

GOD'S
Gracious
GUIDANCE

GOD'S *Gracious* GUIDANCE

Juanita Purcell

 REGULAR BAPTIST
Press

Special Thanks . . .

to several of the women in my ladies' Bible study who helped me title the lessons: Nancy Custudio, Karen Antonson, Connie Overholt, Jan Edgar, Judy Leonard, Karen Huebner, Gail Reikest, Doris Thome, Deona Greek, Millie Knutson, Debbie Riddle, Bonnie Shipley, and Carolyn Camirilli.

God's Gracious Guidance: Lessons from Exodus

© 2004 Regular Baptist Press • Arlington Heights, Illinois

www.RegularBaptistPress.org • 1-800-727-4440

Printed in U.S.A. All rights reserved.

RBP5302 • ISBN: 978-1-59402-049-0

Fifth printing—2019

All rights reserved. Except as permitted under U.S. Copyright Law, no part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	6
<i>Outline of Exodus</i>	7
<i>Map</i>	8
LESSON 1 <i>From a Cradle to a Palace</i>	9
LESSON 2 <i>Who? Me, Lord?</i>	18
LESSON 3 <i>Excuses! Excuses!</i>	27
LESSON 4 <i>When Things Go from Bad to Worse</i>	34
LESSON 5 <i>Testing a Hardened Heart.</i>	41
LESSON 6 <i>The Night History Was Made</i>	48
LESSON 7 <i>God Will Make a Way.</i>	55
LESSON 8 <i>Testing: A Necessary Part of the Journey.</i>	62
LESSON 9 <i>A Fresh Look at God's Laws</i>	70
LESSON 10 <i>The Tabernacle: A Picture of Christ</i>	80
LESSON 11 <i>So Soon We Forget</i>	93
LESSON 12 <i>Giants Ahead!</i>	101
<i>Leader's Guide</i>	109

