

2. Jesus in Exodus

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If you thought that there were many aspects in the Book of Genesis that pointed to Jesus, you won't be disappointed in the Book of Exodus either. You will find Jesus everywhere in this Book as well.

There is one main character in this Book – Moses. He was a type of Jesus as the deliverer of the Israelites. I like how D.L. Moody summed up Moses' life: "Moses spent his first forty years thinking he was somebody. He spent his second forty years learning he was nobody. He spent his third forty years discovering what God can do with a nobody."

But the Book of Exodus isn't limited with the life of Moses. There is so much more. The Book can be divided into three sections:

1) In Egypt – *ch. 1-12*: This happened in the span of 430 years from the death of Joseph to the tenth plague against the Egyptians.

2) En route to the Promised Land – *ch. 13-18*: During 3 month journey from Egypt to the entrance of the Promised Land, the Israelis did just about everything wrong. Yet the Lord was faithful to them with His guidance and provision.

3) At the Mount Sinai – *ch. 19-40*: They stayed there for a year. From *ch. 19* to *24*, the Lord gave them the laws and commandments. In the rest of the Book, the Lord taught them how to build a tabernacle and all its furnishings.

A. JESUS THE DELIVERER – *Chapters 1-2*

I find six interesting common connections between Jesus and Moses. No wonder many Bible students see Moses as a type of Jesus, the deliverer of the Israelites.

1) Born as a Jewish Son

M – Moses was a Jewish son in Egypt.

J – Jesus was a son of a Jewish carpenter in Israel.

2) Was threatened

M – When he was a baby, he was in danger of being killed by the Pharaoh, but was providentially cared for by God.

J – Jesus' life was threatened by Herod the Great when He was a toddler, but providentially escaped Herod's killing spree.

3) Suffered

M – He chose to suffer with the Jews rather than reigning in Egypt.

J – Jesus chose to lower Himself to identify with us in this world and refused to have the power of the world that belongs to satan. *Philippians 2:5-7*

4) Was rejected

M – Moses was rejected by his own people the first time.

J – The Son of Man, Jesus Christ was rejected by His own people and crucified.

5) The Gentile bride

M – While Moses was in the Midian Desert, he gained a Gentile bride.

J – When Christ was rejected by His own Israel people, He also opened the door of salvation to the Gentiles which became the base of His bride, the church.

6) The blood of the Lamb

M – Moses delivered God’s people through the blood of the lamb during the first Passover in Egypt.

J – Christ became the perfect Lamb of God with His own blood on the cross during a Passover.

B. JESUS THE LAMB OF GOD – Ch. 12

Exodus 12:5a Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year.

Exodus 12:7 And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

Exodus 12:11-13 And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord’s Passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. 13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

God’s 9 plagues ravaged through the land of Egypt because of the stubbornness of the Pharaoh. But the tenth plague from the Lord was different. It touched every family, from the Pharaoh to a cow in a poor peasant’s animal stall. Every first born was killed. Anyone who was not in the house with the unblemished lamb’s blood on the door post and the lintel drew their last breath that night.

The slaying of the lambs and the sprinkling of blood prefigured the substitutionary death of Christ. He is “our Passover Lamb”.

1 Corinthians 5:7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

Any one does not enter into the salvation through the blood of the Lamb of God will not only experience the physical death, but also spiritual eternal death.

C. JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE – Ch. 16

Exodus 16:4-5 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. 5 And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.”

The Lord brought 10 plagues against the Egyptians and the Pharaoh finally gave up. When the Israelis were stuck between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army which wanted to take them back to slavery, the Lord opened the sea and allowed them to pass through on the dry sea bed, then He drowned the entire Egyptians with the same sea water.

After all these miracles by God, the Israelis couldn’t fathom how He was going to provide them food in the wilderness. So they started something they did best – whining, crying, and complaining, just like us.

The Israelis were told to gather the manna daily, not skipping or hoarding. This reminds us of what our Lord Jesus said in His model prayer, “Give us this our daily bread” in Matthew 6:11. This is how the Lord wants us to live, day by day, trusting and depending on Him.

