

God Sends a Deliverer

Exodus 1:1-6:27

Period of Bible history

Exodus. This period includes the sojourn, slavery, deliverance with an exodus, the covenant at Sinai, and the wandering in the wilderness.

Major Events

The Israelites suffer as slaves in Egypt (1:8-14)

Killing the male children (1:15-22)

The birth of Moses (2:1-10)

God calls Moses (3:7-12)

Important Individuals

Moses - Son of Amram and Jochebed, Moses was raised by Pharaoh's daughter and used by God to deliver the people from bondage and to lead them to the promised land.

Pharaoh - In just six chapters of Exodus we have four Pharaohs. Thutmose I would have been the Pharaoh that ordered the death of infant boys. He died when Moses was a teenager and was succeeded by his son, Thutmose II, who did not reign long. He was succeeded by his son Thutmose III. Moses evidently knew each of these Pharaohs and had bad relations with Thutmose III, possibly due to Moses' connection with Hatshepsut (Pharaoh's daughter, see below). Moses fled to Midian while Thutmose III ruled Egypt. In 2:22 we read that the king of Egypt died, this would have been Thutmose III. When Moses returns to Egypt after 40 years of exile in Midian, Amenhotep II is ruler of Egypt.

Midwives - Little is said about them but in Exodus 1 when Pharaoh orders the midwives to kill all newborn sons they refuse, offering excuses to Pharaoh. Two midwives are mentioned in the passage but there were likely many more.

Pharaoh's Daughter - Probably Hatshepsut, she defied Thutmose I by rescuing Moses when he was found floating in the river. Hatshepsut would not have been allowed to rule Egypt but she still had tremendous authority. Her husband, Thutmose II, had an heir through a concubine. The heir was Thutmose III and he was always jealous of Hatshepsut's power. This likely contributed to tension between Thutmose II and Moses.

Aaron - Moses' older brother, he would have been born before Thutmose I ordered all baby boys be killed. He assisted Moses in telling Pharaoh to release the Israelites. Later he becomes the first high priest of Israel.

Covenants

Not exactly a covenant, but in 3:16-17 God promises to deliver the people from slavery and lead them to the promised land. In 6:2-9 God reminds Moses of the covenant with Abraham and assures Moses that the people will be delivered and will inherit the promised land.

Outline of Exodus 1:1-6:27

- I. The increase of the Israelites (1:1-7)
- II. Oppression and death (1:8-22)
 - A. The rulers in Egypt forget what the Israelite Joseph had done for them (1:8)
 - B. Fearing the Israelites, the Egyptians force them into slavery (1:9-14)
 - C. Pharaoh orders the murder of newborn Israelite boys (1:15-16)
 - D. Hebrew midwives refuse to kill the babies (1:17-21)
 - E. Pharaoh orders his own people to kill the babies (1:22)
- III. The birth of Moses (2:1-10)
 - A. Moses is born and hidden by his mother (2:1-2)
 - B. Unable to hide him any longer, Moses' mother places him in a floating basket in the river (2:3-4)
 - C. Moses is found by Pharaoh's daughter who tells his mother to care for him (2:5-9)
 - D. Moses is moved to Pharaoh's court and raised by Pharaoh's daughter (2:10)
- IV. Moses in Midian (2:11-22)
 - A. Moses kills an Egyptian guard and flees to Midian (2:11-15)
 - B. Moses marries Zipporah and has children with her (2:16-22)
- V. God knows the suffering of his people (2:23-25)
- VI. The call of Moses (3:1-4:17)
 - A. God speaks to Moses through the burning bush (3:1-6)
 - B. God promises to deliver the people through Moses (3:7-12)
 - C. God reveals himself to be the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God also reveals his covenant name Yahweh (or Jehovah) which means *I Am Who I Am*. (3:13-18)
 - D. God tells Moses that Pharaoh will only let them go after the plagues and the people will be released with riches (3:19-22)
 - E. God gives Moses powerful signs to convince Pharaoh and the people of Israel. The signs also help to reassure Moses. (4:1-10)
 1. Turning the staff into a serpent (4:2-5)
 2. Moses' skin turned leprous (4:6-8)
 3. Turning water to blood (4:9)
 - F. Moses continues to be reluctant, God promises to send Aaron with him (4:10-16)
- VII. Moses returns to Egypt (4:18-31)
 - A. Moses says farewell to his father in law Jethro (4:18-23)
 - B. God is going to kill Moses for disobedience but Zipporah intervenes (4:24-26)
 - C. Aaron is sent to Moses and they go to the people of Israel (4:27-31)
- VIII. Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh (5:1-23)
 - A. Moses calls for Pharaoh to free the people (5:1-4)
 - B. Pharaoh refuses and increases the burden on the Israelites (5:5-19)
 - C. The people cry out to Moses; Moses cries out to God (5:20-23)
- IX. God renews his promise to the people (6:1-13)
- X. The genealogy of Moses (6:14-27)