

# Old Testament Survey : 2

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		Page
Lesson 1	Exodus – The way out	1
Lesson 2	Exodus, continued	8
Lesson 3	Leviticus: How to come near to God	20
Lesson 4	Numbers: The Book of Israel's wanderings	28
Lesson 5	Deuteronomy: The Book of Remembrance	35

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# Exodus – The way out

## Lesson 1

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**Exodus is the book of deliverance and redemption.**

**Note: 400 years have passed between the end of Genesis and the beginning of Exodus.**

**EXODUS**                      The word "exodus" means – the departure, going out, the way out

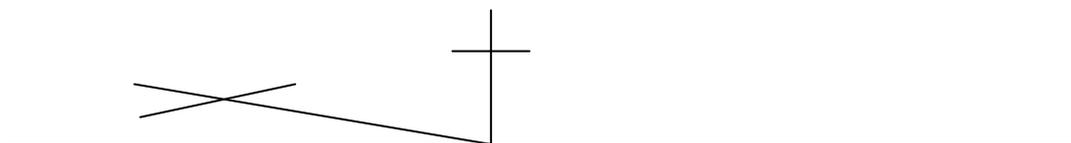
**AUTHOR**                      Moses

**BACKGROUND**            Between the end of Genesis and the beginning of Exodus, the **family** of God had become **a nation** of between two and three million people. In Genesis 15:13, God told Abraham that at least 400 years would pass before the *promise* of Canaan, would become the *possession* of his descendants.

**KEY VERSES**                **Read Exodus 3:8 and Exodus 19:3-6**

**KEY CHAPTERS**            **Exodus 12 – 14:** The climax (which means the most important point), of the Old Testament is recorded in chapters 12 – 14 – the salvation of each person in Israel through the blood of a lamb (Passover) and God's power (by parting the Red Sea).

The exodus of Israel from Egypt is the central event of the Old Testament and is mirrored in the Cross of Christ in the New Testament



### Old Testament

Deliverance of Israel as slaves of Pharaoh through the blood of a lamb, and God's power to deliver, separating them by the Red Sea from Pharaoh's kingdom of Egypt.

### JESUS

**The Lamb**

### New Testament

Deliverance of mankind as slaves to sin, through the blood of The Lamb and His power, delivering us from the devil and his kingdom of darkness.

**Moses**                      A type or shadow of our Redeemer/Deliverer

**Egypt**                        An illustration of the world

**Pharaoh**                    An illustration of the ruler of the world, the devil

**Israel**                        Unsaved mankind, in bondage and unable to deliver himself from sin, needing redemption



**PURPOSE**                **Remember, the "purpose" of a book is the reason that it was written. It is like asking, "Why did Moses write this book?"**

1. Exodus shows the beginning of the fulfilment of the Abrahamic covenant.
2. It also tells us of the rapid growth of Israel and the events which led up to their exodus, or departure from Egypt.
  - a) **There were negative events:**  
Hard bondage (slavery); created a longing for deliverance
  - b) **And positive events:**  
Miracles gave the Israelites faith in the Lord God, the Covenant-Maker, the Redeemer and God of all power ... and in Moses, His servant.
3. Exodus also introduces the Mosaic Covenant, with its Moral Law (laws about our relationship with God), Civil Law (laws about our relationship with each other) and Ceremonial Law (laws for the priesthood).

**OUTLINE** Exodus can easily be divided into two sections:

- |    |                              |                         |
|----|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | <b>Redemption from Egypt</b> | <b>Chapters 1 – 19</b>  |
| 2. | <b>Revelation from God</b>   | <b>Chapters 20 – 40</b> |

**EVENTS:**

**REDEMPTION FROM EGYPT – Chapters 1 – 19**

**Note:** 70 Hebrews settled in Egypt (Exodus 1:5) – Jacob, his sons, their wives and children plus Joseph, his wife and two sons.

Now, after 400 years, this family of 70 has grown into a nation of millions.

1. **Israel's bondage.**

**Read Exodus 1:5-12**

The Egyptians were alarmed at the great number of Israelites and they were also fearful, distrusting their loyalty should another nation declare war on Egypt.

**Now read 1:15-17 then 20-22**

- a) **Their oppression.**
  - i) Hard taskmasters (verse 11).
  - ii) Their labours were intensified (verses 13-14).
  - iii) The midwives were commanded to destroy all male children (verses 15-16).
  - iv) All the people were commanded to destroy the male children (verse 22).
- b) **Their deliverer.**

**Read Exodus 2:1-3 and 5-8**

It must have been very difficult for Moses' mother to trust God to keep her son. We see though that God not only kept him, but gave him back to her.

**Read Exodus 2:11-15**

**Read Hebrews 11:24-25**

It is interesting to note that despite his royal, luxurious upbringing as the son of Pharaoh's daughter, Moses is an Israelite both by birth and *by choice*. ("brothers" verse 11.)

It was Moses' mother, his nurse, who taught him his Hebrew heritage and encouraged him in his relationship with God. Egypt had many, many gods – yet Moses knew the one and only God.

**Read Exodus 2:16-22**

**2. Israel's deliverance.**

**Read Exodus 2:23-25**

a) **The Deliverer – Moses.**

A man named Mr. D.L. Moody once said that Moses spent:

Forty years thinking he was somebody (a prince)  
Forty years learning he was nobody (a shepherd)  
And forty years discovering what God can do with a nobody!

b) **The Commission.**

**Read Exodus 3:1-6**

Mount "Horeb" is another name for Mount "Sinai".

**Read verses 7-8**

**Note:** God did not say He was going to come down and kill all the Egyptians ... He said He would deliver His people from the *power* of the Egyptians *and* bring them *out of* that land and *into* the land He had promised Abraham.

**Read verses 10-15**

**Note verse 12:** God gave Moses a sign – when Moses *had brought the people out* ... not all signs are given *before* we do what God asks. This sign would only be given *after* Moses had done what God was asking.

**3. God's plan.**

**Read Exodus 3:18-22**

a) They were asking to go to worship God. Worship is a vital part of our relationship with God ... without it, we are in danger of drifting away from Him, and if we did that, we would "die".

b) God *knew* beforehand that Pharaoh would not let them go, "*except under compulsion*".

Compulsion – force, pressure, strong inducement, urging.



c) God's plan was that the Hebrews would not leave Egypt empty-handed. Remember this ... because later we will see *why* He planned for much of the wealth of Egypt to go with them.

4. **Moses' response.**

**Read Exodus 4:10**

**Read Acts 7:22**

} Moses was not "quick" or "eloquent", but he spoke well and his words carried the authority of God.

**Read Exodus 4:20-23**

5. **Moses' carelessness.**

**Read Exodus 4:24-26.** What did circumcision represent? Do you remember?

Yes, circumcision was the external sign that a man was in covenant relationship with God. Moses was going to bring his sons into the "enemy camp" without God's protection.

Zipporah quickly performed what was necessary.

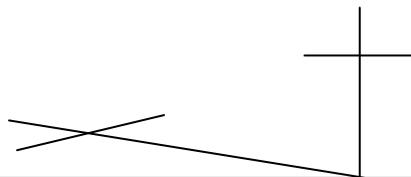
6. **Moses meets Pharaoh.**

**Read Exodus 5:1-4**

Moses asked only that they be allowed to go "three days journey to worship God".

Pharaoh's response shows his contempt – "I don't know your God, so why should I let you go? Get back to work!"

**Read verses 7-8 ... and then verses 19-21**



**Old Testament**

Demand from Pharaoh to maintain the production of bricks – but without what they needed to make what he was asking for – namely, straw.

This made the lives of the Israelites very unpleasant – instead of life getting easier, it was getting much harder.

**New Testament**

Today we have to look after our families – to feed, clothe and educate them ... as well as maintaining our commitment to the church. Everything costs more and more and we don't have what is necessary – namely, money!

This makes our lives very difficult too.



4. **Flies**  
(Exodus 9:1-4) Again, the air did not bring a blessing, but a problem for the Egyptians.  
  
**Note: Exodus 8:22** "I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live. No swarms of flies will be there ... I make a distinction between My people and your people". God is able to keep His people while judging others.
5. **Death of Livestock**  
(Exodus 9:1-4) Egyptians worshipped many animal gods, including bull-gods called Apis and Mnevis and the cow-god – Khnum. All these gods were dying!
6. **Boils**  
(Exodus 9:8-10) As part of their worship of Ra, the sun god, Egyptians used to throw ashes into the air so that Ra would bless them but now, instead of blessing, there was disease!
7. **Hail**  
(Exodus 9:17) Even the weather obeyed God. However, in case anyone thought this might be just a coincidence, the hailstorm was not like any other in Egypt's history.  
  
