

Chapter count: 40

Original language: Hebrew

Author: Moses

Date written: Around 1446 B.C. or later

Scope: From the sojourn in Egypt to the construction of the sanctuary

The Book of Exodus continues the narrative from the last chapter of Genesis. While the Exodus—or “*departure*”—is mostly known for the extraordinary event at the Red Sea, this book of 40 chapters has a lot to say about the **sanctuary** (chapters 25 to 40). The exit of the Israelites from Egypt is an embodiment of the **plan of redemption**, which is also symbolized in the structure of the sanctuary. The apostasy at the foot of the mountain (chapter 32) makes a dark stain in the narrative, but is followed by the proclamation of God’s true **character** as Moses looks from the cleft of the rock (chapter 34). The book closes with **the glory of the Lord** filling the sanctuary.

FROM EGYPT TO DEPARTURE

ISRAEL IN EGYPT AND THE PLAGUES

The Israelites increased in Egypt. The Pharaoh brings oppression upon Israel, making them slaves. Moses is born and adopted. Moses, about the age of 40, kills an Egyptian. Moses flees to Midian. Jethro’s daughter, Zipporah, marries Moses. The Lord reveals Himself to Moses through a “burning bush” as the “I Am.” Moses returns to Egypt with Aaron. The new Pharaoh refuses to let Israel go. Ten plagues fall upon Egypt. The first Passover is observed. Israel exits Egypt.

CHAPTERS 1-13

FROM EGYPT TO SINAI

Israel arrives to Pi-hahiroth. Pharaoh pursues. The pillar of cloud and fire protects Israel. The Israelites cross the Red Sea upon dry land. Egyptians pursue but perish in the Red Sea. Israel joins in the song of Moses. Israel arrives at Marah, then Elim. Quails are given in the Wilderness of Sin. Manna appears on the ground for Israel’s food. Israel arrives at Massah, then Meribah. Amalekites are defeated at Rephidim. Jethro visits Moses.

CHAPTERS 13-18

FROM DEPARTURE TO SINAI

AT SINAI

Israel arrives at Sinai. The Law given at Sinai. Laws regarding slavery, life, property, help to the needy, etc. are given. Instruction to build the sanctuary is given. Bezaleel and Aholiab selected especially for the work of the sanctuary. The Lord writes the ten commandments with His finger. Apostasy breaks out in the camp of Israel. Moses and Joshua descend the mount. Moses grinds the golden calf. Moses pleads for Israel. The Lord proclaims His character.

CHAPTERS 19-34

THE BUILDING OF THE SANCTUARY

The work for the sanctuary begins. The ark to house the new stone tablets, the table of shewbread, the candlestick, the altar of incense, the altar of burnt offering, the laver, and the rest of the sanctuary structure completed. The people’s offerings are summed up. The garments for the priests are made. Moses inspects the work. The sanctuary is reared. The glory of the Lord descends and covers the sanctuary.

CHAPTERS 35-40