we will take a closer look at the intensity of the problems faced by the Israelites as God's day of deliverance drew closer. Four generations had found themselves in Egypt and during that time they had gone from being welcome guests of the Pharaoh (Gen. 47:6) to unwanted parasites and a possible threat to the safety of the kingdom. They were going to be the victims of an early and somewhat vicious form of "Homeland Security."

Day One

Read Exodus 1:6-14. What one thing had happened that seems to suddenly have changed the fortunes of the Israelites? _____

What did the new Pharaoh seem to fear? _____

What was his solution to the problem? _____

From verse 12, what was the end result of the oppression of the Israelites? _____

Day Two

Read Exodus 1:15-22. What is the plight of the Israelites at this point? _____

What was Pharaoh's first plan to control the Hebrew population? _____

What was his second plan? _____

What do you think it would have been like to be an Israelite at that time? _____

Day Three

Read Exodus 2:1-10. What was the atmosphere in which this woman gave birth to her son? What did she have to fear? _____

What about her actions indicates her faith in God? _____

What happened that you might equate as the “sovereignty of God” in this story? _____

Day Four

What does a godly leader look like? What are the characteristics of someone who God handpicks to do His will, to serve Him in ministry, to be His spokesperson. Inevitably, they look a lot different than you and I would imagine. Take Moses for instance. While he was raised in Pharaoh’s household and probably had one of the best educations money could buy, what made him ministry leadership material? He even admitted he was a lousy speaker. And when given the job, he turned it down! So what kind of man does God choose?

Read Exodus 2:11-15. What do you think was Moses’ motivation for defending the Hebrew slave? _____

Read Acts 7:23-25. What does Stephen indicate as the motivation behind Moses’ actions that day? _____

Based Acts 7:23-25, what, if anything, was wrong with Moses’ actions? _____

Day Five

Read Exodus 2:15-25. Where does Moses go and what is the end result of his actions?

What do verses 23-25 tell you about God? _____

What, if anything, do you find comforting about these verses in your own life? _____

Can you think of a time when you cried out to God and He heard your cry and responded? If yes, explain what happened? _____