**Note: Exodus 9:20-21.** Some Egyptians realized these plagues were from the *real* God and they began to do what the Israelites did. The slaves who worked farms and their livestock were kept safe.
8. **Locusts**  
(Exodus 10:4-6) The absolute devastation caused by locusts is hard to imagine. Not only do they devour crops, they often invade houses, even eating the woodwork. When a swarm of locusts is very large, even sunlight cannot penetrate, so they convert day into night.  
  
**Note: Read Exodus 9:31.** The flax and barley were destroyed by the hail, but the spelt and wheat had not yet begun to grow ...  
**Now read verses 5 and 6**
9. **Darkness**  
(Exodus 10:21) "Ra" was what the Egyptians called the sun-god. "Ra" was believed to be the most powerful of the gods ... second only to Pharaoh himself. However, even "Ra" was inferior to God, and a darkness so heavy it could be felt, covered the land.
10. **Death of the Firstborn**  
(Exodus 11:1-10) Egypt believed in reincarnation – that is, they believed that when a person died, they would be born all over again in a new body. The Egyptians also believed that Pharaoh was a powerful god – and that his divine spirit would be passed on to his son. The ultimate disaster for Pharaoh was the death of his son ... for that meant the death of his supposed divinity.

Every plague was directed at an Egyptian deity. Everything Egypt put its trust in was shown to be false.

b) **The result: All Egypt was shaken!**

The plagues did not only last for a moment or two, but most likely took many months. In that time, the land was afflicted with blood, flies, locusts, etc. Crops were wiped out, cattle and other animals destroyed, trees and shrubs – in fact everything that grew, was completely devastated.

The once glorious, powerful Egypt lay in ruins.

### Memory Verse

Romans 8:28, *“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose”*.

### Teacher's Notes

1. **Read Romans 9:17.** Note that God "raised up" Pharaoh for this purpose – that God would show His might and power through him.

**Read Exodus 7:4-5, 9:14-16 and 10:1-2**

This does not mean God *created* Pharaoh to be destroyed. Pharaoh's heart was hard from the start.

Pharaoh hardened his own heart in: Exodus 7:13-14, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 34-35.

The Lord hardened his heart in: Exodus 9:12; 10:20, 27.

2. **Read Exodus 2:16.** Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, was a "priest of Midian". This does not mean he was a priest of Jehovah God ... for the Midianites were Arabs, and did not worship God.

**Read Exodus 18:1-12.** After hearing how God had delivered the Israelites from the power of Egypt, Jethro says in verse 11, "Now I know that the Lord is greater than all the gods". Before, he had worshipped false gods, but upon hearing of what God had done, he realized who the true God was ... and said "Now I know..."

Jethro is also called Reuel in Exodus 2:18 and Raguel in Numbers 10:29.

# Exodus, continued

## Lesson 2

### A. God redeems His people

Chapter 12, central to the message of the Old Testament, is a picture of our redemption by the blood of the Passover Lamb.

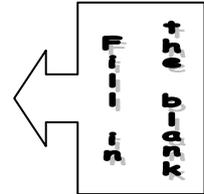
#### 1. Passover.

**Read Exodus 12:1-14**

"This month is .... \_\_\_\_\_"

The instruction of this month as Israel's New Year marked a new beginning – and a *new calendar*.

Do you understand the meaning of that new calendar?



Old Testament	JESUS 1 Corinthians 5:7	New Testament
Redemption by the blood of a lamb		Redemption by the blood of "The Lamb"
No longer slaves in Egypt		No longer slaves to sin
Everything changed		Everything changes
A new year		A new life
This marked a new beginning		This marks a new beginning

#### 2. Passover – "This shall be a sign for you".

**Read Exodus 12:13**

**The blood was a sign – and God would "pass over" all who had this sign on their door posts.**

- It was a sign of God's judgment on Pharaoh and his people.
- And it was a sign of God's mercy and protection of His people.

#### 3. The same for everyone.

Notice that everyone had to keep this Passover exactly the way God required. ("Passover" because the angel of death would "pass over" them.)

Everyone must take a lamb – not a goat, or a pig! Even if Mrs. Mkize would really

rather have had a nice chicken, she had to roast a lamb. Mrs. Mkize had to *roast* the lamb – even if Mr. Mkize preferred it in a curry.

The blood had to go on the door posts. It was not enough that the lamb died; its blood had to be *applied*. It was not what they thought about it ... it was what they *did with it* that saved them.

Hyssop was a very common weed – easily obtained by everyone – typical of the faith necessary for salvation – for it is a gift from God to everyone.

It was really a very strange way to be saved. Yet their salvation depended on doing exactly as God had instructed.

It is the same today: "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved". Acts 4:12.

There is no salvation in the name of Buddha, even if the person is a "good Buddhist", or in Mohammed ... only in the name of Jesus.

**Read Exodus 12:29-30**



Think for a moment

**Can you imagine that night in Egypt?**

**In the land of Goshen, the air was full of the delicious smell of thousands and thousands and thousands of roasting lambs; but over Egypt, the air was full of the cries of people mourning the death of first-born sons.**

**And remember, it was not just young children who died – from the youngest to the oldest – babies to grandfathers ... every first-born male died that night. Many houses mourned not just the death of their son, but of their father as well. Even the first-born cattle died. (Exodus 11:5)**

**The next morning, approximately three million Israelites set out on their journey ... leaving behind the ashes of their fires and the sorrow of thousands and thousands of Egyptian families.**

**And they did not leave empty-handed. They "plundered the Egyptians" just as God had said. Remember this, for later we will see what the reason was for taking the wealth of Egypt with them.**

**Some Egyptians and others also left with the Israelites (Exodus 12:38) ... everyone who recognized that Israel's God was the true God.**

**So there were a great many people as well as livestock, flocks and herds.**

## **B. The Feast of Unleavened Bread**

**Read Exodus 12:15-20**

"Leaven" is yeast, a substance used to make bread rise.  
In the Bible "leaven" is symbolically associated with sin.

Remember, it is *symbolically* associated with sin. That does not mean that yeast, or bread, is sinful.

It shows us that, as Christians, we need to remove all sin from our lives.

<b>Shadow</b>	<b>REALITY</b>
<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
<b>Read Psalm 139:23-24</b>	<b>Read 1 Corinthians 5:7</b>
<b>Leaven, or yeast</b>	<b>The "leaven" of Herod.</b> Mark 8:15. Love of the world and position.
	<b>Leaven of Sadducees.</b> Matthew 16:6-12. An arrogant attitude; intellectual religion centred on man, not on God.
	<b>Leaven of Pharisees.</b> Matthew 16:12; Luke 12:1. Hypocrisy; pride; joyless observance of detailed rules; legalism.
	<b>Leaven of the Galatians.</b> Galatians 5:9. Salvation by law and works. Heavy emphasis on law and nothing of grace.
	<b>Leaven of Corinthians.</b> 1 Corinthians 5:1-13. Sins of the flesh – lust, coveting, etc.

## C. Separation from the past

### 1. Complete separation.

#### **Read Exodus 12:41 and then read Genesis 15:13-14**

In Genesis God said that Israel would be *enslaved* for 400 years. Exodus states that "the time the sons of Israel *lived in Egypt* was 430 years".

#### **Read Exodus 13:17-18**

Remember, these people had been slaves for 400 years. They were not prepared physically or mentally to withstand warlike opposition ... although they went out in formation, like an army.

#### **Read verses 21-22**

God supernaturally led them, and provided shade in the desert during the heat of the day as well as light and warmth from the severe cold at night. But God was not finished in dealing with Egypt.



### 3. Israel's training begins.

No sooner was Israel released from bondage in Egypt than they began to complain. Murmuring and complaining was to become their automatic reaction to any and every difficulty they would face ... and it has been the reaction of multitudes of God's people ever since!

- a) **No water. Exodus 15:23-27.**

"**Marah**" means "bitter". The water was brackish, or salty.

- b) **No food. Exodus 16:2-8, 14-15, 35.**

God provides manna. "Manna" is Hebrew for "what is it?"

Verse 8: "Your grumblings are \_\_\_\_\_"  
\_\_\_\_\_

- c) **No water, again. Exodus 17:1-6.**

Verse 6: What was Moses to do? \_\_\_\_\_

- d) **Victory over Amalek. Exodus 17:8-16.**

**Read Exodus 17:13-14**

Who was the young man commanding Israel's army? \_\_\_\_\_

### D. **God covenants with Moses**

**Read Exodus 19:1-6**

**Read 1 Peter 2:9**

**Read Revelation 1:6; 5:10**

} "a special treasure ... a kingdom of priests"

God has not changed His plan. From the beginning, His desire has been for a *kingdom* of priests, not a tribe of priests or a group of priests, but a priesthood made up of all believers.

