

Exodus Introduction

Bible Study

Review from Genesis

Key Prophetic scripture:

Genesis 15:13-14

¹³Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is not theirs*, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.

¹⁴And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

Genesis 15: 13 (OKJ)

“And he said unto Abram, ‘Know of a surety that thy seed a stranger in a land that is not theirs, (and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them) four hundred years”

A four hundred year sojourn in Egypt from Jacob’s entry... until the Exodus

(Old Testament Times, R.K. Harrison)

“Despite the fact that many scholars have attempted to disprove the historicity of a prolonged Israelite sojourn in Egypt, the historical conditions that existed from the 19th century BC in the Near East and Egypt are in full accord with the Biblical tradition in this respect”

Genesis review continued:

Scriptures in Genesis that point to the Exodus:

Genesis 15:7

⁷Then He said to him, “I *am* the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it.”



Exodus 20:2

² “I *am* the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.



Abraham being brought out of Ur by God was a forerunner of his descendents being brought out of Egypt

Genesis 41:52

⁵²And the name of the second he called [£]Ephraim: “For God has caused me to be fruitful **in the land of my affliction.**”



Points to Joseph’s descendents being afflicted in the future, as he had been—(imprisoned)

Exodus Introduction

“The name ‘**Exodus**’ which is of Greek origin, comes from the LXX [Greek Septuagint] name for the second book of the Pentateuch.

‘Exodus’ means ‘exit’, ‘departure’

(Expositors) “.....Exodus was never intended to exist separately but was thought of as a **continuation of a narrative that began in Genesis** and was completed in three more books, making up the first division of the Hebrew canon known as the Torah”

Moses—author of the book...compiled sometime between his 80th and 120th birthday

(Expositors) “Since Moses first became involved with leading the Israelites after his eightieth birthday [7:7], the date for **the composition of the Book of Exodus** must fall **between his eightieth birthday and his one hundred and twentieth birthday**, when he died, just as the wilderness wandering was drawing to a close [Deut. 34: 7]”

Exodus is the second of the five books **written by Moses**

Several scriptures within Exodus point to his authorship:

Exodus 17:14

¹⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, “**Write this** *for* a memorial in the book and recount *it* in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.”

Exodus 24:4

⁴And **Moses wrote** all the words of the Lord.

New Testament references that support Moses as author of the book of Exodus:

Mark 12: 26

²⁶But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in **the book of Moses**, in the *burning bush passage*, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘*I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob*’?^ε [Ex. 3:6]

John 7:19

¹⁹Did not **Moses give you the law**, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?”

Theme of Exodus: Knowing God

“The **first half** of the book is dominated by the **theme of knowing God**” (New Bible Commentary)

- Moses at the burning bush—discovering about God’s nature and divine name
 - Egyptians coming to acknowledge God’s power
 - Israelites worshipping God at Pharaoh’s defeat

(New Bible Commentary) “The **second half** of Exodus develops further the **theme of knowing God** by focusing on the establishment of a close relationship between the Lord and the Israelites.”

To this end the narrative concentrates on two topics:
1) The making of the covenant
2) The construction of the tabernacle

“Closely associated the theme of knowing God is that of **obedience**. Exodus stresses throughout the importance of obeying the Lord”

“Another important theme is that of **holiness**.”

Egypt

(BKC) “The name ‘**Egypt**’ is from Greek (*Aegyptus*) ...”

Egypt was settled by the descendents of Ham’s son **Mizraim** [Gen. 10: 6]

Genesis 10:6

⁶The sons of Ham *were* Cush, Mizraim, ^fPut, and Canaan.

