

### **Pastoral Note to Reader**

As you enter into the book of Exodus, you are stepping into one of Scripture's most powerful stories of God's rescue, covenant, and relentless faithfulness. Exodus follows Israel's journey from slavery to freedom, revealing a God who hears the cries of His people, confronts the powers of oppression, and leads His children into His promises. As you study these chapters, expect to see God's character on full display—His holiness, His justice, and His desire to dwell with His people. My prayer is that this book strengthens your confidence that the Lord still delivers, still speaks, and still leads His people today. Remember, God's Word is living and active, and He desires to use Exodus to shape your faith, your trust, and your walk with Him.

### **Important Facts**

Author: Moses

Location: Written during Israel's journey from Egypt to Mount Sinai-much of this takes place in Egypt, the wilderness, and Mount Sinai.

Date: Approximately 1446-1406 B.C., during the period of the Exodus.

### **Primary Message and Purpose**

The central message of Exodus is God's deliverance and covenant relationship with His people. It reveals the story of God rescuing His people from slavery and calling them into a relationship marked by His presence and law. It connects the promises made previously to Abraham in Genesis to their partial fulfillment through Israel's liberation. Exodus also

establishes the foundation for understanding redemption, worship, and God's holiness—all of which echoes the ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

John D. Hannah, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament*, ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 103.

Gleason L. Archer Jr., *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), 215.

### **Important Doctrines or Themes**

**Redemption:** Exodus reveals God as the Redeemer who delivers His people from bondage.

The Passover event illustrates salvation coming through the blood of a substitute, pointing ahead to Christ's sacrificial death. God's mighty acts in Egypt remind believers that redemption is entirely His work and is rooted in His covenant love.

**Covenant and Law:** At Mount Sinai, God establishes a covenant with Israel, giving them His Law as a reflection of His holiness and character. The Ten Commandments show what it means to live as God's people in covenant relationship with Him. This covenant points toward the new covenant fulfilled in Christ, written not on tablets of stone but on human hearts.

**God's Presence:** The tabernacle symbolizes God's desire to dwell among His people. From the burning bush to the pillar of cloud and fire, Exodus reveals a God who is both transcendent and intimately near. This theme finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus—"the Word became human and made his home among us" (John 1:14)"

Ryken, *Exodus: Saved for God's Glory*, 41.

Walter C. Kaiser Jr., *Toward an Old Testament Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978), 93–95.

Hannah, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 123.

### **Memory Verses**

**Exodus 3:14** God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.<sup>[a]</sup> Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you.

**Exodus 14:14** The LORD himself will fight for you. Just stay calm.”

**Exodus 20:2-3 2** “I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.

3 “You must not have any other god but me.

**Exodus 33** The LORD replied, “I will personally go with you, Moses, and I will give you rest—everything will be fine for you.”

### **Criticism & Apologetic Defenses**

**Criticism 1:** The Exodus story is a myth without historical evidence.

**Defense:** While direct archaeological evidence for the Exodus remains debated, the internal consistency of the biblical record and the cultural details that align with ancient Egyptian practices argue for its authenticity. The lack of evidence is not unusual given Egypt’s natural erosion and selective record-keeping practices regarding defeats.

**Criticism 2:** Miracles: Plagues, Red Sea Crossing, Pillar of Cloud/Fire

**Defense:** The Bible presents these events as divine interventions, not natural occurrences—miracles precisely because they surpass natural explanation.

- Many naturalistic theories (volcanic eruptions, algae blooms, wind setdown effects) actually demonstrate that the events described line up with plausible conditions, even though Scripture emphasizes God's timing and sovereignty.
- Christianity affirms a God who interacts with creation; rejecting miracles presupposes naturalism, not historical analysis.

### **Criticism 3:** Moses as Author

**Defense:** The Bible itself explicitly attributes authorship to Moses (Exod. 17:14; 24:4; 34:27).

Jesus and New Testament writers affirm Mosaic authorship (Mark 7:10; John 5:46–47).

Later editors may have updated place names or added explanatory notes, but that does not negate core Mosaic authorship.

Ancient Near Eastern scribal practices support Moses being able to produce such a document.