

Bible Study.

Student Name:

Institution:

The book of Exodus entails mainly God's call to arms of the Israelites to leave their position of slavery in Egypt. This book marks God's decision to end Israel's period of oppression in Egypt through His servant Moses. Exodus lays the groundwork in theology in which God shows His name, His characteristics, His law and how He wants to be worshipped. Most importantly, Exodus showcases God's quality of deliverance and the lengths He is willing to go to deliver His people.

### **Moses**

Moses was born during the time of Israelites' bondage in Egypt. Pharaoh had ordered the killing of all Israelite male infants in fear of an Israelite uprising against him. Jochebed, Moses' mother saved Moses by putting him in a basket and floating him to the safety of Pharaoh's daughter. After killing cruel Egyptian taskmaster, Moses was forced to flee to Midian. It is here that Moses received his calling to deliver the Israelites. Moses was successful in his conquest to free the Israelites. In addition, Moses received the Torah from God and put it in writing for the record. Moses also went up to Mount Sinai and received the Ten Commandments that are used to this day. Moreover, Moses not only brought the Israelites into a covenant with God but also oversaw the building of the tabernacle.

### **Aaron**

Aaron, the older brother to Moses, was a prophet and high priest. Aaron was chosen by God to be the spokesman to Moses as he had a problem with stammering. It is Aaron who told Pharaoh to let the Israelites go and commanded Moses' rod to turn into a snake. Aaron strengthened Moss when he felt inadequate. Aaron was one of the three most important high priests mentioned in the bible. He began the formal line of the priesthood and passed his

garments to his son Eleazar. In the war with the Amalekites, Aaron helped lift Moses' hands in order to ensure their victory.

### **Joshua**

Joshua was Moses' assistant and became his successor after death. Joshua was initially charged with commanding Israel's army in the battle with the Amalekites. He, in addition, accompanied Moses in the first ascent to obtain the Ten Commandments and was present when Moses broke the tablets in anger due to Israelites idolatry. Joshua was one of the twelve spies sent by Moses to explore the land of Canaan. He and Caleb are renowned for encouraging the Israelites to wage war on the current occupants while the rest were pessimistic.

### **Jochebed**

Jochebed was the mother to Aaron, Miriam and Moses. Jochebed had Moses during a trying time in Israel's history as Pharaoh had ordered the death of all Israelite male infants. Jochebed's love for Moses trumped her fear of Pharaoh and as such, she kept Moses hidden for as long as she could. She then crafted a basket and floated him on the Nile to Pharaoh's daughter. Miriam witnessed this and was able to convince the pharaoh's daughter to get a Hebrew woman to look after Moses. In doing this she found a way to reunite Moses with his mother. Jochebed took this opportunity to teach Moses about Hebrew traditions and education thereby ensuring his upbringing was a Jewish one.

### **Zipporah**

Zipporah was the daughter to Jethro and the wife to Moses. Zipporah and Moses make their acquaintance after Moses saves her and her kin from shepherds at the watering hole. Jethro

then invites Moses to his home and marries Zipporah to him. Zipporah's greatest contribution to Israel is observed when she saves Moses' life at the inn. God calls Moses back to Egypt and on their way, Moses and his family stop at an Inn. It is here that God comes to kill Moses. Zipporah quickly circumcises her son and touches Moses' feet with the foreskin. This prompts the Lord to live without hurting Moses.

### **Main Events Covered in Each Book**

#### **Exodus**

The main theme in this Pentateuch is the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt. The first major event is the birth, exile, and call of Moses. Moses survives through tumultuous circumstances to survive to adulthood and receive his calling. The second major event would be the plagues and Passover. Here we see God's intervention in the aim of securing Israelites release from Egypt. The journey to Mount Sinai marks another key event depicted in the Exodus. Here we are shown in details the hunger, thirst and the war that Israelites have to fight through to get to Mount Sinai. Here the giving of the Ten Commandments and other laws makes its hallmark. The golden calf worshipped at the bottom of Mount Sinai is also a major event as it signifies Israelites' disobedience. The construction of the tabernacle signs off the Exodus as the last major event in the book.

