**THE EXODUS**

1. **introduction**
   1. the exodus is one of the most important events in jewish history and in christian history.
   2. a bedrock event for judaism and christianity  
      1. a defining moment for jews and christians
2. **the exodus is a dramatization of the gospel**
   1. moses is a type of christ
   2. the gospel is powerfully displayed throughout exodus  
      1. played out in real life in real time with real people
      2. this is not *virtual reality;* it is true reality.
3. i need readers for the following passages:  
   1. genesis 17: 1-21
   2. numbers 14: 1-4 and 36-38
   3. exodus 12: 1-51
   4. numbers 21: 5-9
   5. exodus 17:1-7
   6. exodus 13: 21-22
4. **the back story: \*\*genesis 15: 1-21**
   1. **[12-14]:** ““Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. **14**But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions….”
   2. symbolism of “a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.”
   3. joseph’s 2 dreams  
      1. **exodus 37: 7-8** “Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.” **8**His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.”
      2. **exodus 37:9-11** “Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, “Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” **10**But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?” **11**And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.”
   4. joseph’s divine degradation: sold into slavery  
      1. motif: **“and god was with him”**
      2. slave for potiphar
      3. promotion in potiphar’s house
      4. potiphar’s wife
      5. imprisonment
   5. joseph’s transition   
      1. interprets chief cupbearer’s dream **ch. 40**
      2. interprets chief baker’s dream **ch. 40**
      3. interprets pharoah’s 2 dreams **ch. 41**
   6. joseph’s divine promotion: made 2nd in command
   7. jacob/israel allowed to live in egypt in the choice land of goshen  
      1. they entered in great honor under the authority and protection of pharaoh
   8. jacob dies. joseph dies. and after many years joseph’s greatness and his salvation of egypt were forgotten:  
      1. **Exodus 1:8-11** “Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. **9**And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. **10**Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” **11**Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens.”
      2. the jews spent many years in egyt before the enslavement began

1. **from egypt to the promise land**  
   1. the hebrews enter egypt over 400 years earlier as honored guests of pharaoh as a reward and tribute to joseph  
      1. jacob’s family was 70 persons strong
      2. a close buy dysfunctional family
   2. the hebrews leave egypt as a nation”  
      1. **ex. 12: 37-38 “And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. 38A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds.”**
   3. **the route:** not the obvious route along the coast and northward but east into the dessert  
      1. that dessert had almost always protected egypt from marauding armies from the east.
      2. moses’ heart must have dropped
   4. shortly arrive at the border of the promise land: about 11-15 days  
      1. about 15 stops
   5. grumbling against god throughout the trip
   6. the last straw: 12 spies sent out to investigate the promise land in order for the hebrews to see how richly god had kept his promise to abraham  
      1. 1 *leader* from each of the 12 tribes
   7. 10 spies bring back a false report. only joshua and caleb are excited.
   8. the people rebel against god yet again and accuse him of faithlessness and treachery. **numbers 14**  
      1. **\*\*numbers 14:1-4** “Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. **2**And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, “Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! **3**Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?” **4**And they said to one another, “Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”
      2. 10 of the 12 killed by plague: **\*\*numbers 14: 36-38** “And the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing up a bad report about the land— **37**the men who brought up a bad report of the land—died by plague before the Lord. **38**Of those men who went to spy out the land, only Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive.”
      3. 40 years of wandering!   
         1. 3-4 week journey takes 40 years
   9. god banned every male 20 years old and older who were listed in the census from entering the promise land:  
      1. Numbers 14:28-30 “***Say to them, ‘As I live, declares the LORD, what you have said in my hearing I will do to you: your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number*, listed in the censusfrom twenty years old and upward*, who have grumbled against me, not one shall come into the land where I swore that I would make you dwell, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.”***
      2. only those men able to go to battle were listed in the census. Therefore, god’s banishment did not include:  
         1. women
         2. elderly men who were too old to go into battle
         3. those males 20 or older who cold not go into battle b/c of some disability (e.g., blindness, amputees, lepers, etc.)
