

## **Old Testament Foundation 2**

### **The Pentateuch Part 2- Exodus through Deuteronomy**

Through the leading of Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob, a famine was sent to the land of Canaan and the family of Jacob (70 in all) went to Egypt to survive. Through an earlier series of events, Jacob's son Joseph had been sold by his brothers as a slave and taken into Egypt. Over time, he became second to the Pharaoh. His position saved his family by providing food and a place to live. The family of Jacob (now called Israel) remained in Egypt for about 400 years. During that time their social status changed from guest of Pharaoh to slaves of Pharaoh. The time had finally come to bring God's people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land.

#### **Exodus - Yahweh as Sovereign God**

The title Exodus means "exit" or "departure" and describes the departure of the Israelites from Egypt.

#### **A Nation Within a Nation**

Moses, a descendant of Abraham, became the next person to move God's plan of redemption forward. Moses became the spokesman before Pharaoh to plead the Lord's case to "*let My people go.*" When Pharaoh refused to release them, Moses used a series of 10 plagues, each one directed at a particular god of Egypt. It was through these miracles that Yahweh showed not only His people but also all of Egypt who was the one true God.

By this period of history, however, the people of Israel had little faith in their God. The events following the plagues were intended to increase their faith and leave a clear message for future generations. Ex. 10:1, 2: *"Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the LORD.'"*

Moses confronted Pharaoh with 10 plagues, but it wasn't until the 10<sup>th</sup> and final plague that Pharaoh finally released the Israelites. This 10<sup>th</sup> plague was the death of the firstborn son and firstborn of every type of animal in every household in Egypt. But for the people of God, if they would believe Yahweh and sprinkle the blood of a sacrificed lamb on the doorposts of their homes, then the angel of death would "pass over" their house and spare the firstborn. This is recorded in Chapter 12.

1. From Exodus 12:24-28, what were the Lord's further instructions regarding Passover?

#### **Mosaic Covenant**

From this point on, the Lord would continually remind them "*I am the LORD (Yahweh) your God (Elohim), who brought you out of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.*" The next step was to learn who Yahweh was and what He required of them. Israel must learn to

trust Him without reservation. He gave them these words prior to leaving Egypt, *"I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD (Yahweh)."* Exodus 6:7, 8

2. After leaving Egypt, what instructions did the Lord ask Moses to give to this baby nation Israel? (Ex. 19:3-6)
3. How did the people respond to the Lord's words? (Ex. 19:8)
4. The Lord said they were to consecrate themselves (prepare themselves) and on the third day they were to come to the base of Mt. Sinai and He would renew the covenant with them. From Exodus 19:16-19, describe the scene.
5. Moses then went up and received the covenant conditions, which we call "The Ten Commandments." From Exodus 20:1-17, what were the conditions of the covenant?
6. While Moses was up on the mountain, what were the people doing? (Ex. 32:1-6)
7. What did the Lord say to Moses regarding the nation of Israel? (Ex. 32:7-10)

8. Moses, who is called a prophet because he brought the Lord's word to the people, stood before the Lord to plead the case of Israel. What did Moses say? (Ex. 32:11-13)
9. The Lord listened to Moses and Exodus 32:14 says, "Then the LORD relented and did not bring on His people the disaster He had threatened." But that wasn't the end of the matter. After understanding very clearly the Lord's view of the "sin" of Israel, what did Moses do? (Ex. 32:15-21)
10. Who was Aaron and how did he come to be with Moses? (Ex. 3:1-10 & 4:10-17)
11. What was Aaron's part in this incident and how did he respond to Moses' inquiry? (Ex. 32:22-24)
12. "Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." What happened next? (Ex. 32:26-29)

The Exodus is the story of God's choice of the nation Israel to bring restoration to all mankind. It illustrates God acting in history to bring to pass His promise to Abraham – and through that promise, blessing to the whole world. It also provides the working model or pattern for the Lord's future activity in completing that restoration.

**Leviticus – Numbers, The Law**

The title “Leviticus” means “relating to the Levites” and “Numbers” is taken from the two censuses contained in Chapters 1 and 26.

“God’s plan for redemption began with Abraham, a single individual. It has now grown to include all the people delivered out of Egyptian slavery. As a people chosen of God, they are to become His nation. They covenant with God to keep His Law, which becomes their constitution and national legislation. The book of Leviticus concentrates on the issue of proper worship and holiness while Numbers focuses mostly on cleanness and purity in the camp of Israel, offerings, vows and sacred celebrations, consecration and blessing. There are not a lot of laws included in Numbers. The book mostly covers the journey from Mt. Sinai to the edge of the Promised Land. This was the time when Israel put the Law into sandal-leather. It was a time to walk the life of faith – a faith that believes Yahweh’s promise and follows Yahweh’s Laws. The title “Numbers” comes from the two censuses taken and centers on the two generations in the wilderness.”<sup>1</sup>

13. The Law is also called the Mosaic Covenant. It was God’s legal code, “holy, righteous and good” (Romans 7:12). This is a conditional covenant. What were the conditions?

