

A Torah Study Guide
for the Young
& Young at Heart

PARASHAT
SHEMOT

שמות

Exodus 1:1-6:1

by
Ya'acov Natan Lawrence
& his kids

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

Great Discoveries in This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 1:1 The Children of Israel Grow to a Large Number
- 1:8 The New Pharaoh Enslaves the Israelites and Begins Killing the Newborn Boys
- 2:1 The Birth of Moses; His Rescue and Adoption by Pharaoh's Daughter
- 2:11 Moses Tries to Deliver His People; He Escapes to Midian to Save His Life
- 2:16 Moses Marries
- 2:23 The Time of YHVH's Salvation of His People Has Arrived
- 3:1 Moses the Shepherd; The Burning Bush Where YHVH Reveals Himself to Moses
- 3:13 The Name of Elohim Is Revealed; YHVH Commissions Moses
- 4:1 Moses Is Fearful About Going to Egypt
- 4:18 Moses Leaves for Egypt
- 5:1 Moses and Aaron's First Visit to Pharaoh; Pharaoh Increases the Israelites' Burdens
- 5:20 The Israelites Complain to Moses and Moses Complains to YHVH
- 6:1 YHVH Promises to Deliver Israel

Exploring This Week's Parashah:

1 Overview of the Books of the Torah (Main Themes)

If you were to quickly summarize the main points or themes of each of the books of the Torah, what would you say? By doing this, you would see the bigger picture or greater plan for YHVH's people that he has hidden in the Torah. It's like seeing a hidden picture in a picture. Let's discover the main themes of the Torah.

Genesis (its Hebrew name is **Bereisheet** meaning "in the beginning") is the book dealing with beginnings and how YHVH in his divine power chose certain people to accomplish his purposes on earth.

- ▲ (a) Based on what you've learned so far in your Torah Explorer studies, give several examples from *Genesis* that show how something had its beginning. Who were some special people that YHVH chose to fulfill an important mission for him?

Exodus (Hebrew name: Shemot meaning "names") is the book whose main theme is redemption or salvation. In this case, it is about Israel's deliverance or salvation from Egypt (Hebrew: Mitzraim), which we shall see later is a spiritual picture of this evil world. In Exodus we learn just how YHVH saves his people out of the world (or spiritual Egypt) and we are shown that his people are redeemed in order to worship him. The steps of YHVH's plan of redemption are laid out in Exodus 6:6-8.

- ▲ (b) Read Exodus 6:6-8. Make a list of what YHVH promises to do for his people in these verses. Here we see exactly **how** YHVH brings his people out of slavery.
- ▲ (c) What did YHVH tell Moses the reason was for bringing Israel out of Egypt? (Read Exodus 3:12.)
- ▲ (d) What did YHVH command Moses to tell Pharaoh was the reason for letting Israel go? (Read Exodus 4:23. See also Exodus 7:16.)

The word "serve" in Exodus 3:12 and 4:23 is the Hebrew word meaning "to worship." As we noted earlier, YHVH redeems his people (brings them out of Egypt) so that he will have a people who will love him by worshipping and obeying him.

Leviticus (Hebrew: Vayikra meaning "he [YHVH] called") gives instructions on HOW to worship YHVH. YHVH didn't just tell his people to leave Egypt and to go into the wilderness to worship him. He gave them specific instruction on how to do this in Leviticus. This book is like an instruction book or "how to" manual on worshipping YHVH.

Numbers (Hebrew: B'midbar meaning "in the wilderness") gives instructions pertaining to our spiritual walk and warfare in the "wilderness" of life. Upon leaving Egypt, not only does Israel learn to worship YHVH, but life in the wilderness begins. The wilderness is a picture of our physical lives on this earth as we are headed for the spiritual Promised Land of YHVH's eternal or forever spiritual kingdom. We must learn to overcome sin and temptations. We must learn to fight the devil and those who follow him who will attack us. We become victorious overcomers by faith in YHVH (and in his Word—the Torah and Yeshua) who will provide for all of our needs and help us to fight our battles.

Deuteronomy (Hebrew: D'varim meaning "words") gives instructions to the younger generation preparing them to enter the Promised Land. Deuteronomy reviews the truths of the Torah, and adds some new Torah-laws, as well. In this book, we learn what our hearts should be like when obeying YHVH's Torah (his instructions in righteousness). In it, YHVH predicts or prophesies what will happen to Israel in the future IF they either obey or disobey his Torah-instructions.