         4. **numbers 1:47–50** points out that the whole tribe of Levi was also allowed to enter as their job revolved solely around the tabernacle and they were not counted in the census.
         5. God punished the whole nation, but everyone paid a different price.  
            1. loss of spiritual head of household
            2. women had to contemplate how their complaining may have caused their husbands and sons to complain
            3. children raised w/o fathers
            4. everyone lost at least 1 loved one
            5. it was a devastating and humbling punishment
            6. the punishment varied, but all were punished
            7. but god’s grace is shown that many, many of the grumblers were allowed to enter the promise land
   10. it is worth noting that the levites who ministered in the tent of meeting were allowed to enter the promise land. it is noteworthy b/c jesus who is the true high priest died on the cross so you and i could enter into the promise land.   
       1. the levites were spared but jesus was not.
       2. certainly the levites included grumblers and complainers who were spared , but the sinless and perfect jesus who always did the father’s will was ot spared so that sinners like you and me can enter into the promise land.

1. **the gospel in exodus: 5 great examples**  
   1. ***1st:* the passover: \*\*exodus 12: 1-51**  
      1. take an unblemised 1 year old male goat or lamb
      2. keep the lamb in the dwelling with them for 4 days
      3. at twilight of the 14th day of the 1st month they must kill the lamb and puts its blood on the doorposts and lintel
      4. they shall roast the lamb and eat it w/ bitter herbs and unleavened bread
      5. eat it all; what they could not eat had to be burned up in the fire
      6. the hebrews were to eat fully clothed and packed, ready to leave immediately
      7. **exodus 12: 11-13 “It is the Lord’s Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. 13The 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 no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.”**  
         1. this was the 10th and final plague on egypt.
   2. **principle:** we denied the power and reality of the gospel when we reject the salvation of Jesus Christ. We affirm the reality and power of the gospel and we receive his salvation.
   3. **Illustration:** have you received the salvation of Jesus Christ?
   4. ***2nd:* crossing the red sea**  
      1. points to this life, our life on this side of heaven  
         1. our backs are often against the wall
         2. our enemies outnumber us, are better armed, and bent on our destruction
         3. ***psalm 23*** but as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil, for thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies. my cup runneth over. surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and i will dwell in the house of the lord forever.
         4. jesus makes the way for us and destroys our enemies: sin and death
         5. ***1 cor. 15: 54-57* “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**
      2. jesus himself did not escape the red sea, e.g., the cross but allowed himself to be swallowed up so that you and i could life.
   5. **principle:** we denied the power and reality of the gospel when we Believe we are powerless against sin and death. We affirm the power and reality of the gospel when we live in the light of the truth that Jesus has delivered us from the power and penalty of sin.
   6. **application:** how are you living and the reality of the power of the gospel? Do you fear death? Do you live with a view toward eternity, Knowing that Jesus Christ will deliver you through your own Red Sea into the promised land?
   7. ***3rd:* the presence of god: pillar of fire by night and sheltering cloud by day.**  
      1. the constant presence of jesus christ with us by means of the holy spirit.
      2. **\*\*exodus 13: 21-22 “And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. 22The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.”**
      3. jesus, being god, is both our light and shelter.
      4. god’s light and his shelter guide us.
      5. **deuteronomy 32:11 “Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions….”**
      6. god’s fierce love for and devotion to his people.  
         1. god’s love is both the exercise of his sovereign will **and** a deep, driving passion.
         2. god’s love is not aloof, passive or impersonal. it is deeply personal and deeply passionate.
      7. the continuing presence of jesus christ
      8. he led the people from slavery to egypt to freedom in the promise land
      9. jesus leads us from enslavement to the power and penalty of sin into eternal relationship with him.
      10. **principle:** Jesus is with and with in every believer through the Holy Spirit.
      11. **applications:** how do you live, or failed to live, as a child of God?  
          1. are you unable to enter into the promise land b/c you have never actually received the salvation of jesus christ?