1. **The Law – The Holiness of God. Exodus chapter 20 to chapter 24.**

⇒ **The law came *after* their salvation or deliverance from Egypt.** God did not give Israel the Law and wait to see if they would keep it for two weeks before He saved them.

That is, the Law was not given as a means of salvation. It was given to a people already saved in order to teach them God's will so that they would be able to fulfil His purpose for them as a "kingdom of priests and a holy nation".

**"Holy"** – Not like any other. Separate, or apart from, in the sense of being unique or one of a kind; totally distanced from all that is impure, sinful or morally imperfect. Entire freedom from moral evil or wickedness

**It was given in three parts:**

- i) The Moral Law
  - ii) The Civil, or Social, Law
  - iii) The Ceremonial, or Religious, Law
- } "The Law"

**The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3-17) are a part of "The Law".**

## **2. The purpose of the Law.**

The Law demands that man is perfect. However, only one man has been able to keep it perfectly from the time it was given – and that man was Jesus.

Jesus Christ not only kept the Law perfectly, *He paid the complete penalty for all the times it had been broken, or would be broken in the future.*

**If no one (other than Jesus) could keep it, why was it given?**

- a) **To show us our exceeding sinfulness, to expose sin, to identify sin.**

**Read Romans 3:20    And Romans 5:20    And Romans 7:7**

**Now read 1 Corinthians 15:56**

The sting of death is *sin*, and the *power of sin* is the *law*.

**The Law points out our inability to keep what we know is good.**

- b) **To show us the fearful, blazing, dazzling holiness of God.**

- c) **To provide us with a standard for righteousness.**

The Law gives us a picture of God's righteousness and holiness ... and acts as a mirror so that we are able to see our sinfulness.

- d) **To show us our total *inability* to meet the standard of holiness God requires.** We cannot keep the Law, even though we know it is good.

**Read Romans 7:14-23**

- e) **To point us to Christ.**

**Read Romans 7:24-25 and Galatians 3:23-24**

## **3. How much Law does the Church need today?**

**Read Romans 3:20-24**

**Read Romans 10:4**

We cannot make ourselves more righteous, no matter what we do.

If "the end" is really *"the end"*, how much is left to do?

But ... if we take away the Law, won't we sin?

No, because everything we do is a result of our *love* for God ... isn't it?

**Read Romans 14:23**

**And James 4:17**

**4. Still under Law? Still under a curse!**

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**Read Galatians 3:10-14**

"All who rely on observing the law are under a \_\_\_\_\_  
for it is written: "\_\_\_\_\_ is everyone who does not continue to do  
\_\_\_\_\_ written in the Book of the Law.

Clearly \_\_\_\_\_ is justified before God by the law, because "The  
righteous will live by \_\_\_\_\_". (Verses 10-11)

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**5. Our righteousness.**

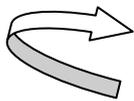
- a) Came from God. We have Christ's righteousness, not our own. Romans 10:4.
- b) Our righteousness is a *gift* – a "free gift" – from God.

**Read Romans 5:17**

- c) Therefore we can have a wonderful relationship with God.

**Read Romans 5:1-2 and Galatians 5:1**

No law will ever make anyone worship God. Worship is a thing of the heart.



**Read Colossians 2:13-14**

That should make all of us worship from hearts overflowing with gratitude.

**6. Does the Law replace the Abrahamic Covenant?**

**Read Galatians 3:19** – it was *added* – *therefore the Law does not do away with faith.*

# Shadow

# REALITY

## Old Testament

### Pentecost

50 days after leaving Egypt  
thunder, lightning, wind  
fire  
God spoke from heaven  
people afraid and ran away  
later they sinned and 3000 died

## New Testament

### Pentecost

50 days after Jesus' death  
a noise, rushing wind  
tongues of fire  
people spoke in a heavenly language  
people came to hear  
Peter preached and 3000 saved

## E. The Tabernacle

### Read Exodus chapters 25 – 40

"**Tabernacle**" – means to dwell or to abide, live, stay, reside.

There seems to be two accounts of the Tabernacle in Exodus. However, in the first (Chapters 25 – 31), God gives Moses instructions on how to build the Tabernacle – and in the second, (Chapters 35 – 40), Moses describes what they have built.

It was completed *one year* after leaving Egypt. (Exodus 40:17)

### Read Exodus 25:1-9

Israel did not have to plead with God to come and dwell with them. God *wanted to be right in the middle of everything His people were (and are) doing.*

Moses was not to build the way *he* wanted to.

God carefully instructed him to "build according to the pattern I show you". These instructions are repeated over and over again in the chapters that follow ... "make sure you build according to the pattern I showed you".

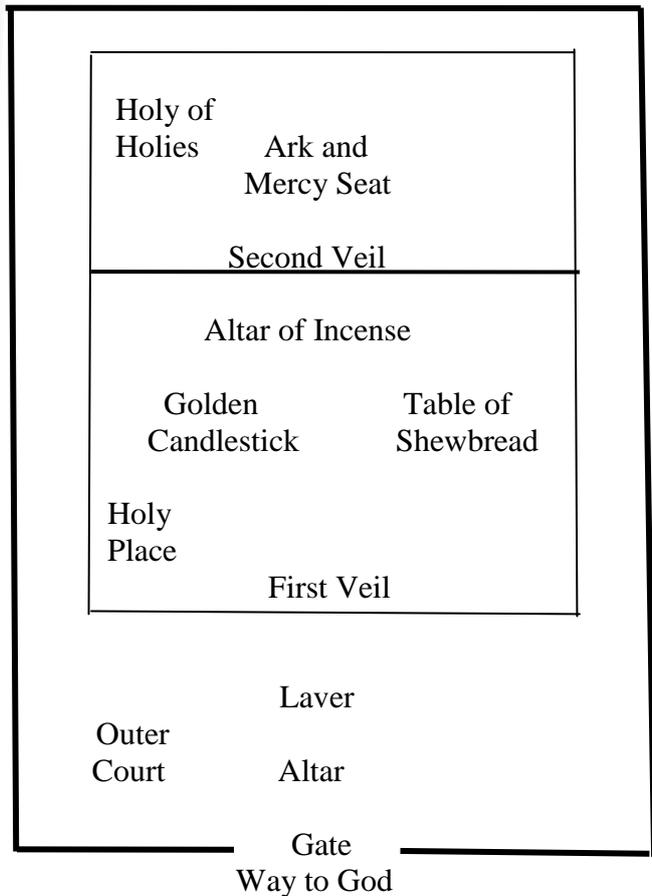
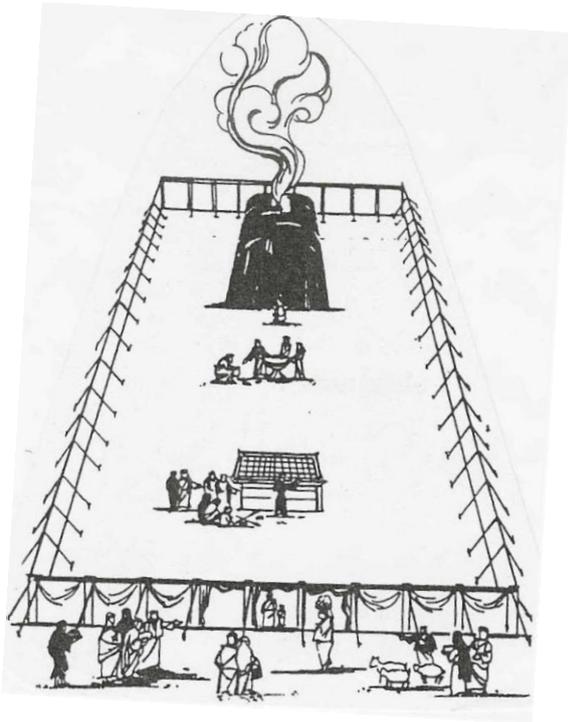
Those instructions are also for us today. Individually and corporately, we are the "temple of God", and God has given us His instructions on how we are to build both our lives and His church.

### Read 1 Peter 2:3-5

### Now read Ephesians 2:8

In the Old Testament, salvation came through faith in the Law. That is, faith that what the Law asked for, and therefore what the person did, would make them acceptable to God.

Today we have faith in Jesus Christ – salvation by *grace*.



**A closer look at the Tabernacle:**

1. **There is only one way in, only one door.**

Read John 10:9

2. **The huge altar is the first thing seen on entering.**

Read John 14:6

Read Romans 12:1

Read Matthew 10:38-39

3. **What is "my life"?**

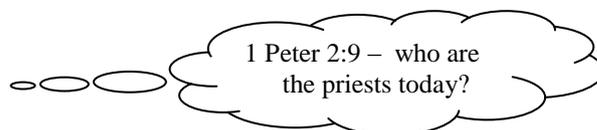
It is my personal hopes, dreams, ambitions, desires, my possessions, finances, etc.  
In fact *everything!*

It is my "old nature" before I was saved.