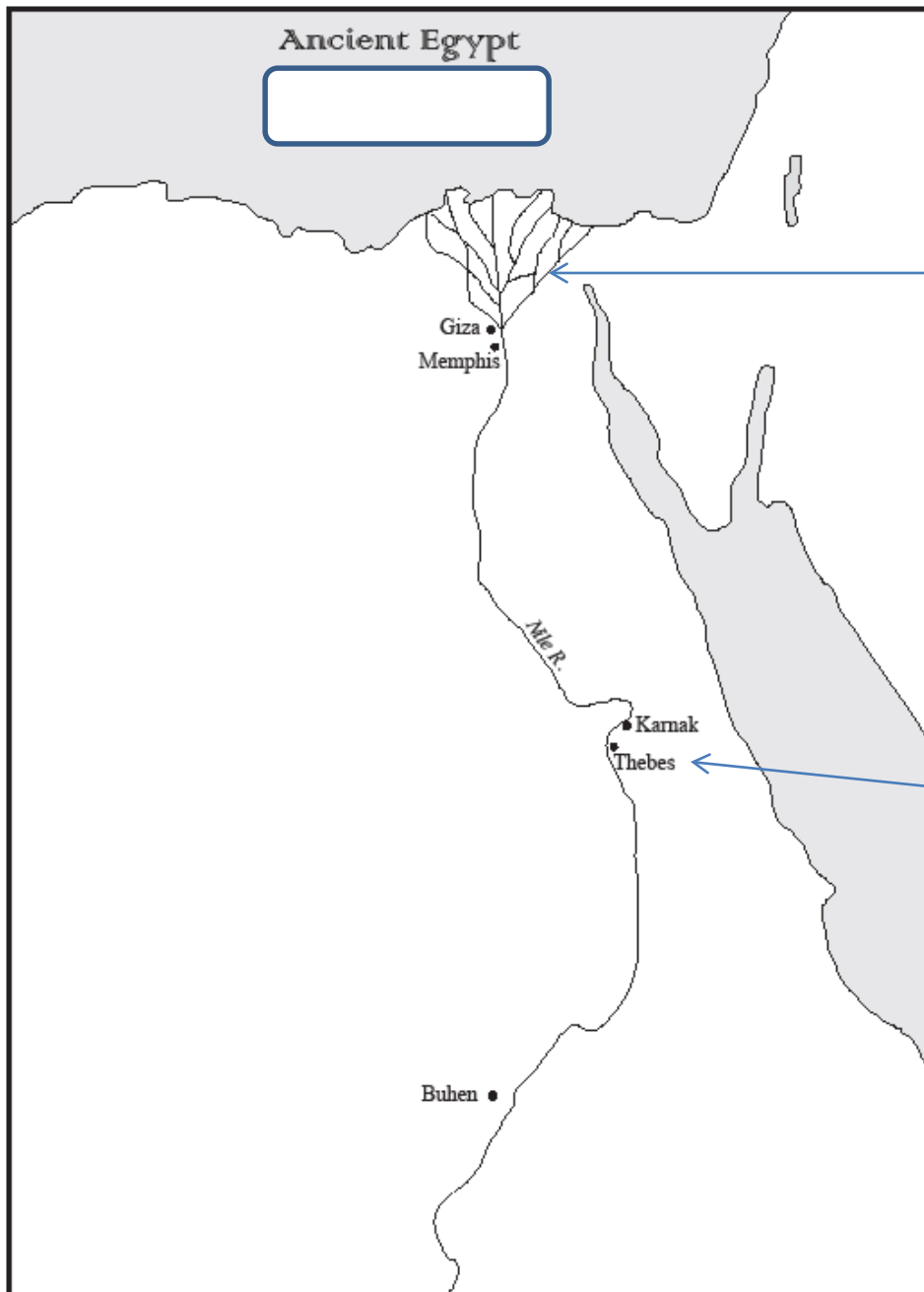
Egypt is known as ‘gift of the Nile,’ as the Greeks said, because it overflows its banks annually allowing for irrigation and fertile soil near the river

(Archeology and the Old Testament, Merrill Unger)

“Mizraim is ancient Egypt.

According to the Amarna Tablets the Canaanites called Egypt *Mizri*. The Hebrew name Mizraim, which has the same root, is normally construed as a dual, preserving the ancient divisions of the country, **Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt**”

(Unger's Bible Dictionary) “This geographic configuration of the country gave rise to the term **Upper Egypt**, denoting the long narrow fertile valley.....and **Lower Egypt** constituting the Delta.”