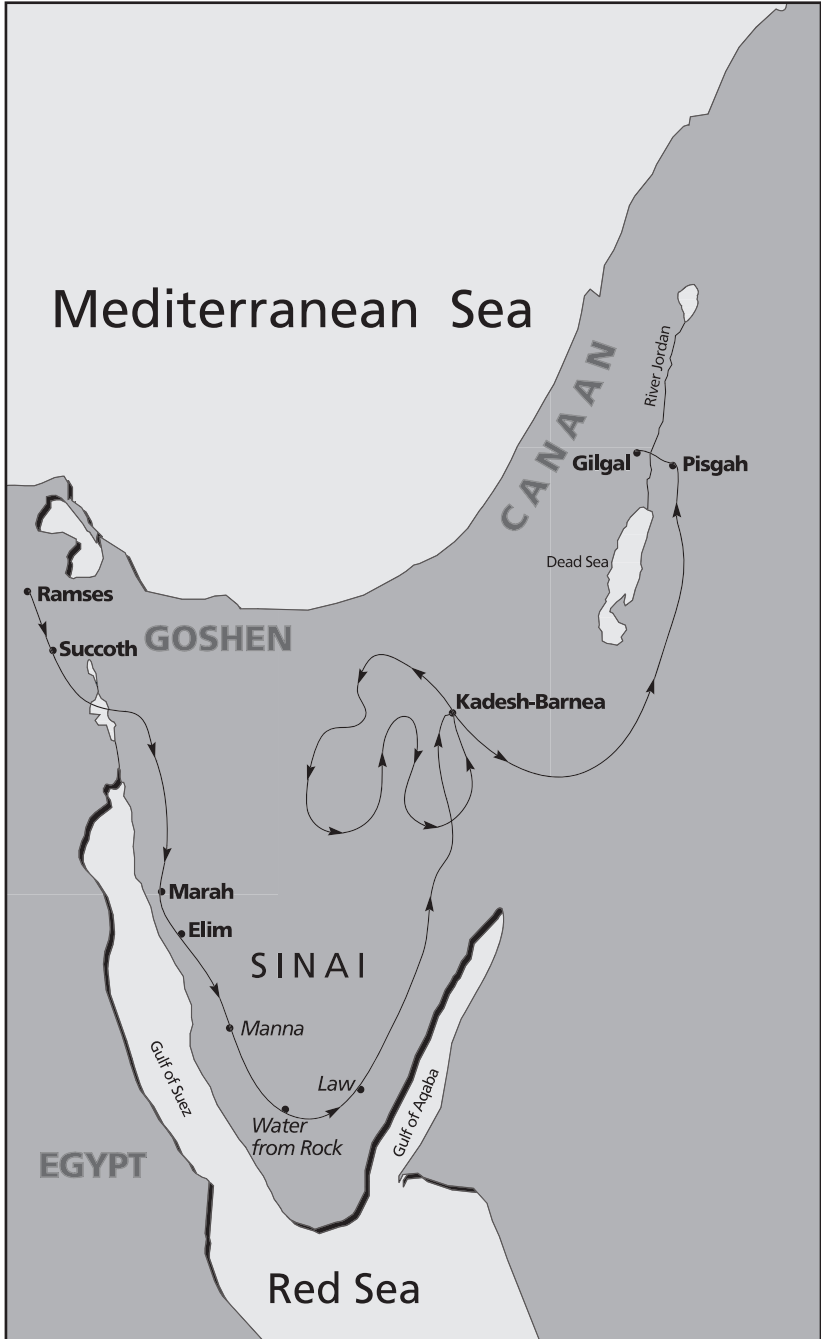
Preface

The book of Exodus is the exciting account of God's guidance in the lives of Moses and the Children of Israel. The excitement of the account lies in the fact that God is still guiding His children step by step today—that is, when they will follow. Moses and especially the Children of Israel were not exactly excited about the way God wanted to guide them. They, like us, preferred the security of surroundings they were familiar with to the uncertainty of an unknown future. However, when God gives us marching orders, He doesn't ask us if we like His plan. He just says, "Follow Me."

God may be preparing you, as He prepared Moses, for a special task. I trust you will study these lessons with the determination that you will follow God's gracious guidance wherever He leads you.

Outline of Exodus

- I. Israel in Egypt (1:1—12:30)
 - A. Slavery in Egypt
 - B. God chooses Moses
 - C. God sends Moses to Pharaoh
 - D. Plagues strike Egypt
 - E. The Passover
- II. Israel in the Desert (12:31—18:27)
 - A. The Exodus
 - B. Crossing the sea
 - C. Complaining in the desert
- III. Israel at Mount Sinai (19:1—40:38)
 - A. Giving the law
 - B. Tabernacle instruction
 - C. Breaking the law
 - D. Tabernacle construction



From a Cradle to a Palace

Exodus 1:1—2:10

“And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water”
(*Exodus 2:10*).

The Background of Exodus

Exodus, the second book of the Bible, has this title to represent the Israelites’ exit from Egypt. “Exodus” is a Greek word, meaning “exit, departure, or going out.” The writer of the book, Moses, is the main character in Exodus.

At the close of Genesis, the first book in the Bible, the Israelites were in Egypt. Jacob’s twelve sons and their families were settled in the land of Goshen. How did all these Israelites, who were formerly in the land of Canaan, happen to live in Egypt? Look at the map on page 8 and locate Canaan and Egypt.

The story unfolds in Genesis 37. Joseph’s jealous brothers sold Joseph, Jacob’s favorite son, into slavery. Joseph was taken to Egypt as a slave, but in God’s providence and timing, Joseph became a ruler in Egypt. Many years later a famine in the land of Canaan caused Joseph’s brothers to travel to Egypt to find grain for their livelihood. They did not know that their long-lost brother had become a ruler in Egypt and would be the one who would give them grain. Joseph forgave his brothers for their cruel treatment and invited his father and brothers to move to Egypt so they could have plenty of grain. Pharaoh welcomed Joseph’s family to the land of Goshen (Genesis 47:6). Genesis closes with Joseph’s death.

To understand the book of Exodus, we need to know that four hundred years transpired from Joseph’s death (Genesis 50:13) to the opening chapters of Exodus. The welcome the Israelites enjoyed

from Pharaoh lasted about thirty years. Exodus 12:40 tells us that they “dwelt in Egypt . . . four hundred and thirty years.” In Acts 7:6 we read that the Children of Israel were brought into bond-age and mistreated for four hundred years.