And there is only *one* thing God wants me to do with it – lay it on the altar. If I don't lay it down, and keep laying it down every day, then my old nature rises up again – my jealousies, anger, my ambitions, what I want, etc.

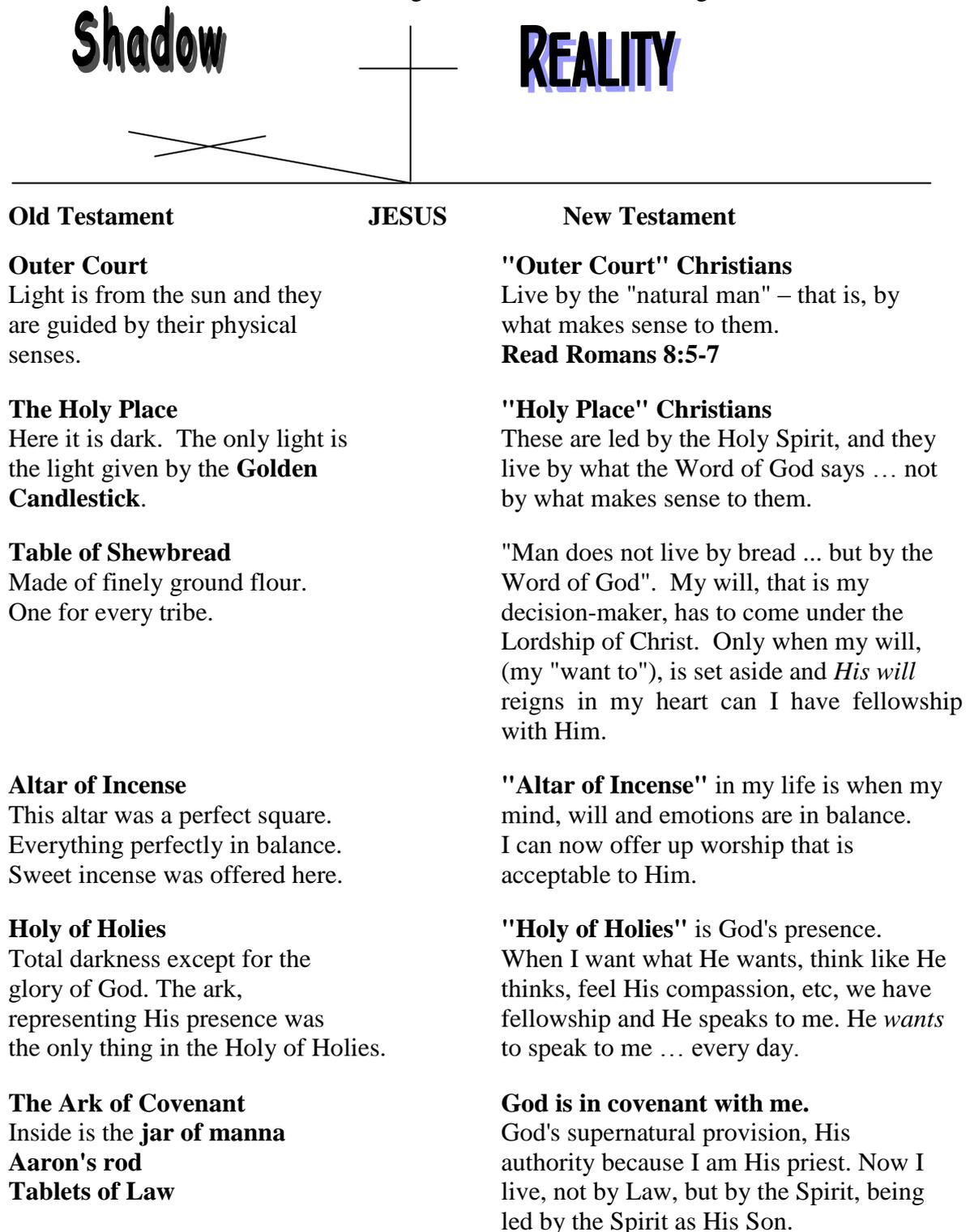
4. **The next item is the Laver.**

Read Exodus 30:17-21



## Now read Ephesians 5:26

The laver today is the Word of God. We need to look into it every day, to see where *we* need cleaning up ... not where our wife needs to change, or our husband needs to change. We need to see where *we* need to change; where *we* need cleansing.



## F. The Priests were consecrated

"Consecrate" – setting apart a thing or a person to the worship or service of God.

**Read Exodus 29:19-21**

Ears – what they hear, what they listen to  
Thumbs – what they do, what they work at  
Toes – where and how they walked  
Clothing – their appearance

**Read Mark 4:24**

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:31**

**Read James 1:22; Ephesians 5:15-17**

**Read Romans 13:14; Revelation 7:13-14**

**G. Israel sinned**

**1. The Golden Calf.**

**Read Exodus 32:1-6**

**Note:** The gold rings in their ears were not evil, *it was what they did with the gold that was sinful – they made an idol and worshipped it.*

**Read Exodus 32:7 – then verse 10, then 12 and 13**

Here we see the character of Moses. He could have chosen to let God make a great nation from him ... but he reminded God of His covenant promises ... and His reputation among the nations.

**Read Exodus 32:21-24**

Here we see the character of Aaron. "I threw it in the fire and out came this calf".

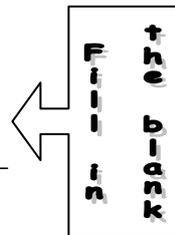
However, verse 4 tells us that he took it and carved it with a tool, making it into a calf and then offering it to the people as their god.

**2. The result of their sin.**

**Read Exodus 32:25-29**

The tribe of Levi was the first to respond.

How many people died? \_\_\_\_\_



**H. The Mosaic Covenant**

The sign of the covenant – the Sabbath (Exodus 31:13; 35:2)

**The tabernacle was built "just as the Lord commanded", and His glory filled it.**

**Read Exodus 40:34**

**CONCLUSION:**

**In Exodus, we see the transition (change) of Israel from one family of 12 sons, to ONE NATION of 12 tribes. God saved His people out of the bondage of slavery; freed them and separated them. Not all the experiences were pleasant, but all were necessary in order to bring them to a mature faith and trust in Him.**

**The Book of Exodus ends with a description of the glory of God filling the Tabernacle. Despite the failures of a redeemed people, God in His grace cannot be stopped from fulfilling His ultimate purposes in redemption.**

### Memory Verse

1 Peter 2:9, "*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*".

### Teacher's Notes

1. If we consider Genesis 15:13, and Exodus 1:8-11, the Israelites lived for 30 years in peace with Egypt until their numbers increased and then years later a king arose who "did not know Joseph". In other words, felt no obligation to continue giving the Israelites a special position. This king enslaved them – forcing them to build at least two cities (verse 11) which was a task not easily completed. Israel spent 400 years in Egypt.
2. The qualification for not being under the Law is found in Galatians 5:18 ... if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. Therefore the reverse is also true – that is, if you are *not* led by the Spirit then you *are* still under the Law. Obviously a person, who has not made Jesus Christ Saviour and Lord of their lives, cannot be "led by the Spirit". Therefore, the unsaved person *is* still under the Law and will be judged by it.
3. If we consider the tabernacle for us today, then how do we set aside "our mind, will and emotions"? By living according to what the Word of God says, not by what we think. For example: Let us say that I find a certain man at church really irritating. In fact, I do not like him at all. My natural behaviour would be to avoid him, but what does the Bible say I should do? Yes, it says I should "love" him! How do I do that? By doing what 1 Corinthians 13 says: by being patient with him, by being kind, not jealous, not arrogant, not easily provoked, etc.  
Or another example: I am short of money, so I tell myself that this month it does not make sense to tithe – but the Bible says, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you". "It is more blessed to give than to receive". "Give and it will be given to you", etc.
4. In the Outer Court I can read the Bible and get all kinds of revelation because I am working in my senses but, in the Holy Place, I have to yield and put myself and what I think aside to hear what God is saying.

Are you saying that you don't "feel like" loving that person who you think has wronged you? If you have laid yourself on the altar and have set aside your will and submitted to God's will and His Word, your mind and your will make a majority ... your emotions will automatically come into line. Do you have a bad temper? Give your mind and will over to the Holy Spirit, and you will be able to control your bad temper.

# Leviticus: How to come near to God

## Lesson 3

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### The time of writing Leviticus:

Israel remained camped at Mount Sinai for one month. During this time, the events described in the Book of Leviticus and the first 9 chapters of Numbers took place.