          2. what keeps you from entering in to the lord’s rest?  
             1. refusal to repent?
             2. unconfessed sin?
             3. failure to believe in god’s redeeming grace?
          3. failure to forgive yourself after god almighty has forgiven you?
   8. **4th: the serpent on the pole**
      1. **\*\*numbers 21: 5-9** “And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” **6**Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. **7**And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. **8**And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and **everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live**.” **9**So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.”  
         1. all of us are, of course, bitten by sin.
         2. explain difference b/ sins and transgressions  
            1. ***doctrine of total depravity:*** tim keller: if sin was blue, we would be blue all over.
      2. **john 3: 14-18** “**as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up**: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”
   9. **principle:** we deny the reality and power of the gospel when we grumble against god. we affirm the reality and power of the gospel when we believe god in the face of troubles.
   10. **application:**  how are you grumbling against god?
   11. ***5th:* water from the rock: \*\*exodus 17:1-7**  
       1. “All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. **2**Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” **3**But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” **4**So Moses cried to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” **5And the Lord said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.”** And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. **7**And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”  
          1. **1 cor. 10: 3-4** “And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”
   12. prefigured christ being condemned by the sanhedrin  
       1. striking the rock points to the crucifixion
       2. water from the rock brings two new testament events to mind:  
          1. *1st:* jesus meeting the samaritan woman at jacob’s well:  
             1. ***john 4: 10-14* “’If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” 11The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” 13Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’”**
          2. *2nd:* water from christ’s side after the spear thrust by the roman soldier  
             1. ***john 19:33-35* “But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. 35He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe.”**
   13. **principle:** Jesus was falsely judged and cruelly crucified so that our judgment would pass to him, Allowing us to enjoy eternal life.  
       1. double imputation
       2. Put another way, Jesus got what you and I deserve. And we get what Jesus deserves. That is why we are joint heirs with him for all eternity.
   14. **application:** how are you rejoicing in the salvation you enjoy through Jesus Christ? Are you living your life as a man would who knows he fully enjoys the favor of God through Jesus what do you live in fear, doubt and anxiety?
2. **the following truths come out of the exodus**
   1. god is sovereign and fully in control of the affairs of men and nations
   2. god keeps his promises
   3. god will rescue his people from their sins
   4. despite the very presence of god and the many displays of his love, power, faithfulness and glory, the hebrews, like mankind in general, rejected god and impugned his character and motives.
   5. the jews are representative of all mankind. they, as we, repeatedly sinned against god by doing the following:  
      1. they ascribe to god terrible motives and faithlessness.  
         1. for example:  
            1. they repeatedly accuse god of bringing them out to the desert in order to kill them
            2. they accuse god of not being able to provide water and food for them in the desert.
   6. god led the people out into the dessert rather than northward up the coast. ***god often guides us by the route that will most grow our faith, not by the easiest or most convenient route.***
   7. whenever they are faced with difficulties, they immediately grumble against god and almost never respond in faith and trust.
   8. unbelief prevents us from entering into god’s rest:  
      1. **hebrews 3:16-19** **“For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? 17And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? 18And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.”**
      2. relationship b/ disobedience and unbelief  
         1. we disobey b/c we do not believe.
         2. we do not believe, therefore we disobey.
   9. one of the lessons for us comes from the men n the census who were not allowed to enter into the promise land: the responsibility of the father within the family to be a godly example of faithfulness and obedience.  
      1. what kind of example would our wives and children say we are?
3. **applications:**  
   1. how is god stretching, growing your faith today?
   2. are our lives characterized by faith in jesus christ or do we, like the hebrews, continually accuse god of abandoning us, not keeping his promises to us, not protecting and guiding us?
   3. are we joshua and caleb **or** are we like the crowd?
   4. are our hearts full of grumbling or gratitude?  
      1. do we have the spirit of complaint or thanksgiving?
      2. how would those who know us best answer this question about us?
   5. how do we grumble for the leeks and onions of egypt?