Ancient Egypt

Lower Egypt

Upper Egypt

Egyptian history: Egyptians—not great historians

(Zondervan Bible Backgrounds Commentary)

“An Egyptian priest named Manetho, who lived during the 200’s BC **divided Egyptian history into sections or dynasties**. He did this based on groups of kings who, in his view, shared important kinship, political, or geographical ties.

(Ancient Civilizations, Arthur Cotterell)

“The dates assigned to the dynasties and to individual reigns are calculated by using information from a number of sources....the shortcoming of all of these sources is their **failure to employ a continuous system of dating which the Egyptians never did**”

The Egyptians were most interested in recording about their gods and superstitions rather than recording history as we know it

(Archeology and the Old Testament, Unger)

“The Egyptians were the last people to record their misfortunes.”

Historical background:

Death of Joseph [Gen. 50:26]

[1806] (Eugene Merrill, A History of Old Testament Israel)

(Halley's) "There is a gap between Genesis and Exodus of nearly 300 years,
from the **death of Joseph** to the **birth of Moses**...
in this time the Israelites had increased mightily" [1:7]

300
Years

Birth of Moses [Ex.2:2]
[1526] (Eugene Merrill)

(Archeology and the Old Testament, Merrill Unger)

"the four hundred year sojourn of Israel in Egypt is largely passed over in the Biblical record....

..the **long interval** between these events is summed up in a single verse: 'and the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly'[Ex. 1:7]"

Historical contrast:

Welcoming Pharaoh of Joseph's day—welcomes Jacob and his family and invites them to stay in the best of the land



Pharaoh who does not know Joseph and leads to the oppression—bitter bondage and slavery

Historically something happened in between Joseph's day and Moses' time to change this situation



Hyksos domination of Egypt (“Hyksos”—foreigners)

(The Bible is History, Ian Wilson)

“Incontrovertible archeological evidence has come to light that Asiatics from the **Canaan** region infiltrated into the Nile Delta region between the 18th and 16th centuries BC. They dislodged the native Egyptians, took over political power throughout northern Egypt and forced the native Egyptian monarchy to retreat to the south.”



“Clearly, then, many of these Asiatic peoples who settled in the Nile Delta were urban **warrior** and mercantile **Canaanites** of the kind the sheep-herders Abraham and Jacob had warily but symbiotically moved among while in Canaan”

(A History of Old Testament Israel, Eugene H. Merrill)

“The Hyksos were a Semitic people who filtered into the Egyptian delta in the 18th century and eventually gained political control over most of lower Egypt for 150 years [1720-1570]

“...scholars such as John Van Seters identify the Hyksos as Semitic, specifically Amorites.”

(Zondervan Bible backgrounds commentary)

“They Hyksos were Semitic foreigners in Egypt who took over and ruled Lower Egypt for about 100 years”

“Hyksos” — foreigners from Canaan rule lower Egypt

Death of Joseph [Gen. 50:26]
(1806)

1800

1700

1600

Birth of Moses [Ex. 2:2]
(1526)