**AUTHOR**        Moses

**KEY VERSES**   **Read Leviticus 17:11**

**Read Leviticus 20:7-8**

### PURPOSE

1.    **To tell Israel how to come near to God.**

Remember, God is "holy" – not like any other – He is love; He is good, pure, just, moral ... etc.

But how can a holy God have a close relationship with sinful man? That is the question answered in Leviticus, as God instructs the Levites and the nation on how to approach Him.

2.    **To show that the way to God is through sacrifice** – as the innocent sheds its life blood for the guilty.

Leviticus instructs the priests concerning their ministry of presenting sacrifices and offerings on behalf of themselves and the nation.

3.    **To explain the difference between the clean and the unclean.**

In the Old Testament, "clean" and "unclean" describes the status of something which relates to either of the following:

- a)    Something to do with a religious ceremony.
- b)    A person's moral purity – which is very important to an individual's relationship with God.

### OUTLINE

#### A.   **How to come near to God – Chapters 1 – 17**

**Note:**    God's attitude to man is that He *wants* fellowship.  
              He wants each person to have a close relationship with Him.

              The Law was not given to keep mankind away from God.  
              It was given to protect man, not to punish him.

## 1. The way to God is through sacrifice.



**The sacrifice had to be *perfect, not the person bringing it!***

Jesus, our *perfect* Lamb of God, died for us. We are not yet perfect, but He is perfect and therefore we are acceptable to God.

a) **Two Sacrifices were *required*.** [essential, necessary, compulsory]

### **Read Leviticus 4:2-4**

i) **The Sin offering.**

Each individual was to atone for their sins even if the sins were unintentional.

The person identified himself with the animal by placing his/her hands on its head as the priest killed it.

Jesus fulfilled this offering by being an atonement for the guilt of our sin.

### **Read 1 Peter 2:24**

ii) **The Trespass offering.**

### **Read Leviticus 5:15-16**

This offering was made for:

Mistakenly taking what belonged to God – this could be the first born of your flocks, first fruits of harvest, or tithes, etc., and ..... for any harm done to a neighbour by mistake.

Example: Perhaps your neighbour claimed that one of his sheep had strayed and was now with your sheep, but you are sure all the sheep in your field belong to you. Later in the week, some of your family arrive for a visit and you kill one of your sheep for a feast. Afterwards you count your sheep and still have just as many as before your family arrived! You made a mistake. The sheep you killed and ate must have belonged to your neighbour!

Oh no! What do you do now?

Well, first of all, you must of course repay your neighbour ...

### **But read Leviticus 6:1-7**

Not only was the guilty person to restore what he had harmed, he was to repay *more!*

Jesus fulfilled the Trespass Offering by atoning for the damage of sin. (Psalm 51:4)

**The Trespass Offering symbolizes *forgiveness, as God forgives us and we forgive each other.***

iii) **Atonement in the Old Testament.**

**Read Leviticus 17:11 and verse 14**

The Hebrew word “atonement” means “to cover or conceal” – a covering which God gave to conceal sin, making it possible to come near to Him.

The death of a sacrificial animal was required for atonement.

Israel was told not to eat blood because "its blood is identified with its life" (verse 14). It is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

b) **Three sacrifices were voluntary.**

i) **The Burnt offering.** (Leviticus 1)

This sacrifice was completely consumed by fire, which symbolizes Jesus' complete surrender to God and our complete surrender to Him also, as Jesus' disciples.

**Read Romans 12:1-2**

ii) **The Meal and Drink offerings.** (Leviticus 2)

This offering symbolized the graciousness of God in providing what is necessary for life and godliness and is fulfilled in Jesus, God's grace in Person.

iii) **The Peace offering.** (Leviticus 3)

This was a fellowship offering from an individual already in right standing with God, having received forgiveness of sin, just to celebrate and thank Him for the peace between them.

Jesus Christ is the one who made peace between man (you and me) and God and who now is our Peace. (Thank You, Jesus!)

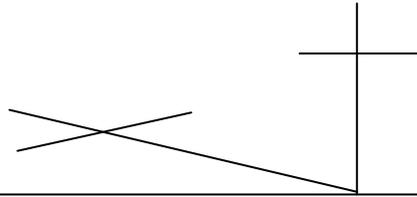
2. **The way to God is through the Priesthood.**

The priest's function was to represent God to the people, and to represent the people to God.

a) **The anointing of Aaron and his sons.**

**Read Leviticus 8:10-12**

**Read Leviticus 8:22-24**



**Old Testament**

**Jesus,  
our High Priest**

**New Testament**

Aaron's right ear  
His right hand  
His right foot

What you hear – Mark 4:24  
What you do – Psalm 24:4  
Where you go and how you live – Micah 6:8; Galatians 5:16; 2 Corinthians 4:2  
Every Christian

Aaron and his sons

**1 John 2:20**

**“But you have an anointing from the Holy One and you all know the truth”.**

b) **Qualifications for the Levites.**

**Read Leviticus 21:18-23**

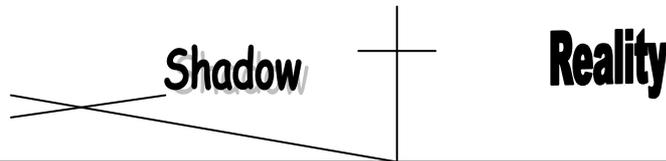
Remember, *not all Israelites were priests* – only the tribe of Levi.

Also – *not all Levites were priests* – only those who were free from any type of physical defect. (Leviticus 21:18-23)

And, not all Levites, even if they were free of physical deformities, could be High Priest – only someone descended from Aaron. (Exodus 28:1)

**Note:** All Levites, even those excluded from the priesthood because of a physical defect, could come into the Tabernacle courts, just as the rest of Israel, and they could share in the priests’ food, but they could not serve as priests – that is, represent God to the people and the people to God.

**Physical Defects that Excluded Levites from the Priesthood**



**Old Testament**

**New Testament**

Natural or physical  
Physical defects which could not be healed

Spiritual and personal  
Defects of *character* which can change with God's help

**Important!** The physical defects that excluded Old Testament Levites from the priesthood, are today symbolized by *character defects* which can disqualify a person from *leadership*.

Remember, how you lead is the way people think God leads, therefore take care that your leadership accurately represents Him. God *loves* His people and guides them with tender care.

- i) **Blind**: Lack of vision. How can someone lead if they do not know where they are going? (Matthew 15:14; 23:24)
- ii) **Lame**: Not able to "walk". This person understands what God is doing and where He wants them to go, but there is something wrong with their lifestyle and they refuse to put it right.
- iii) **Disfigured face**: When someone looks at us, they are supposed to "see" Jesus but what they see in this person is not like Jesus.
- iv) **Crippled Foot**: **Read Proverbs 15:21**. A Christian who continually strays off into sins that have become a habit – it could be getting drunk, adultery or lying ... any sin which is repeated so often that it has become part of the person's way of life.
- v) **Crippled Hand**: A deformed hand means the person has difficulty with serving. It might be because they think they are too important to serve. Whatever the reason, the person does not want to serve others.
- vi) **Hunchback**: (A deformed or crooked back) Remember – for Christians today, we are talking about *character defects*. This person cannot carry a load or burden. They are *unable to take responsibility*. They cannot be depended on and refuse to be accountable to others.
- vii) **Dwarf**: This person is an adult, but they look like a child. In the New Testament this means someone who is immature – they may have been a Christian for many years, but have no maturity of character.
- viii) **Eye defect**: Matthew 7:1 speaks of someone who has a huge log in their own eye but is trying to take out a tiny speck from someone else's eye – a continual "fault finder", usually someone who has been hurt and is now critical and judgmental of others.
- ix) **Festering sores**: A problem with the "flesh" – selfishness, greed, gluttony, drunkenness, immorality, sexual sin, etc. It is interesting that in the natural sense, skin problems are often caused by improper diet – what a person is eating. In a similar sense, a person's character is affected by what "spiritual food" he or she is feeding on.
- x) **Scabs**: Wounds – past hurts which have still not healed.
- xi) **Damaged testicles**: No ability to reproduce. Not able to produce life. Godly leadership is seen in a "modelling" lifestyle. Paul spoke of this when he said, "Follow me ... as I follow Christ", meaning "Do what you see me doing".  
Not many people are able to encourage others in practical ways which *show* them how to live close to God. It is much easier to *tell* someone, than to do it yourself first.

The character defect referred to here is also seen in a preacher who speaks well but there is no *life* in what he is saying. Anyone can yell. Anyone can shout "Hallelujah"! Not many can equip people in practical ways that encourage them and confirm God's love for them.

