

Preliminary Lesson

The Liberator (Moses) and the Messiah

(Acts 7:17-36)

Welcome to the second book of our series on the Pentateuch. You will remember that at the end of Book 1 on Genesis we left the twelve sons of Israel in Egypt.



1. Now, review their names from Exodus 1:1-5.

In which region of Egypt had they settled? Give the **two** names that appear in Genesis 47:1 and 11, and then compare with Exodus 1:11.

2. Read Exodus 1:8-14. What big changes had taken place in the fortunes of the Israelites since the death of Joseph?

3. Centuries before, God had prophesied to Abraham something very important about this period of slavery. What was this? (Gen. 15:13,14)

4. Now, after 400 years of slavery in Egypt, God fulfilled the promise he had made to Abraham. We find the thrilling story of **the liberation** of God's people, in the last **four** books of the Pentateuch that we are to study in this course. Name these four books.

5. At first glance it would seem impossible for us to master these **four** long, and sometimes complicated, books of the Old Testament in such a brief course as this. Obviously, we can't deal with each word and verse in detail but we do hope to relate one section to another in such a way as to give you a very complete overall picture of the whole. That is why this Preliminary Lesson is so important. Look at Supplement 2 on page 215. Notice how it is divided into two columns that deal with two journeys. According to the column titles, what is the starting point and the destination of each journey?

a) _____

b) _____

6. Now look at the map in Supplement 3 on page 216. The river Jordan is, in fact, the border of the country they were aiming for.
Which country? _____

7. According to Supplement 2, which of the books of the Pentateuch relate the story of the journey from:
a) Egypt to Sinai? _____
b) Sinai to Jordan (the border with Canaan)? _____

8. Notice how Supplement 2 shows that at the end of each journey one of our four books was written. Which book in each case, and where were they written according to the notes there?
- _____
- _____

Note: When we say these books were “written” at a certain time we don’t mean to imply that this was in the exact form in which we have them today. It’s obvious that a future editor must have added, for example, the story of Moses’ death in Deuteronomy.

9. We are now able to review the relationship between the four books of our study. Which of these:
a) tells the story of the liberation from Egypt and the journey to Sinai? _____
b) tells the story of the journey from Sinai to the river Jordan? _____
c) was written in Sinai? _____
d) was written on the east bank of the Jordan? _____

10. Exodus highlights 8 places that the Israelites visited on their journey from Egypt to Sinai. Find them on the map in Supplement 3. Which are they?

Note: The exact position of these places is not known. Their positions shown on the map are approximate.

- 1) _____ 5) _____
2) _____ 6) _____
3) _____ 7) _____
4) _____ 8) _____

11. **Note:** The book of Numbers highlights the 8 main places visited on the journey from Sinai to Jordan. You can see these as well on the map but we will concentrate now on the 8 places that feature in Exodus.

12. Using the map, try to memorize the 8 places in the journey from Egypt to Sinai in the **order** in which they were visited.

13. **Exercise 1**

Without looking at the map, the group should now try to name these 8 places from memory. Every time a place is correctly named, the Group Leader should put the corresponding card face up on the table.

Exercise 2

After shuffling the cards, the group should re-sort them into the order in which the places were visited.

14. **Practical Work**

In the verses given below, underline in red in your Bible the place and write its number in the margin.

Information Panel	
1) Rameses Israel in slavery in Rameses while God prepared Moses to free them.	Key Word : Preparation
2) Succoth After they parted from the Egyptians, Succoth was their first stop.	Key Word : Parting
3) Etham In Etham God manifested his presence to them in a cloud.	Key Word : Presence
4) Red Sea When they reached the Red Sea, God opened the waters to allow them to pass safely.	Key Word : Passing
5) Desert of Shur (Marah) In the desert they lacked water; in Marah the water was bitter (Marah means bitter). It was a difficult problem , but God solved it miraculously by making the bitter water sweet.	Key Word : Problem
6) Elim When they reached Elim, they found 12 fountains of water and 70 palm trees under whose shade they were able to rest.	Key Word : Palms
7) Desert of Sin When they went out again into the desert, they soon became hungry. God met their needs with the provision of bread (manna).	Key Word : Provision of bread
8) Rephidim Once again they were plagued with thirst until God provided water from a rock that he ordered Moses to strike.	Key Word : Provision of water

Try to memorize the Key Word and principal event for each place.

15. Exercise 3:

Covering the information panel, the group should try to say the Key Word for each of the place names on the cards on the table.

Check your answers by looking at the back of each card.

Exercise 4:

Repeat Exercise 3, but this time, first choose a Key Word and then try to deduce from it the name of the place and the principal event that happened there. Check with the answers in the information panel above.

16. Practical Work

In the verses given below, underline in red in your Bible the place and write its number in the margin.

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|------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1) Rameses | (Ex. 1:11) | 5) Desert of Shur (Marah) | (Ex. 15:22) |
| 2) Succoth | (Ex. 12:37) | 6) Elim | (Ex. 15:27) |
| 3) Etham | (Ex. 13:20) | 7) Desert of Sin | (Ex. 16:1) |
| 4) The (Red) Sea | (Ex. 14:2) | 8) Rephidim | (Ex. 17:1) |

In which book can **all** these verses be found? _____

17. Let's return to the story of God's **liberation** of the Israelites. According to Stephen's account of this in Acts 7:35 and 36 whom did God use to bring about this liberation, or deliverance? _____

18. The central message in Exodus is the **liberation** of God's people from slavery and how the Lord used Moses to effect this. Now read Stephen's full account of the event in Acts 7:17-36 and then answer the following questions on it. In each answer also give the verse or verses from Acts 7 where you found the answer.

a) To whom had this promise of liberation been given, centuries before Moses' time?

b) What steps did God take in Egypt to prepare Moses to be the great **liberator** of his people?

c) By what means did Moses try to liberate God's people, that failed?

d) How and when did God call Moses to his great task as **liberator**?

e) What was the great central act of liberation that God carried out on the journey to Sinai, through Moses?

19. This act of liberation in the Red Sea was a symbol of the liberation that the Messiah would one day carry out. What evidence can be found in Luke 4:18 and Romans 11:26 that Jesus is that Messiah and **liberator**?

20. a) From what types of evil has Jesus liberated you? Share experiences.
b) In what areas of your life are there things from which you still await liberation? Share these and pray together about them.

21. Study this lesson well and then do the Test for the Preliminary Lesson on page 175.