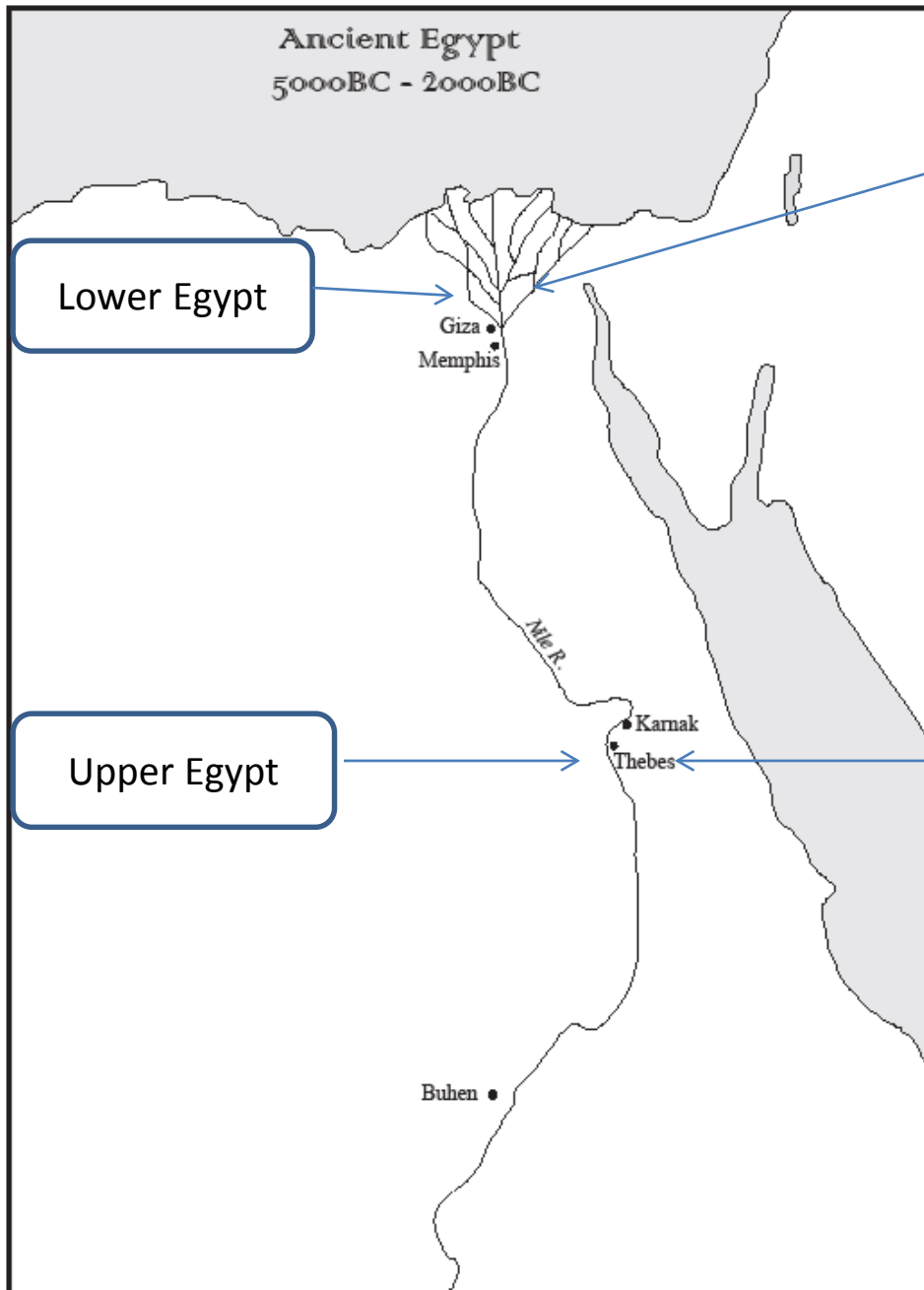
1720

Hyksos dominate lower Egypt
Approximately 150 years

(1720-1570)

1570

(1570) Hyksos expelled from Egypt,
and a new Egyptian Dynasty [18]
comes to power [1567]



Hyksos gain control of lower Egypt, [1720] make their capital at Avaris in the delta where the Israelites lived and there was apparent peace between them

- 1) Hyksos and Israelites—**language affinity**
- 2) From Canaan
- 3) Shepherding –nomadic peoples

The reigning Pharaoh flees to the south and rules from Thebes

(1570) Hyksos expelledand a **new dynasty** takes control of lower Egypt again (1567)

The Hyksos leadership escaped by their fastest chariots when they saw defeat was inevitable
(The Bible is History, Ian Wilson) “On capturing Avaris, they {Egyptians} enslaved those unable to make a quick getaway, a group that inevitably included the pastoralists with their sheep flocks”
[Israelites]