**B. How to stay near to God – Chapters 18 – 27**

1. **By your Lifestyle.**

Read Leviticus 19:1-2

Now read Leviticus 18:1-2

} How to be "holy"

We have included Chapter 21, in our study of the priesthood as part of How to come near to God.

Remember, Egypt is symbolic of the world we live in today. We are not to live like the people around us who do not know Jesus.

Another word for "the world we live in today" is our "society" or *culture*.

What is the culture like where you live? Are there things people do in your culture that are not Godly? What does that mean for you?

Read Romans 12:2

What has to be "renewed"?

- Your mind
- Your way of thinking
- What you value
- What you believe is important
- How you make decisions

2. **By your Worship.**

a) **The "Sabbaths".**

The word "sabbath" means "rest" – a time of relaxation and restoration of strength.

In the Old Testament, there were several "sabbath" rests:

**The Weekly Sabbath:** This is the sign of the Mosaic Covenant. When Israel kept the Sabbath it served as a reminder of their covenant relationship with God.

**The Sabbath for the Land:** (Leviticus 25:4) Every 7th year no crops were planted, the land was allowed to rest.

**The Sabbath of "Jubilee" – every 50<sup>th</sup> year:** (Leviticus 25:10) This was a festival which only started once they were in the Promised Land. It is also called the "year of liberty".

Every 49 years, the trumpet was to sound throughout the land and the next year – the 50<sup>th</sup> year – was to be announced as a celebration.

During Jubilee, all land which an owner had sold because he was poor reverted back to him again (or to his heirs) without payment.

Every Israelite who, because of poverty, had sold himself as a slave and had not been able to pay the money back went free, as well as his whole family.

All debts were cancelled, all property freely returned. Jubilee became a year of freedom and a year of grace; a year of release to the whole nation; a year of refreshing and renewal.

**The Sabbath Festivals:** Seven "Feasts of the Lord" were also called "Sabbaths".

b) **The Seven Feasts.**

Besides their own personal worship, Israel kept special festivals in accordance with the Law. One Hebrew name for festival was from a word meaning "to dance"; therefore these were occasions of joy and gladness.

i) **Passover:** There were three feasts in "Passover".

The first, called **Passover**, celebrated their deliverance from Egypt and freedom from slavery.

For New Testament believers, it is celebrated at salvation.

**Unleavened Bread:** This was the second part of the Passover Feast.

We have already studied "leaven" as a symbol for sin. For Christians, it is celebrated by a changed life.

**First fruits:** The beginning of the grain harvest. A sample was taken from the field, brought to the tabernacle, and a priest waved it before the Lord. It was a sample of the harvest to come.

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-23** – Jesus the first of a harvest just like Him.

ii) **Pentecost:** (Also called "The Feast of Weeks" because 7 weeks were counted from Passover until this feast.)

Two loaves of bread were presented and waved before the Lord, marking the completion of the harvest.

The Law was given on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after leaving Egypt and we see the New Testament fulfilment of this feast in Acts 2.

iii) **The Feast of Tabernacles:** (This is also a three-part feast)

A long time passed between the Feast of Pentecost and this Feast. The Feast of Tabernacles included:

**The Feast of Trumpets:** The trumpets represented Jehovah's call to Israel to gather in preparation for the two great events to follow almost immediately.

**The Day of Atonement:** This marked the most solemn, serious occasion in the year.

It was called a "day of affliction", when the nation's sins were called to remembrance and atoned for.

On this day *only* the High Priest (and no one else) was allowed by God to enter the Holy of Holies.

Before he went into the Holy of Holies he had to make sure his own personal sins were confessed and the appropriate sacrifices made.

Two goats were offered in sacrifice for the nation. One bore the sins of the nation into the wilderness, while the other was killed and its blood sprinkled on the Mercy Seat by the High Priest.

**The Feast of Tabernacles:** This was a time of great joy which lasted for 8 days, as the people lived in temporary "booths" or tents. They rejoiced at the goodness of God.

The first fruits of oil and wine were brought in and a final thanksgiving was made for the year's harvest.

**Note: Read Leviticus 25:23**

Israel was taught that the land belonged to God, not to them.

### Memory Verse

Hebrews 4:16, *"Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need".*

### Teacher's Notes

1. Is anyone asking exactly how the life of all flesh is in its blood? The answer is because God says it is.
2. Leviticus 17:11-12 – The instruction not to eat blood has been misunderstood by some to refer to a medical situation when a person might need a blood transfusion. However, what God is referring to is *eating* the blood of an animal.
3. Do you want a quick test to see if you are a leader? Well, turn around ... is anyone following you? What are they like and who are they like? If you are more and more like Jesus, then they will be more and more like Him too.

# Numbers – The Book of Israel's Wanderings

## Lesson 4

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Israel was at Mount Sinai during the building of the tabernacle (Exodus 40:17). They camped at Sinai and during the events described in the first 9 chapters of Numbers.

*The generation numbered [counted] at the beginning of the Book of Numbers is not the same as the generation numbered at the end of the Book.*

A "generation" refers to the adults who were living at the time. In other words, the people who were living at the beginning of the Book of Numbers all died. The people counted at the end of the Book were a new generation.

Between chapters 19 and 20, *thirty-seven and a half years passed* – as Israel wandered outside the Promised Land – a result of their disobedience and lack of faith in God.

**AUTHOR**        Moses

**KEY VERSES**   **Read Numbers 14:20-24**

**Read Numbers 20:12**

**KEY CHAPTER**    **Chapter 14**

Israel rejected God by refusing to go into Canaan, the Promised Land.

God judged the unbelieving generation, "According to the number of days which you spied out the land, forty days, for every day you shall bear your guilt one year, even forty years, and you shall know My opposition". (Numbers 14:34)

This meant that, instead of taking just over two years for Israel to enter Canaan after leaving Egypt, it would take them forty years.

- PURPOSE**
1. To give an account of the years Israel wandered in the wilderness after leaving Egypt, until they finally crossed the Jordan River and entered the Promised Land.
  2. To record the total number of the two generations.

- MESSAGE**
1. God's people are redeemed to serve Him.
  2. Christians can miss out on God's promise of rest because of unbelief and disobedience.

**Read Hebrews 4:2**

3. God will always find people who will believe and trust that He will keep His word, and they will inherit His covenant promises.

## OUTLINE

### 1. The first, unbelieving generation: Chapters 1 – 14.

During this time, the people were counted and given instructions about what to do when they entered the Promised Land.

#### a) **The Levites are set apart.**

**Read Numbers 1:2-3 ... then verses 46-51**

They were to look after the Tabernacle, to set it up and take it down, to carry it as Israel moved, and to camp around it.

#### b) **The Pillar of Cloud and Fire guided Israel.**

**Read Numbers 9:15-17**

**Read Numbers 10:11**

**And now read Numbers 10:33-36**

#### c) **The complaining begins.**

**Read Numbers 11:1-6**      Israel complains

**Read verses 10-15**      Moses complains

**Read verse 16-17**      God raises up leadership to help Moses

#### d) **Miriam and Aaron complain.**

**Read Numbers 12:1-2**

"Cushite" – another name for the country of Midian. Remember, Moses' wife was not Hebrew.

They accused Moses of arrogance and claimed that God had spoken through them as well.

Was that true – had God spoken through them?

Yes. Example – Miriam prophesied after Israel had crossed the Sea.

The issue seemed to be about equality in leadership – but if we **read verses 6-8**, God's choice of a leader is very clear.

#### e) **Ten spies return with a bad report.**

**Read Numbers 13:1-3**

**Read verse 6 – Caleb**

**And verse 8 – Hoshea, another name for "Joshua" (See verse 16)**

**Read Numbers 13:27-33**

f) **Israel rebels against God.**

**Read Numbers 14:1-4**

i) **Take notice of what the people say:**

"Would that we had died in this wilderness", verse 2.

"The Lord is bringing us into this land to die by the sword", verse 3.

"Our little ones will become plunder", verse 3.

**Read verses 5-9**

ii) **Moses intercedes.**

**Read verses 10-19**

Note the amazing humility of Moses as he declined God's offer to make a covenant people from his descendants.

Notice how Moses reminded God of His covenant and was concerned about God's reputation – that those who did not know Him would say it was because God was unable to fulfil His promises.

iii) **God's response.**

**Read verses 20-24**

**Read verses 28-30**

**Now read verses 31-32**

**And verses 35 and 43**

g) **Israel disobeys again.**

**Read Numbers 14:40-45**

2. **The years of wandering: Chapters 15 – 20.**

The entire nation was prevented from entering Canaan.

But, beginning in chapter 15, God immediately began to train and instruct the new generation who would inherit the land and His promises.

a) **Korah rebels.**

**Read Numbers 16:1-3**

**Read verses 28-33**

b) **Israel rebels again.**

**Read Numbers 16:41**

The next day the nation turns against Moses and Aaron!