- Deut. 28:1-14

If:

Then:

- Deut. 28:15-44

If:

Then:

The Sign of the Mosaic Covenant is given in Exodus 20:8: *“Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”* The reason for observing the Sabbath is given in verses 9 –11: *“Six days a week are set apart for your daily duties and regular work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to the LORD your God. On that day no one in your household may do any kind of work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. For in six days the LORD made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; then he rested on the seventh day. That is why the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.”*

“The Law is divided into three areas:

**Decalogue**

The 10 Commandments are called the ‘Decalogue.’ These are the terms set down by God for what He expects of His people. God gave these Laws for the benefit of His people. The Decalogue can be summed up in one word, ‘faithfulness.’ Faithfulness to God as in no other gods, no idols, no misuse of His name & keeping the Sabbath as a sign of commitment to His rule over you. Faithfulness in relationship to others is the focus of the remaining commands. Parents deserve honor; in community one is not to lie, commit adultery, steal and certainly not murder. It even involved faithfulness in your motivation. You should not mentally steal your neighbor’s wife or anything else that is his. These commandments give the heart of the rest of the decrees and statutes and ordinances that make up the national legislation.

### **The Book of the Covenant**

The next section of laws is called the 'Book of the Covenant' which is found in Exodus 20:22 – 23:19. This gives the details on obligations and punishments needed to implement a just society. It includes what we call criminal and civil law as well as detailing the Sabbath and holy days.

### **Tabernacle & Worship**

The rest of the book of Exodus gives directions for the tabernacle or tent of meeting as the central worship place where Yahweh would be among them and meet with them. Yahweh said, *'I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. They will know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God'* Ex. 29:45, 46."<sup>2</sup>

The book of Leviticus gives the details about worship and holiness. But one soon realizes that worship is not separate from the rest of life. To keep the Decalogue is worship and these laws are included again in Leviticus 18:20 and 19:1-16.

14. Who did the Lord say would become priests? (Ex. 29:9)
  
15. In Leviticus Chapter 1, the role of the priest is detailed. Among the duties, the Lord is very specific that only blood of the sacrificed animals presented by the God-ordained priests would be acceptable to Him. What role would the rest of the Levites (descendants of Jacob's son Levi) have in worship? (Nu. 3:5-9)

### **Sacrifices Brought to the Lord**

16. Five offerings were given as acceptable to the Lord. Fill in the type of or purpose from the reference listed below.

<b>Offering</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Significance</b>
	Lev. 1:3	To make payment for sins in general.	This voluntary offering showed a person's devotion to the Lord.
	Lev. 2:1	To show honor and respect to the Lord in worship.	This voluntary offering acknowledged that all one has belongs to the Lord.
	Lev. 3:1	To express gratitude to the Lord	This voluntary offering symbolized peace and fellowship with the Lord.
	Lev. 4:1-3	To make payment for unintentional sins of uncleanness, neglect or thoughtlessness	This required offering restored the sinner to fellowship with the Lord; showed seriousness of sin.

Offering	Reference	Purpose	Significance
Guilt Offering	Lev. 5:1-5		This required offering provided compensation for injured parties.

### **The Feasts**

Israel was also commanded to observe feasts. "These feasts played a major role in Israel's culture. They were different from those of any other nation because being ordained by God; they were times of celebrating with Him, not time of moral depravity. God wanted to set aside special days for the people to come together for rest, refreshment and remembering with thanksgiving all He had done for them."<sup>3</sup>

17. The book of Leviticus gives the feast name, when it was to be celebrated and the purpose. Please fill in the chart.

Reference	Name	Time	Purpose
Lev. 23:3 & Ex. 20:8-11			
Lev. 23: 4, 5			
Lev. 23: 9-14			
Lev. 23: 15-22			
Lev. 23: 23-25			
Lev. 23: 26-32			
Lev. 23: 33-36			
Lev. 25:1-7			

Reference	Name	Time	Purpose
Lev. 25: 8-55			

### **Deuteronomy - Repetition of the Law**

The title “Deuteronomy” means “this second law giving” or “a copy of this law.” The popular title “second law” links the book of Deuteronomy with the Sinai Covenant of Exodus.<sup>4</sup>

This book is the last message Moses spoke to Israel. Delivered in a series of three “sermons,” Moses follows the pattern of ancient vassal covenant treaties. The book has a preamble (Deut. 1:1-5) followed by its history to remind Israel of the benefits that Yahweh, their King, had provided to them (Deut. 1:6-3:29). After the historical review, Deuteronomy records the basic laws of the treaty (Deut. 5-26) followed by the blessings and curses (Deut. 29-30).

As Moses’ life came to a close, he wrote a song (Chapter 32) for the people to memorize. It would be a reminder of all he had spoken to them. It served both as a warning and a hope. The words of the song would lead them back into relationship with Yahweh when they had wandered away.

Deuteronomy concludes with Moses calling upon the heavens and the earth to serve as witnesses to his faithful teaching of the covenant between Yahweh and His people Israel.

18. The key verse in Deuteronomy and quite possibly the whole Old Testament is called the “Shema.” It is recorded in Deut. 6:4 & 5. Write out these verses and memorize them.

### **Bibliography**

<sup>1</sup>Albert H. Baylis, From Creation To The Cross, Chapter 6

<sup>2</sup>Albert H. Baylis, From Creation To The Cross, Chapter 6

<sup>3</sup>Life Application Study Bible, (Zondervan, NIV 1991), Lev.23:1, footnote

<sup>4</sup>Herbert Wolf, An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch, Pg. 207