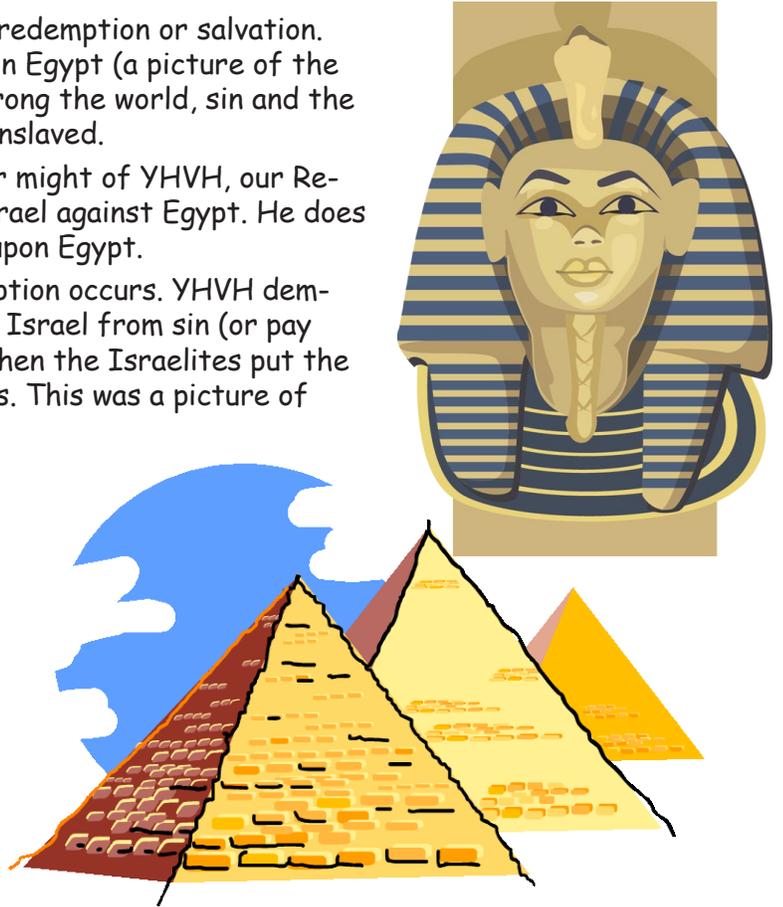


2 The Basic Outline of Exodus

What is an outline? It is a short plan that gives an overview of something much larger. For example, when you sew a new dress, you use plans called a pattern that you follow to help you make the dress. If you put together a model car, you follow plans that tell you how each piece fits together. A map is a plan that shows you how to get somewhere. A plan helps us to understand the bigger picture of something. A television guide would be a plan. It tells you what will be on television for the week or month and may give a brief description of the

shows. Below is a brief outline or plan for the Book of Exodus. This outline shows us the steps of how we are saved or redeemed from slavery to sin and Egypt and how to come into a right relationship with YHVH.

- **Chapters 1–6** show us the need for redemption or salvation. Israel was a nation in slavery to sin in Egypt (a picture of the world and the devil). We see how strong the world, sin and the devil are in keeping YHVH's people enslaved.
- **Chapters 7–11** show us the power or might of YHVH, our Redeemer, as he begins to fight for Israel against Egypt. He does this by pouring out the ten plagues upon Egypt.
- **Chapters 12–18** show us how redemption occurs. YHVH demonstrated how he planned to redeem Israel from sin (or pay the penalty price for Israel's sins) when the Israelites put the blood of the lamb on their door posts. This was a picture of Yeshua, the coming Redeemer who would die on the cross to pay the penalty for mans' sins. As a result of the lamb's blood on the door posts, YHVH set Israel free from the iron grip of Egypt (a picture of the world) and Pharaoh (a picture of Satan) by his miraculous power.
- **Chapters 19–24** teach us the duty of the redeemed. Once delivered from Egypt and bought out of sin by the blood of the lamb, YHVH in a sense now owns his people. Satan owned them before, but now YHVH owns them and they are to obey him by keeping his commandments. The difference between being owned by Satan and by YHVH is that Satan is an evil and cruel owner and following him leads to curses, misery, guilt and death. YHVH, on the other hand, is a kind and loving owner and obeying him leads to blessings and eternal life.
- **Chapters 25–40** show us that, even when YHVH's people are saved, they will still fall into sin from time to time and need YHVH to forgive them. Through the Tabernacle and sacrificial system, not only did YHVH show that there was a way for our sins to continue to be forgiven, but the tabernacle pattern shows us how to grow spiritually and draw closer to him in loving relationship. (We will study the tabernacle of Moses in more detail later.)