God sends a plague on the people and 14,700 die. (Verse 49)

c) **God confirms His choice.**

**Read Numbers 17:1-5 and verse 8**

d) **The red heifer.** (Numbers 19:1-10)

In every respect the killing of the red heifer is unique, and this is the only time it occurs in the Bible.

The animal is female (a cow) and it is slaughtered, not sacrificed.

It is killed outside the camp, not at the holy altar. The ashes are mixed with water and used for the purification of those who had contact with a dead person. (Remember, millions of Israel's people died in the wilderness.)

The usual pattern of sacrifice is given in Leviticus 1:3-9.

**37 ½ years pass between chapter 19 and chapter 20**

<b>Important</b>
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e) **Miriam died.** (Numbers 20:1)

f) **The sin of Moses.**

**Read Numbers 20:2, and then verses 7-12**

God told Moses to *speak* to the rock and it would yield water.

Moses misrepresented God in two ways:

- i) In Exodus 17:6, the first time God told Moses to bring water from the rock, God instructed Moses to hit the rock once.

This time God told Moses to *speak to the rock* but, instead, Moses did what he had done before. Perhaps because this was the second time of bringing water from a rock, he may also have hit the rock twice.

- ii) Secondly, he struck it in anger, misrepresenting God's attitude towards the people.

Remember that "rock" represented Jesus, who voluntarily gave His life for you and me. (1 Corinthians 10:4)

g) **Aaron died.** (Numbers 20:28)

**The end of Israel's wandering.**

**3. The new, believing generation: Chapters 21 – 36.**

**a) The wandering is over – The wars begin!**

It is important to realize that the land of Canaan, the "Promised Land", is *not symbolic of life in heaven.*

Israel would obtain the land by driving the enemy out. If you think Canaan is symbolic of heaven, then what enemies do you plan to drive out of heaven when you get there?

Canaan is a shadow, or example, of the life that is available to every believer *today*; a place of spiritual warfare where victory is assured.

Why did God allow anyone to come against His people?

Resistance produces strength – it is like building strong muscles by lifting or pushing against weights.

**b) Victory and Judgment. (Numbers 21:1-5)**

Israel defeated the Canaanites but became weary and complained.

**The Bronze Serpent – Read Numbers 21:8-9**

They defeated the Amorites and Og, king of Bashan.

**c) Balaam's prophecy.**

Both the nations of Midian and Moab feared Israel and sent messengers to a man named Balaam, requesting him to prophesy against Israel.

The Canaanites believed their gods could be *manipulated or controlled. They believed the God of the Hebrews was like their gods ... but, God is "holy" – "Not like any other".*

Balaam knew that God is not subject to man, God is *sovereign.*

**Read Numbers 23:8-9** }  
**And verses 19-20** } Be encouraged!

**d) Israel rejected God.**

**Read Numbers 25:1-5**

**Read verse 9**

**e) The second generation was counted.**

**Read Numbers 26:1-2**

**And verse 51**

**Read verses 64 and 65**

f) **Moses set aside – Joshua appointed.**

**Read Numbers 27:12-14**

**Read Numbers 27:18-20**

**And read verses 22-23**

Here we see the precedent for "laying on of hands" and what it represents – impartation and commissioning of leadership. (Hebrews 6:2)

Joshua had been in training for years. He was born a *slave in Egypt*. Joshua overcame his past and became the commander of Israel's army, and finally, its leader.

g) **The tribes of Reuben and Gad.**

**Read Numbers 32:1**

**Read verse 5**

**Then verses 20-23**

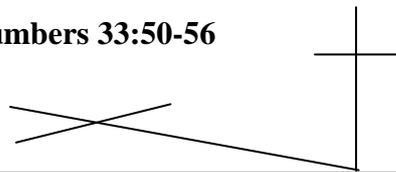
Moses warned both tribes that they were discouraging the rest of Israel, just as the ten men who spied out the land had done.

He warned them that if they turned away from following God's instructions, they would not only destroy the nation, they would know God's anger.

Both tribes were to enter the Promised Land fully armed and only when the enemies were conquered were they allowed to return. Reuben and Gad agreed to this.

h) **Instructions for conquering Canaan.**

**Read Numbers 33:50-56**



**Old Testament**

"When you cross over ..."  
"then you shall drive out ..."  
"and you shall take possession"  
"of the land"  
"but if you do not drive out the  
inhabitants of the land"

"they will become pricks in  
your eyes and thorns in your

**New Testament**

When you enter God's Kingdom  
you fight in spiritual warfare and  
you take possession  
of abundant life (John 10:10)  
But, if you do not overcome  
bad habits, like your temper,  
or laziness, cruelty, etc.  
They will become problem areas,  
and cause you grief, and trouble

sides, and they shall trouble you"

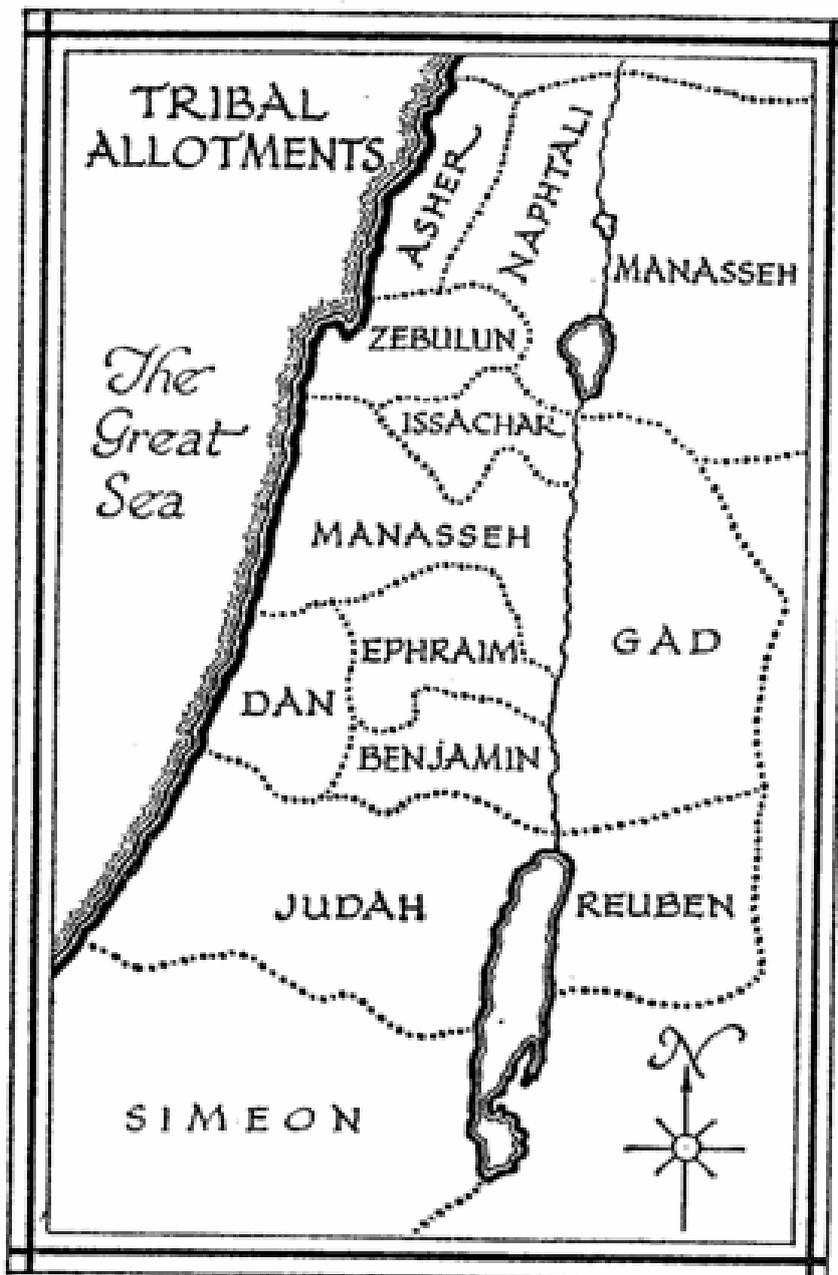
in your daily life.

Who did the fighting? *Israel.*

Who does the fighting? *You do!*

Battles are fought, but victory is assured – because God is fighting for us!

i) **The land is divided – Chapter 34.**



# Deuteronomy – The Book of Remembrance

## Lesson 5

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**Moses instructs the *new generation* – destined to possess God's promises – a new way of living; a land of their own.**

This book was written on the plains of Moab as Israel was about to cross into the Promised Land. Moses warned the people about *the dangers of repeating the same mistakes*.

Therefore over and over again he says, "Remember", "Take care that you do not forget", "Pay attention", "Do not repeat the mistakes they made".

