

The True Story of the Whole World pp 46-63
“The King Chooses Israel. Redemption initiated”
Moses and the Exodus from Egypt

Creation	Rebellion & Fall	Abraham and Sara	Egyptian Captivity	Promised Land
All creation Adam and Eve	The Garden Cain and Abel Babel Flood (Noah)	Isaac Jacob and Esau 12 sons (tribes) Joseph in Egypt The above = “The Patriarchs”	Moses Plagues Exodus Mt. Sinai Wilderness	Joshua Judges Kings Saul David Solomon Divided Kingdom

Exodus 6, 19-20

In a nutshell.....

God demonstrates faithfulness to the promises made to Abraham by rescuing the nation descended from Abraham, taking them out of slavery, and setting them onto the journey to the Promised Land. Again, the scope of God’s purpose narrows to one family. A boy named Moses is born to a Hebrew family, eventually hears God call, and leads the Hebrew people in a great ‘exodus’ from slavery. After successfully fleeing Egypt, Moses receives the 10 Commandments in the wilderness at Mount Sinai. Despite challenges and occasional backsliding, the wilderness journey of 40 years brings the Hebrew people to the edge of the Promised Land.

Stories we might remember....

- baby Moses in the bulrushes
- Moses before Pharaoh, and the 10 plagues
- Moses’ call --- the burning bush
- The first Passover as the Exodus is launched
- The parting of the Red Sea
- Provision of manna and quail in the wilderness
- The making of a golden calf as an idol
- a cloud by day and pillar of fire by night, showing the way for the Hebrew people

Main Themes of “Moses and the Exodus” (The Book of Exodus)

1. God remembers his promises and his people
2. A ‘people’ (Israel) is formed by a Mighty Act of Redemption
3. The memory of God’s new people is short, and they are prone to look for quick relief for their difficulties
4. The Ten Commandments or ‘Ten Words’, are the core principles that are to shape God’s people so that their lives will reflect God’s character.
5. God lives in the midst of His people, with the Tabernacle that is portable and travels with them

Other Biblical references

- Hebrews 11:23-28
- Acts 26:22
- Mark 9:2-8
- Acts 7:38

Of note.....

The Exodus event has been of particular importance in ‘liberation theology’, and within African American theology. The work of the Lord in ‘remembering’ the Hebrews in slavery, and delivering them out of their oppression, continues to strike a resonant chord around the world today with persons suffering oppression.
One might say that in particular, this offers an example of a group of persons currently ‘finding their place in the Biblical Drama’ (the subtitle of the “True Story of the Whole World” book).

Hymns

- HWB 225 The glory of these forty days
- HWB 596 And I will raise you up
- HWB 544 When we walk with the Lord
- HWB 120 Holy, holy, holy!
- HWB 579 Lift every voice and sing
- HWB 143 Amazing grace
- HWB 483 O God, who gives us life
- STJ 1 We sing to you, O God
- STJ 2 Hamba nathi (Come, walk with us)
- STJ 49 Rain down

1. How might God's 'hidden hand' be seen in how Moses was equipped for leadership from infancy on?

2. We read in Exodus 19:5-6 that while the whole earth is the Lord's, Israel is to be a 'treasured possession', a 'holy nation'. What are the rights and the responsibilities of this place in God's creation?

3. Compare your answer above to I Peter 2:9: ⁹ *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

To what extent is our role in this creation a parallel of that of Israel, as described in Exodus?

4. The authors of "The True Story....", say that "*Israel will achieve their destiny to become a royal priesthood and holy nation only if they choose a life of active obedience under God's reign.*" P. 51

What is the evidence in Exodus of how faithful or unfaithful Israel is to this call?

5. [bonus sneak peek ahead!] "The rest of the Old Testament is the story of how faithful or unfaithful Israel is to this call".

How might this help you understand the rest of the Old Testament, including how God chooses to respond?

6. How do you think you as an individual, and we as a congregation, are doing at living out our 'holy vocation'?