

**PREACHING THROUGH THE BIBLE: EXODUS**  
**GOD'S CONSTANT PROVISION**  
**Exodus 6:2-8**

**I. MAIN THEMES OF EXODUS**

- GOD REVEALS HIMSELF
- GOD FULFILLS HIS PROMISES
- GOD MAKES ISRAEL INTO HIS PEOPLE
- GOD PROVIDES FOR HIS PEOPLE

**II. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF**

**Ex 3:13-15**—*Then Moses said to God, 'Behold I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM', and He said, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' God, furthermore, said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my memorial name to all generations.'*

**A. INADEQUATE VIEW OF THE PAST**

1. THEY HAD “called upon the name of the *Lord*”
  - In the day of Enosh—**Gen 4:26**
  - Abram—**Gen 12:8**—after God call and promises
  - Abram—**Gen 21:33**—after covenant with Abimelech—Jehovah Everlasting God
2. BUT THEY DID NOT REALIZE FULL IMPLICATIONS OF DOING THIS
  - a. Still had idols
    - Rachel stole Laban’s household gods—**Gen 31**
  - b. Jacob *finally* put idols away—but only in **Gen 35**
    - When at Bethel second time—over 100 years old
    - About 160 years after Isaac’s birth
  - c. Joseph married Asenath—daughter of priest of On—**Gen 41**

**B. A FULLER VIEW OF GOD**

1. THE ONLY GOD
  - a. “I AM”—is self-existent—**3:14**
    - Only one thing can be self-existent

b. The Creator God—4<sup>th</sup> commandment

- Remember the Sabbath

**20:11**—*For in six days the **Lord** made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the **Lord** blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

2. THE MOST POWERFUL GOD

a. More powerful than anything in Egypt

b. 10 Commandments

- 1<sup>st</sup>—Have no other gods before me
- 2<sup>nd</sup>—Make no graven images—no idols

3. THE PERSONAL GOD—IN COVENANT WITH HIS PEOPLE

a. I am concerned about you—**Ex 3:16**

b. I will take you for my people, and I will be your God—**Ex 6:7**

c. My presence will go with you and give you rest—**Ex 33:14**

4. THE ETHICAL GOD—WHO EXPECTS MORAL BEHAVIOR AND OBEDIENCE

- **Ex 20**—Last six Commandments—**verses 12-17**
- **Ex 21-23**—other ordinances and laws

5. THE GOD WHO EXPECTS WORSHIP

- **Ex 25-31**—provision for tabernacle and worship

### III. GOD FULFILLS HIS PROMISES

#### ❖ TWO PROMISES FULFILLED:

##### ➤ Promise of Deliverance

##### ➤ His Covenant Promise

#### A. PROMISE OF DELIVERANCE

**Ex 3:7-8**—*The Lord said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmaster, for I am aware of their sufferings. So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey*

1. PROMISE TO THE PATRIARCHS

a. To Abram—descendants strangers and enslaved 400 years

**Gen 15:13-15**—*God said to Abram, ‘Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. But I will judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. Then in the fourth generation they will return here*

1. Two promises

- They will come out with many possessions
- They will return to Canaan in the fourth generation

2. Stephen quotes this in **Acts 7:6**

b. At his death—Jacob affirmed they would return—**Gen 48:21**

c. At his death—Joseph affirmed they would return—**Gen 50:24-5**

- And take his bones back to Canaan

2. FULFILLED IN THE EXODUS—see **Ex 12:40**

3. THE ‘400-YEAR OR 430-YEAR PROBLEM’

**Ex 12:40**—*Now the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. At the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.*

a. Two problems

1. Problem One—Why does **Ex 12** say 430 years—not 400 years—as in **Gen 15:13**?

2. Problem Two—400 or 430 years is too long for them to be in Egypt

- a. The fourth generation from entry returned
- b. Jacob’s sons and some grandsons went—2 generations
- c. This would stretch the life of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations over 400 years!

b. **Problem Two**—look at this first—[400 years was too long for captivity]

1. Two **textual** issues

a. The 400 years includes Israel’s sojourn in *both Canaan and Egypt*

1. The Septuagint reading of **Ex 12:40**—goes this way

**Ex 12:40**—*Now the time that the sons of Israel sojourned **in the land of Canaan and in the land of Egypt** was four hundred and thirty years. At the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.*

2. So—*strangers in a land that was not theirs*—[**Gen 15**]

a. Means the *whole* time that Abram’s descendants lived in Canaan *and* Egypt

b. Canaan did not belong to Israel—when promise was made in **Gen 15**

b. Israel was not enslaved for the whole 400 years

1. **Gen 15:13**—should be read this way

*Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs—where they will be enslaved and oppressed—four hundred years.*

2. Israel ‘sojourned’ 400 years—in a land that was not theirs [Canaan and Egypt]

3. “where they were enslaved and oppressed”—identifies the location—not duration

4. *During* that time—they were enslaved and oppressed [implied—only in Egypt]