The new Pharaoh does not “know Joseph” and despises foreigners

(Arch. Old Testament, Unger) “the expulsion of the Hyksos...was the most important event that resulted in the oppression of the Israelites”

Pharaoh: title of Egyptian kings

(Unger's Bible dictionary) "It is the Hebrew form of the Egyptian title 'the great house'

(Aid to Bible Understanding) "The **Egyptians viewed the ruling Pharaoh as a god**, the son of the sun-god Ra, and not merely the representative of the gods.
He was thought to be the incarnation of the falcon god Horus the successor of Osiris."

(Aid) "Fastened to the front of his crown was an image of the sacred uraeus or **cobra**, which supposedly spat out fire and destruction upon his enemies.

(Aid) 'The image of Pharaoh was often placed in temples among those of other gods. There are even pictures of the reigning Pharaoh worshipping his own image.

(Aid) "As god, Pharaoh's word was law and he ruled not according to a law code but by decree"



"These points help in understanding how difficult Moses' assignment was in appearing before Pharaoh and presenting God's request and warnings"

Why are the Pharaoh's not named in the Bible?

1) The contrast between God and Pharaoh

(New Bible Commentary)

“One of the noteworthy features of the book of Exodus is its lack of historical references. For example, the Egyptian kings are designated merely by their title, Pharaoh, and not by name.

This is probably intentional , in order **to contrast the unnamed kings of Egypt with the sovereign God of Israel** whose name, the Lord (or Yahweh), was revealed to Moses and the Israelites”

2) Emphasis on theology and not history

(Zondervan Bible Backgrounds commentary)

“an examination of the historicity of the Exodus events must take into account the nature of historical understanding in the ancient world. Biblical authors and other ancient writers were often much more interested in making **theological points** than in convincing their readership of the historical reality of their assertions.”

There are several Pharaohs that rule in the time frame between chapter 1 and chapter 4 of Exodus:

(JFB) “The Hebrew copulative conjunction **and** does not always indicate immediate sequence, but, on the contrary, is used to connect sentences which record events separated from each other in point of time”

Exodus 1: 6 (OKJ)
“**And** Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.”

300
yr
Gap

Exodus 1:7 (OKJ)
“**And** the children of Israel were fruitful , and increased abundantly and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.”

Gap

Exodus 1: 8 (OKJ)
“Now [And] there rose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.”

(Companion) “The conjunction ‘now’ = **and**”

Chapter 1 (OKJ)—12 verses begin with ‘And’....2 ‘Now’ [22 total verses]

Several Pharaoh's ruling between Exodus chapters 1-2, Continued:
[120 years aprox.]

Exodus 1:11

¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens.

And they built for Pharaoh supply **cities**, Pithom and Raamses.

Building cities can occupy years and years of construction

(Matthew Poole) "Or defenced cities, in which garrisons were to be placed, which seems to best agree with the place and use of them"

(JFB) "the Septuagint calls them...strong fortified cities ; and *Osburn* says the Pithom means 'the lock' or 'safeguard' because it served as a safeguard to the frontier, and also a refuge...in case of an invasion from Canaan"

"treasure cities" (OKJ)

(Matthew Poole) "Where they laid the king's money or corn, which is reckoned among treasures, and wherein a great part of the riches of Egypt consisted"

Helps us understand how long the children of Israel suffered

Dynasty 18 (Merrill)

Amosis [1570-1546]-Expels Hyksos

- Did not know Joseph [Exodus 1:8]

Amenhotep I [1546-1526]

Continued the slave labor public works projects [Ex. 1: 11-14]

Moses born 1526

Thutmose I [1526-1512]—decree of infanticide [Exodus 1: 15-16]

Thutmose II [1512-1504]-marries older half-sister Hatshepsut...he dies young

Thutmose III[1504-1450]—a minor when he becomes Pharaoh...in competition with Moses

- Moses flees to Midian for 40 years[1486] [Ex. 2:15]
- Thutmose III dies [1450] [Ex. 2: 23]
- Moses returns [1446] [Ex. 4: 19]

Amenhotep II [1450-1425]—Pharaoh of the Exodus (plagues, etc)

(A History of the Old Testament Israel, Eugene Merrill)

“It must be reemphasized that absolute precision cannot be hoped for, but our dates for New Kingdom chronology....are those of the Cambridge Ancient History, a publication produced by impartial scholars and recognized as impeccable authority.”