3 The Metaphors in Exodus

What is a metaphor? It is a word or phrase that represents something else. For example, in the Bible, light represents truth—it is a metaphor for truth, and darkness is a metaphor for evil. The number seven is a metaphor for something being perfect or complete, and a lamb is a metaphor for Yeshua who was sacrificed on the cross like a lamb being sacrificed on the altar.

Understanding the metaphors of the Bible helps us to understand the poetic or secret language of the Bible. It helps us to unlock the hidden meanings and find the buried spiritual treasures YHVH has placed in the Scriptures. The Bible is like a buried treasure chest: we must dig for that treasure. We must diligently study the Bible and ask YHVH to unlock the



treasure chest of mysteries found inside of it. In this case, we are using the idea of a treasure chest to represent the Bible—YHVH's Word. A treasure chest is therefore a metaphor for the Bible.

Let's now explore the metaphors in the Book of Exodus. Here is a list of them and their meanings:

- **Egypt** is a metaphor for the world, the place of sin and bondage where one is held captive before being delivered or redeemed by the power of YHVH and the blood of Yeshua, the Lamb of Elohim.
- **Pharaoh** is a metaphor for Satan, a merciless slavemaster who was against the people of YHVH every step of the way.
- **Pharaoh's magicians** are a metaphor for Satan's demons who did what Pharaoh (Satan) wanted them to do against YHVH's people.
- **Moses** is a metaphor for Yeshua (at his first

coming). He was the Deliverer of his people from the bondage and power of sin, death and hell, which is the power of the enemy, or Satan. Moses came to set the people free from physical Egypt, while Yeshua comes to set us free from spiritual Egypt (sin and the devil).

- **The blood of the lamb** on the door posts is a metaphor for Yeshua, the Redeemer shedding his blood on the cross for our sins.
- **The crossing of the Red Sea** is a metaphor for our joining or identifying with Messiah Yeshua's death, burial and resurrection spiritually through baptism. In this manner, his death, burial and resurrection is a picture of what happens to us spiritually when we surrender our lives to him, love and obey him. Our old sinful man dies and we become a new spiritual or born-again man through the power of the resurrected Yeshua living in us.
- **The journey through the wilderness** is a metaphor for the trials and testing that occur during the redeemed believer's spiritual walk through this physical life with YHVH's promise to meet every need and to protect us from every attack of the adversary.
- **The giving of the Torah** is a metaphor for the obedience and submission that we owe to YHVH, our new Master.
- **The Tabernacle** with its furnishings is a metaphor for YHVH's plan of redemption (or salvation) for mankind and the steps in man's spiritual growth into a loving relationship with the Father through Yeshua the Messiah.

4 The Burning Bush

▲ (e) Read Exodus 3:2.

The Hebrew word for "bush" is referring to a thorn bush. What is the spiritual meaning of a thorn bush with the fire of YHVH in it, but that doesn't burn up?

▲ (f) Read Hebrews 12:29 and Revelation 20:11-13. What are the wicked thrown into? (See Revelation 20:15.)

▲ (g) What does the Bible teach that sinners deserve? (Read Ezekiel 18:4 and Romans 6:23.)

▲ (h) That bush is a picture of you and me who deserve to die for our sins, but despite the fire of YHVH's judgment and his anger against our sinfulness (see Psalm 7:11)

he doesn't destroy us, though we deserve it. What does this teach us about the love and mercy of YHVH toward his people? How is the burning bush a picture or metaphor of YHVH's grace and mercy?



5 The Names of Elohim

▲ (i) Read Exodus 3:13-15.

In these verses, we see the two main names of Elohim revealed in a special way to Moses. The name Elohim (God) is used some 2606 times in the Hebrew Scriptures and refers to his strict justice. YHVH (LORD), on the other hand is his covenant name, which speaks of his grace and mercy. Both names are very important to know, understand and to use.

▲ (j) What does the Bible teach us about using the set-apart names of Elohim? Read the following scriptures and list what it says about the name of YHVH Elohim.

- Isaiah 52:6
- Jeremiah 16:21
- Exodus 20:7
- Isaiah 12:4
- Psalms 99:3; 113:3
- Malachi 3:16-17 (note verse 16)
- Psalm 22:22
- Revelation 7:2-4 (note verse 3); 14:1
- Matthew 28:19
- Ruth 2:4 and Psalm 129:8 show us that it is alright even to use the name of YHVH (likely pronounced Yehovah or Yehowah) as a common greeting (if we do so with honor and respect to YHVH!).