2. The **chronology** of the Israel’s ‘sojourn’

a. Time began with Abram’s first ‘descendant’—Isaac

b. Isaac was born 30 years later—*then* the 400 year clock started

c. Jacob entered Egypt at 130—190 years after Isaac’s birth

d. So—Israel ‘sojourn’ in **Egypt** was 210 years—[400 minus 190]

➤ The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations can fit into this time frame

3. How long was Israel **enslaved**?

a. The two chronological keys

1. Sometime after Joseph died

2. Sometime before Moses was born

b. When did Joseph die?—[in the 400 year period]

➤ Jacob entered Egypt—at the 190 year mark

➤ Joseph was 30 when Jacob entered Egypt

➤ Joseph died at age 110—80 years later

➤ So Joseph died at the 270 year mark—130 years before Exodus

c. When was Moses born?—[in the 400 year period]

➤ Moses led Israel out—when he was 80 years old

➤ Moses was born at the 320 year mark

d. So the period of slavery—was between 80 and 130 years

1. As short as 80 years—from when Moses was born—320 year mark

2. Or as long as 130 years—from when Joseph died

4. Summary of chronology
  - a. Exodus occurred 210 years after Jacob’s arrival in Egypt—four generations later
  - b. Israel was enslaved between 80-130 years
- c. Problem One—400 or 430 years?
  1. Paul agrees with **Ex 12**—he says it was 430 years—**Gal 3:17-18**
  2. But Paul was speaking of the time between the two covenants
    - From Abram’s covenant to the covenant of the Law
  3. 430 years before the Exodus—would be 30 years before Isaac’s birth
    - About the time God called Abram (**Gen 12**)—age 75
  4. More precisely—God called Abram *before* **Gen 12**
    - a. Stephen said God spoke to Abram in Ur—**Acts 7:2**
    - b. Possibly 5 years earlier—age 70
  5. So these two figures—400 and 430—could mean different things
    - a. 400 years—for Abram’s descendants to sojourn
    - b. 430 years—from Abram’s call to the covenant of the law

#### 4. THE TWO PROMISES OF GENESIS 15 WERE FULFILLED

- a. Israel left with many possessions—from the Egyptians

**Ex 12:35-36**—*Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold and clothing; and the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.*

- b. They left in the fourth generation after entry into Egypt

○ Levi → Kohath → Amram → Moses

### B. PROMISE OF HIS COVENANT

#### 1. SPOKEN FIRST TO MOSES ALONE—FOR HIM TO TELL ISRAEL

**Ex 19:5-6**—*Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*

#### 2. THIS WAS BASED ON THE COVENANT WITH THE PATRIARCHS

- To **Abram**—5 times—**Gen 12—13—15—17—22**
- To **Isaac**—2 times—**Gen 17—26**

- To **Jacob**—3 times—[Gen 28—32—35](#)

### 3. SUMMARY OF COVENANT PROMISES

- Great **nation**—many descendents
- Great **name**—Abraham—Israel
- **Bless** you—prosperity
- Be a **blessing**—to all families on earth
- The **Promised land**
- God will **be their God**—His presence will go with them

### 4. GOD CONFIRMED THIS THROUGH MOSES TO THE PEOPLE

#### a. First chance—[Gen 24:3-8](#)

1. After giving the Law—before instructions for Tabernacle
2. Before idolatry of the Golden Calf

#### b. Second chance—[Gen 34:10, 27-28](#)

1. After idolatry of the golden calf
2. **Conditional** covenant—the people were to:
  - Make no covenant with Canaanites—avoid idolatry
  - Observe the Passover—using unleavened bread
  - Dedicate every first-born male to God
  - Observe the Sabbath faithfully
  - Bring their first fruits to God

## IV. GOD MAKES ISRAEL INTO HIS PEOPLE

### A. HE GAVE THE LAW TO GUIDE THEM IN HOLINESS—[Ex 20-23](#)

1. THE DECALOGUE—[Ex 20](#)
2. OTHER LAWS AND ORDINANCES—[Ex 21-23](#)

### B. HE PROVIDED THEM A WAY TO WORSHIP HIM—[Ex 25-31](#)

1. TO OBSERVE THE PASSOVER MEMORIAL—[Ex 12](#)
2. TO BUILD A TABERNACLE IN WHICH TO WORSHIP—[Ex 25-27 and 30](#)
3. TO CONSECRATE A PRIESTHOOD TO LEAD WORSHIP—[Ex 28-29](#)
  - Consecration done in [Leviticus 8](#)
4. TO KEEP THE SABBATH AS A PERPETUAL COVENANT—[Ex 31](#)

