

KNOWING GOD

OVERVIEW OF EXODUS

General Outline

- This fascinating book narrates three main events:
 - Israel's deliverance from Egypt (1-12:36)
 - The journey from Egypt to Mount Sinai (12:37-18)
 - The receiving of the Law and the building of the tabernacle at Sinai (19-40)

In Relation to Genesis

- The Hebrew text begins with the term *waw* or “and”
- Verse 1 repeats Gen 46:8
- Exodus fulfills the patriarchal promises of offspring, land, and blessing (Gen 12:7; 13:14-17; 15:18)
- The narration begins with Pharaoh embarking upon a program of infanticide (1:15-16)
- Yahweh hears the cry of his people and remembers his covenant (2:23-25)
- Yahweh raises up Moses (2:1)

Knowing God Relationally

- “YHWH’s coming to live among the Israelites brings to an apt conclusion a book that is dominated by the theme of knowing God personally” (Alexander 2017, 2)
- “The Exodus story is a multifaceted diamond that witnesses to God’s compassion, faithfulness, glory, holiness, justice, majesty, mercy, and power” (Alexander 2017, 2)
- “Knowing YHWH relationally lies at the heart of the covenant or friendship treaty ratified at Sinai. The overall movement in Exodus underlines that knowing God is not confined merely to intellectual knowledge. YHWH moves from being a distant deity to becoming a close neighbour” (Alexander 2017, 2)

Knowing God Relationally

- YHWH delivers Israel from slavery as an act of faithfulness (2:24; cf. Gen 15:13-14)
- YHWH appears as a flame to Moses (3:2, 15)
- YHWH reveals himself through the ten plagues (7:14-12:36) in response to Pharaoh's question (5:2)
- YHWH provides the Passover to atone for sin (12:1-36)
- YHWH purifies (12:22) and sanctifies Israel (19:6)
- YHWH makes a covenant with Israel at Sinai (19:5-6)
- YHWH's fire-and-cloud glory descends upon the tabernacle (40:34-38)

Related Themes

- Israel moves from bondage in Egypt to submitting to the Lordship of YHWH as a holy nation (19:5-6)
- This process involves both atonement and consecration (24:5-11)
- The obligations of the covenant should shape their community so that their behaviours reflect YHWH
- Compassion and integrity characterize God's holy people
- Holistic salvation is the central theme of Exodus

Chiastic Structure of Exodus

A1 Building for Pharaoh (1-5)

B1 The Lamb of God (6-12)

C1 The Companion God (13-18)

D The Grace and the Law of God (19-24)

C2 The Indwelling God (25-31)

B2 The Golden Calf (32-43)

A2 Building for God (35-40)

Conclusion

- Knowing God involves truthful and experiential knowledge
- Passover sacrifice points to Christ's death on the cross (1 Cor 5:7)
- There is no place for "cheap grace" in the Christian life
- Christians are saved to submit to Christ's Lordship and to become more like him
- The church is "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of God's own possession" (1 Pt 2:9; cf. Ex 19:5)