#### **Leviticus**

The first major event in the book of Leviticus is the consecration of Aaron and his sons as priests of Israel. The Aaron's priesthood represented the priesthood of our Lord Jesus. Aaron's sons represent the church and Kingdom of God. The second historic event is the death of Nadab

and Abihu by God's hand. The latter offered strange fire before the Lord thereby infuriating Him. It is noteworthy that God's instructions for sacrifice be followed to the letter. The third major event would be the atonement. It is here that God and His people are reconciled via the shedding of sacrificial blood so that the Israelites might be deemed as clean and redeemed.

## **Numbers**

The book of numbers has four main events. The first is the preparation to depart from Sinai. This preparation takes nineteen days to prepare for. A census of all military capable men is also taken. The blessing of the congregation ensues after the census and gifts from various tribes are offered. The Passover is also celebrated. The journey from Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea is the second major event. This sees a rebellion against Moses ensue on the journey to Kadesh-Barnea. The fateful mission of the spies is also captured during this period. The wandering of the Israelites in the desert is another major theme. It is here that the Israelites receive the laws of God and a record of the capital punishment for various offenses. The history of the second arrival of the Israelites to Kadesh marks the last major event in Numbers. This section sees a second census carried out and Moses appoint Joshua his successor.

## **Deuteronomy**

The first major event in Deuteronomy would be the first address Moses gives to the Israelites. Moses repeats the laws with additions necessary to meet the new conditions. The second address of Moses marks the second key event. Here he again reminds the Israelites of their covenant with God and His laws. The third event entails laws as well. Here Moses reminds the Israelites on laws concerning sacrifice, the conduct of war, idolatry and the results of

observance or neglect. The last major event is Moses' last days, here Moses declares Joshua his replacement. The death and burial of Moses are also highlighted in this event.

### **Chronological Period of History Covered in Each Book**

#### **Exodus**

The deliverance of the people of Israel from their slavers is believed to have occurred between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E. 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 6:1 places the Exodus about 480 years before the construction of Solomon's temple thus implying the Exodus year could be 1450 B.C.E. these figures, however, are educated guesses at best since no evidence in support of this has been found. Even in the city of Kadesh where the Israelites settled for 38 years after turning back from Canaan had no remnants to prove Israelite settlement. The exact chronological period of the Exodus is therefore inconclusive.

#### **Leviticus**

There are no indicators of the period of history in which the events of Leviticus occurred. As such the dates from Leviticus must be derived from other Pentateuch books. The book of Leviticus is a continuation of the book of Exodus. This can be noted in the first chapter of Leviticus where Yahweh calls Moses to the tent of meeting. The tabernacle was put up on the first day of the second year after the Exodus. This being said, it would be prudent to believe that giving of the instructions above occurred during the spring of 1445B.C.

#### **Numbers**

The events recorded in Numbers span a period of 38 years. This is from the first day of the first year to the first day of the fortieth year. The book of numbers mostly highlights events that occurred in the desert during the journey to Canaan. The whole wilderness experience lasts about 40 years. Given this information, the events described in Numbers would have occurred over the period from 1445 to 1406 B.C.

### **Deuteronomy**

Although Deuteronomy is put forward as an address to the Israelites by Moses, scholars generally believe that it dates a much earlier period in Israelite history. An earlier edition of Deuteronomy was discovered in the temple of Jerusalem dating about 622 B.C. this edition was found with the book of law. This early edition corresponds roughly chapters 6-26 and 28 of the current Deuteronomy and expresses a cultic liturgy. To these original materials, other parties such as King Josiah added other materials following King Josiah's reforms. Deuteronomy can, therefore, be taken as the first part of history that follows the Israelites' long journey rather than the last book of the Pentateuch.