Just in case you are wondering how I connect the manna and the daily bread to Jesus, John 1:1 and 6:35 explain to us:

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

D. JESUS THE LIVING WATER – Ch. 17

Exodus 17:5-7 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

No sooner did God provide the bread from heaven daily to the people of Israel after He rescued them from the Egyptian soldiers' hot pursuit at the Red Sea, the Israelites were thinking that God is going to let them die of thirst in the wilderness. Isn't it awful how quickly humans choose to forget what God has done for us before? How quickly we can end up in despair and imagine the worst due to our distrust and unbelief of Him!

What does this rock in v6 represent? We are not left to guess work or our own speculation or our own wisdom. The Holy Spirit of God explains it in 1 Corinthians 10:

1 Corinthians 10:4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

E. JESUS DWELLED AMONG THEM – Ch. 25-40

The tabernacle, its furniture and the materials outside of the tent all pointed to our Lord Jesus Christ. You would think that this is interesting especially.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Greek word for 'dwelt' is "skeno" which literally translates as "tabernacle". It makes perfect sense when you think about God's Shekinah glory that filled the tabernacle in Exodus 40. The Lord already told us that He can measure the universe with the span of His hand. That little tabernacle couldn't hold God's literal presence, but He chose to make Himself to dwell in the midst of His people:

Exodus 40:34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

Since we covered the furniture inside of the Holy of Holies and the Holy Place of the Tabernacle in Hebrews ch. 9, we are not going to go over them again. This time we are going to go over the outside of the tent.

1) The Cherubim embroidered covering – Ex 26:1-6

The covering embroidered with Cherubim was the innermost covering over the Tabernacle. It was about 42 feet by 60 feet, 10 pieces of curtains joined together. So if you are standing inside of the Holy Place, the first covering you would see is this one. The first covering was fine-twined, Egyptian linen with cherubim embroidery in the material.

It did not touch the ground, and its beauty could only be seen on the inside of the Tabernacle. Just like that, the beauty of the Lord Jesus Christ cannot be seen by the carnal world. It is important for believers worship Him because we not only receive blessings from Him, but we need to adore Him in His beauty.

The Cherubim are there to remind us that there are angels around the Throne of Grace in heaven who bow their knees to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ.

The curtains and the coverings of the Tabernacle each bore a different color and each had its own meaning. The blue means 'heaven'. The scarlet speaks of 'the blood of Christ' on the cross. The purple speaks of 'royalty' as Jesus the King. The white linen around the outer court speaks of 'the Holiness of God'.

2) The Goats' hair covering – Ex 26:7-13

The second curtain was made of goats' hair and it touched the ground. It was about 45 feet by 60 feet, 10 pieces of curtains joined together. This curtain speaks of Christ's worth for sinners. It is symbolic of the death of Christ. Additionally, it speaks of our sins that were transferred to Him. The color of goat's hair tends to be black that represents our sins.

3) The ram skins dyed red covering – Ex 26:14

A ram's skin is not red naturally, but had to be dyed to become red. This reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins on the cross. Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah some 750 years before His crucifixion:

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

As this red-dyed ram skin covering that represents the blood of Christ placed on the second covering, the black goat's hair covering, it represents our sins which were covered by the blood of Christ.

Speaking of a ram, do you remember it was a ram caught in the thicket that God provided to be sacrificed in place of Isaac in Genesis 22:8-13? Abraham prophetically declared, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." Jesus just did that. The ram speaks of consecration and obedience to God.

4) The outer covering with badger skin – Ex 26:14

This is the outermost covering of the Tabernacle. The covering was made from either badger or sea cow skin. This covering formed a thick, protective and weatherproof layer over the Tabernacle.

From the outside, this covering made the Tabernacle look ordinary and unattractive just like Jesus' appearance. It represents the human side of Jesus.

Isaiah 53:2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

Today there is much temptation to be fashionable and image conscious. Not so with Jesus. What He possesses is real and eternal. He looked like an ordinary person from the outside. But when we get to know Him through His Word, He is full of glory, grace, and truth. It is no wonder why the Word said that He dwelt among us and yet the world didn't know Him in John 1.

F. APPLICATIONS

- 1) The physical freedom is only available with the mutual agreement and it is temporal. But the spiritual freedom is only available through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, it has nothing to do with us, and it is eternal.

- 2) Our spiritual freedom must be balanced with submission to God's authority.