### **Read 1 Corinthians 10:5-13**

The nation had arrived at the same place they had been nearly 38 years before, this time they must obey God and trust in Him.

**IMPORTANT** God *wanted* to take Israel into the Promised Land. They did not have to earn the privilege of entering the Promised Land; they only needed to be obedient and to trust Him.

### **The Wilderness was a place where:**

1. There was no growth – the wilderness was a dry, fruitless place.
2. It was a place of confusion, disappointment and indecision.

### **The Promised Land was a place where:**

1. There was new life.
2. Battles would be fought, but victory was assured.

In the wilderness Israel was humbled, tested and challenged, as God taught the new generation what the consequences were of not trusting Him.

**AUTHOR** Moses

**KEY VERSES** Read Deuteronomy 10:12-13

Read Deuteronomy 30:19-20

**PURPOSE**

1. To **remind** Israel of the need to be faithful and obedient.
2. To **prepare** Israel for entering, conquering and possessing the land.

**OUTLINE** The Book of Deuteronomy can be divided into three parts, with each part almost like a sermon, as Moses speaks to the new generation who are to cross over and inherit the Promised Land.

1. **The history of Israel – looking back: Chapters 1 – 3.**

**Read Deuteronomy 1:8**

2. **The instruction of Israel – following God: Chapters 4 – 26.**

**Read Deuteronomy 4:31-38**

a) **"Be careful to listen and to do!"**

**Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

The Israelites actually did what it says in verse 8 – bound God's word on their hands, by writing some of Moses' instruction on very thin pieces of paper, then enclosing it in a long folded strip of leather, which was wound around their right arm and hand.

They also wrote some verses on paper and enclosed it in a small box which they tied onto their foreheads with long pieces of leather. The box was called a "phylactery".

In the New Testament, Jesus rebuked the Scribes and Pharisees for wearing large phylacteries on their foreheads, containing lots of the Old Testament writings ... but they had not let any of it *sink into their heads so that God's Word could be seen in their day to day behaviour!* (Matthew 23:5)

b) **God's purpose.**

**Read Deuteronomy 6:23**

"He brought us out ... to bring us in ..."

Salvation is not the end but the beginning of a new life.

c) **The purpose of the wilderness.**

**Read Deuteronomy 8:2-3**

Jesus quoted this passage in Deuteronomy – when He was tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4:4)

d) **A warning.**

**Read Deuteronomy 8: 9-10**

**Now read verses 11-20**

The dangers of prosperity:

- i) We can drift away from God. (Backslide)
- ii) We can believe we prosper because we are so wise. (Verse 18)

e) **Blessings and Curses.**

**Read Deuteronomy 11:11-17**

**Now read verses 26-29**

Remember, there were benefits for keeping the terms of a covenant agreement. These were called the "promises".

However, there were also consequences for breaking the terms of a covenant – these were the "curses".

f) **What it means to "Be Holy".**

God wants His people to live in a manner which shows they are part of His family.

The way to do this is by separating themselves *from evil*.

g) **False prophecy.**

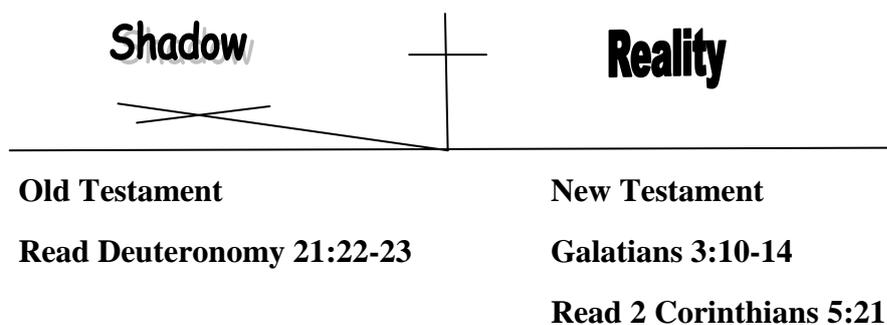
**Read Deuteronomy 13:1-5**

**And Deuteronomy 19:20-22**

- i) The prophecy does not come to pass.
- ii) Or, the prophecy may come true, but *it leads people away from God*.

h) **The Levites.**

**Read Deuteronomy 18:1-2**



3. **The preparation of Israel – looking ahead: Chapters 27 – 34.**

a) **Solemn warnings.**

The results of obedience and the results of disobedience:

- i) Behaviour that is totally unacceptable to God – Deuteronomy 27:14-26.
- ii) Blessings for obedience – Deuteronomy 28:1-14.
- iii) Curses for disobedience – Deuteronomy 28:15-48.

b) **The Palestinian Covenant.**

**Read Deuteronomy 29:10-14**

**Read Deuteronomy 30:11**

**And now read verses 17-20**

The promise for keeping this covenant was that they would *remain in the land* (verse 16).

What would be the result if they did not obey God? It is found in verse 18.

The sign of the Palestinian Covenant is the early and late rains. Deuteronomy 11:13-14.

c) **Moses commissions Joshua and Israel.**

**Read Deuteronomy 31:6-8**

d) **God's amazing grace.**

**Read Deuteronomy 31:16-21**

God knew Israel would not keep this covenant – "this people will ... forsake Me and break My covenant" (verse 16).

Israel would refuse to defeat all nations in the land of Canaan. In the days ahead, they would even worship the Canaanite false gods, especially the gods of fertility and sexual perversion.

Their physical sexual fornication and adultery were symbolic of their spiritual adultery, as they were unfaithful to God.

e) **Moses blessed the tribes: Chapters 32 – 33.**

**Read Deuteronomy 32:46-47**

**Read Deuteronomy 33:29**

f) **Moses died and Joshua leads: Chapter 34 was written by Joshua.**

**Read Deuteronomy 34:5-9**

**Memory Verse**

Numbers 6:24-26, *"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious unto you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace".*

## Teacher's Notes

1. Numbers 1:6-7, and 10 – God's promise to Abraham has come to pass.
2. Read Numbers 3:2-4. Nadab and Abihu offered "strange fire" – that is, they did not follow God's instructions regarding offerings.
3. The Nazarite vow – Numbers 6:1-21. A man or woman made a particular promise to God to be set apart for His service for a certain period of time, or for life. During this time the person had to give up wine, grapes, cutting their hair, or going near anyone who had died. When the period of time was over, the person had to bring a lamb for a sin offering and a ram for a peace offering to the temple, where the priest would offer this to God. Also, their hair was cut off and offered.  
What about the Nazarite vow today? Should anyone keep it? Well, how could they? Where would they take their offerings? According to the Nazarite vow, these had to be taken to the Tabernacle, or Temple in Jerusalem. Even if the person managed to get their offerings to Jerusalem, how could they get to the temple – it was destroyed in 70 AD and has never been rebuilt. And, where would they find a Levite? However, all of us as Christians have already fulfilled the Nazarite vow – we have already promised God to be set aside for His service. The Nazarite vow is no longer necessary.
4. Numbers 22 – 24. King Barak asked Balaam to curse Israel, but Balaam knew God could not be manipulated or controlled by man. He knew God was sovereign. That is why he said, God has blessed these people and I cannot now curse them. (Numbers 23:8)  
Sometimes we need to remember the same thing. Especially when fasting!  
The natural man is ruled by his body – "I'm hungry, feed me", "I'm tired and don't want to get out of bed", "It's cold, I don't feel like going to a meeting". The spiritual man, however, is ruled by his spirit – the spirit controls his body – "I want to pray, so get out of bed, body!" "I don't care how cold it is, move your feet!"  
The purpose of fasting is for *our* benefit – for *us* to draw closer to God. As we refuse to listen to the demands of our bodies, the cries of "I'm hungry, feed me" or "I don't want to" fade away and God's voice becomes clearer.  
Unfortunately some Christians have a difficult time knowing the difference between fasting and a "hunger strike!" No one can *force* God to do anything. Make sure you understand that the purpose of fasting is not to make God do something you think He doesn't want to do.
5. Deuteronomy 23:19. No lending and charging interest between brothers. Who is your brother? (See Matthew 23:8; Romans 13:8-10)
6. Numbers 12:1. The criticism of Moses' wife – what is the meaning for us today? We should be careful not to criticize a leader's spouse. ("Spouse" = wife or husband)
7. During His temptation, in Matthew 4, Jesus quoted three times:  
Deuteronomy 6:13; "You shall fear the Lord, your God, and shall worship Him only".  
Deuteronomy 6:16, "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test".  
Deuteronomy 8:3-5, "man does not live by bread alone".
8. Deuteronomy 34:10-12, "no prophet like Moses" but Deuteronomy 18:18 says – "God will raise up another just like Moses". That was the Messiah, Jesus.