

3 Exodus

God's plans took the people into Egypt where they would become slaves under Pharaoh. God did not forsake his people and he will free them from bondage and lead them to the land he had promised them.

Readings for the Week

Exodus 1-3

Exodus 11-12:42

Exodus 33-34

Exodus 40

Have you ever lived as a foreigner in another country? If not as a resident, have you travelled and been a tourist? How was that experience? What difficulties did you have?

How does it feel to be an outsider?

The children of Abraham were not only in a foreign land, Egypt, but they were there as slaves under the rule of Pharaoh. They had first settled under more favorable conditions when Joseph was in power, but later came under great oppression.

Wouldn't it be easy to doubt God's ongoing plan if you were in such dire circumstances?

Exodus 2:23-25

During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

In times of crisis, is it your first instinct to turn to God in prayer? Why or why not?

What comfort does it give you to know that God hears our prayers? Does reading this make you more likely to turn to God for help in times of need?

God had not forgotten his covenant. Before their cries had even gone up to God he had raised up a man whom he would use to help deliver the people. Read Exodus 3:1-15 to see what God's plan is for Moses and the people.

What is the significance of Moses taking off his sandals? How are we to approach God?

What qualifies Moses to be able to do such a great task?

Read Exodus 12:21-32. What leads to the exodus from Egypt? Who is it that is able to secure the freedom for Israel? What must be done?

It is not that Moses is qualified to deliver the people, rather it is the fact that God will be with him. And it is not Moses who figures out a way to free Israel, but it is God who provides a way in the Passover. Even though God had done so much, the people quickly turn to idols in Exodus 32. Read Exodus 33:1-6 to see the seriousness of such a rejection of God.

Why does God say he can't be in their midst? What would happen if he was among them?

Do you often think of God in this way, as one who truly cannot tolerate sin?

Because of their being a "stiff-necked" people, God says he can't be in their midst, but Moses pleads his case later in chapter 34, saying *because they are stiff-necked that is all the more reason they need God among them*. We need God's presence among us because we're so quick to sin, but it is our sin that separates us. God does find a way to dwell among the people and we see that in Exodus 40. Read Ephesians 2:11-22 to see how this problem of our sin is solved *ultimately* in Christ.

How has God dealt with sin? What did Christ have to do for us? How can God now be among us and where does he dwell?

How can we apply what we are learning to the way we live today?