Egyptian Religion: 1,500 gods

Exodus 12:12

¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and **against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.**

Trinity system of gods: Father, Mother, and Son
Osiris—Isis—Horus

- Some 1,500 other gods that were interrelated and worshipped in a tremendous pagan system

(Companion) “In the Egyptian ‘book of the dead’ **Osiris** is represented as **a bull**, accompanied by seven cows.”

Cows symbolized Egypt and one of their principal gods—**Isis**...cows were also the emblem of fruitful nature

“The Lower Egyptian goddess Neith...was also associated with the goddesses Hathor and Isis, she is often manifested in the **form of a cow**” (Encyclopedia of Ancient Civilizations, Arthur Cotterell)

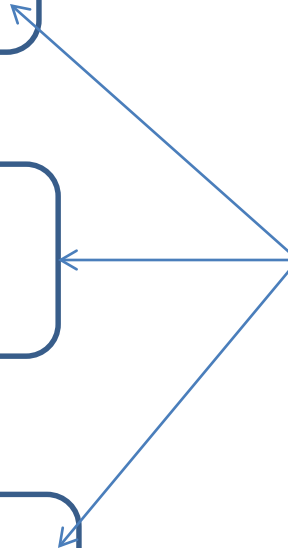
God's judgment: considering their trinity system of gods:

Osiris (father god) : Nile River—1st plague

Isis (mother god): protector of children—10th plague

Horus: son/sun god—9th plague

Egyptian gods rendered powerless to prevent God's judgment on them



Israel was influenced and corrupted by the gods of Egypt

(Halley's) "Of all the animals, the bull was the most sacred. Incense and sacrifice were offered before the sacred bull"

"Osiris is represented as a bull accompanied by **seven** cows" (Companion)

Exodus 32:4

⁴And he received *the gold* from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This *is* your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

Ezekiel 20:6-8

⁶On that day I raised My hand in an oath to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, 'flowing with milk and honey,' the glory of all lands.

⁷Then I said to them, 'Each of you, throw away the abominations which are before his eyes, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I *am* the Lord your God.'

⁸But they rebelled against Me and would not obey Me. They did not all cast away the abominations which were before their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. Then I said, 'I will pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.'

Ten Plagues

(BKC) “The plagues may have occurred over a period of about nine months”

The plagues can be followed through the months of the calendar leading up to Passover and Unleavened Bread

“The 1st occurred when the Nile rises (July-August). The 7th was in January when barley ripens and flax blossoms. The prevailing east winds in March or April in the 8th plague would have brought in the locusts. And the 10th plague occurred in April, the Passover month”

Natural phenomena?

(Zondervan Bible Backgrounds Commentary)

“The **text** presents many of the events as of an entirely **miraculous nature** rather than the intensification of natural phenomena”

(A History of Old Testament Israel, Eugene Merrill)

“They [plagues] must be understood for what they were—unique but genuinely historical outpourings of the wrath of a sovereign God who wished to show not only Egypt but his own people that he is the Lord of all of heaven and earth...”

Date of the Exodus—1446 BC

1 Kings 6:1

¹And it came to pass in the **four hundred and [£]eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt**, in the **fourth year** of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which *is* the second month, that he began to build the house of the Lord.

It is recognized that Solomon began to build the temple in the fourth year of his reign which was **966 BC**

$966+480= 1446$ BC

(Halley's) "During Israel's sojourn in Egypt, about 1800-1400 BC Egypt grew to be a world-empire. With Israel's departure, Egypt declined, and became, a second-rate power"