## V. GOD PROVIDES FOR HIS PEOPLE

### A. GOD'S PRESENCE

1. GOD'S SELF-REVELATION TO MOSES—**Ex 3**
2. HIS CONSTANT PRESENCE—SEEN IN PROMISE OF **Ex 6**

**Ex 6:6-8**—*I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession; I am the Lord.*

[NOTE: 11 times God says **I** will do these things]

### 3. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

- Pillar of **cloud** by day, pillar of **fire** by night—**Ex 13:21-22**
- **Cloud** descended on Mount Sinai—**Ex 24**
- **Cloud** on Moses' tent after idolatry—**Ex 33**
- His **appearance** to Moses in cleft of rock—**Ex 33**
- His **shekinah** radiance on Moses' face—**Ex 34**
- Cloud of God's **glory** filled tabernacle—**Ex 40:34-7**

### B. GOD'S POWER

#### 1. THROUGH MOSES AND HIS STAFF

- a. Turned to **serpent**—then a **staff**—**Ex 4**
- b. Aaron's staff—a serpent—ate the other serpents—**Ex 7**
- c. Moses used his staff or own hand—and 7 of the plagues hit Egypt
  - **Nile**—turned to **blood**—**Ex 7**
  - **Frogs** came out of rivers, streams, pools—**Ex 8**
  - **Gnats** came from the dust—**Ex 8**
  - **Boils** from the dust of the earth—**Ex 9**
  - Thunder and **hailstorm**—**Ex 9**
  - **Locusts** came with East wind—**Ex 10**
  - **Darkness** over the land—**Ex 10**
- d. Parted the **Red Sea**—**Ex 14**

- e. Struck rock at Meribah for water—**Ex 17**
- f. Upheld with Aaron and Hur during battle with Amalekites—**Ex 17**

## 2. BY DIRECT ACTION OF GOD

- a. **Moses' hand**—leprosy—then healed—**Ex 4**
- b. **Direct action** in the other three miracles
  - The swarming flies—**Ex 8**
  - Egyptian cattle killed—**Ex 9**
  - Death of the firstborn and the Passover—**Ex 11**
- c. Provided the tree to **cure the waters of Marah**—**Ex 15**
- d. Sent **manna** and **quail**—Ex 16
- e. **Double miracle** of the Sabbath manna not spoiling—**Ex 16**

## C. GOD'S LEADERSHIP

- 1. PREPARED MOSES IN THE WILDERNESS—**Ex 2**
- 2. GAVE AARON TO MOSES—FOR HIS MOUTHPIECE—**Ex 4**
- 3. JETHRO TO COUNSEL MOSES—AND JUDGES TO HELP MOSES—**Ex 18**
- 4. SKILLED WORKERS FOR TABERNACLE—BEZALEEL & AHOLIAB—**Ex 31/35**

## D. GOD'S DAILY PROVISION TO SUSTAIN ISRAEL

### 1. FORMIDABLE LOGISTICAL PROBLEM

- 603,550 men exited Egypt—**Nu 1:46**
- About 2 million people total

#### **EX: More people than either:**

- **West Virginia—or—Nevada—or—New Mexico**

#### **EX: The same as all these added together**

- **North Dakota—and—South Dakota—and—Alaska**

### 2. PROVISION OF WATER

- At **Marah**—cured the water—**Ex 16**
- At **Meribah/Massah**—struck the rock—**Ex 17**
- Again at **Meribah** (Moses wrongly struck rock)—**Nu 20**

### 3. PROVISION OF FOOD



a. **Manna** daily for 40 years—[Ex 17](#)

b. **Quail**—[Ex 17](#)—again in [Nu 11](#)

#### **E. GOD PROVIDED FOR THE TABERNACLE—FOR WORSHIP**

1. GOD PROVIDED THIS MATERIAL FROM THE EGYPTIANS—[Ex 3:20-22](#)
2. ISRAEL OBEYED—AND DESPOILED THE EGYPTIANS—[Ex 12:35-36](#)
3. BUT THEN DISOBEYED BY USING GOLD FOR GOLDEN CALF!—[Ex 32](#)
4. APPLICATION—HOW DO WE USE WHAT GOD PROVIDES US?
  - For His glory?
  - Or for idolatry!

#### **F. GOD PROVIDED A SECOND CHANCE**

1. HE PUNISHED IDOLATORS BUT GAVE ISRAEL A SECOND CHANCE
2. HE RENEWED THE COVENANT—[Ex 34](#)
3. HE LET THEM BUILD THE TABERNACLE—[Ex 35-40](#)
  - The people gave so much they were told to stop—[Ex 36](#)
  - God honored faithfulness—His glory filled the tabernacle—[Ex 40](#)

#### **G. GOD PROVIDED—AS JEHOVAH-JIREH—[see [Gen 22:14](#)]**

- THE LAMB—WHEN ABRAM WAS TO SACRIFICE ISAAC—[GeN 22](#)
- THE PASSOVER LAMB—BEFORE THE EXODUS—[Ex 12](#)
- THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD!—[Jn 1:29](#)