Exodus 1:1—2:10

1. What transpired in the four hundred years between the conclusion of Genesis and the opening of Exodus? Read Genesis 46:27 and Exodus 1:1–7 and 12:37 and 38.
2. Read Exodus 1:8–10. How did the new pharaoh feel about Joseph’s family, and why did he feel that way?
3. How did Pharaoh show his spite for the Hebrews (Exodus 1:11–14)?
4. In Exodus 2:23 we read that the Israelites cried out to God because of their bondage. It appeared God had forgotten His children. How do we know God hadn’t forgotten? See Genesis 15:13 and 14.

5. Have you ever felt as if God had forgotten you, yet years later you saw His promise to you fulfilled? Explain the situation and the promise God fulfilled.

Joseph is a good illustration of someone who might have felt God had forgotten him. Joseph was put into prison for doing what was right (Genesis 39). Yet we know God didn't forget him. Genesis 41:39–44 records that Joseph was freed from prison and made second in command in the land. Joseph displayed his evident trust in God in spite of all his hurtful situations. When his brothers faced him (Genesis 50:18–20), he knew God had not forgotten him but had had a purpose for what He allowed. Joseph said to his brothers, "Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good."

God had not forgotten the descendants of Abraham in Egypt. The promise given in Genesis 15:13 and 14 was about to be fulfilled: "they shall afflict them four hundred years; . . . afterward shall they come out with great substance." But before we see how God used Moses as a deliverer, we will see how Moses himself was delivered. God "delivered" him from a home of slave parents to a home in the palace.

By the time of Moses' birth, Pharaoh's fear of the Israelites had increased.

6. Read Exodus 1:15 and 16. What plan did Pharaoh devise to stifle the growth of the Hebrew population?

7. Did his plan work? Why or why not? See Exodus 1:17–19.

Because the midwives feared God, the Bible says they were given husbands. God gave them husbands and blessed them with children.

8. Since Plan A didn't work, Pharaoh moved to Plan B. What was that plan according to Exodus 1:22?

Moses entered the world in terribly difficult days. It was an awful time of pain and cruelty for God's people. Pharaoh could have been called the Hitler of Moses' day. Yes, Moses was born in one of the darkest hours of Israel's history; but men and women were still marrying and having children.

9. Into what kind of a home was Moses born? Read Exodus 2:1 and 2 and 6:20 and Hebrews 11:23.

10. Instead of obeying the king's command to kill all male children, what did Moses' parents do? See Exodus 2:2.

11. Does submission to civil authority have limits? According to Acts 5:29, when the laws of the land violate God's laws, which laws should we obey?

Some missionaries and Christians who live in other countries are faced with this difficult choice: should they obey God or obey the laws of the land?

12. What do James 1:12 and Revelation 2:10 teach us about these faithful servants?

The following poem was often quoted by John Stamm, a missionary in China, who was beheaded by communists.

Afraid? Of what?
To feel the spirit's glad release?
To pass from pain to perfect peace?
The strife and strain of life to cease?
 Afraid—of that?

Afraid? Of what?
Afraid to see the Savior's face?
To hear His welcome, and to trace
The glory gleam from wounds of grace?
 Afraid—of that?

Afraid? Of what?
To enter into Heaven's rest?
And yet to serve the Master blest,
From service good to service best?
 Afraid—of that?¹

Moses' family chose to obey God's law. They successfully hid Moses for three months. But as the baby grew, they faced a tough decision.

13. After three months, Moses' parents had to devise a new plan to keep Moses alive. What did they do? See Exodus 2:3.

14. Read Exodus 2:4–9. What insight do these verses give us into Jochebed's plan to save Moses from death?

Jochebed truly was a woman of faith. God blessed her creative plan. Not only was Moses given protection by the very king who commanded that he should have been drowned, but also Jochebed was paid to care for her son (Exodus 2:9).

We are not told in Scripture how much time Moses' mother had with him. The lapse of time between verses 9 and 10 is not given. However, the custom of that day was to wean a child at three or four years of age. Jochebed didn't have Moses for many years, but she had him long enough to establish his Hebrew heritage and teach him of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—Jochebed's God and Moses' God!

15. After Jochebed weaned Moses, what did she do? Why did this take great faith? See Exodus 2:10.

16. Have you, or has someone you have known, ever had to give a child to someone else to raise, either through adoption or because of a difficult experience? Did a reunion ever take place? Explain the situation.

We can only imagine the pain in Jochebed's heart as she gave her youngest child to the heathen princess.

17. According to Exodus 2:10, who named Moses, and what does the name mean?

Moses left a modest home of slaves to live in a palace. However, the young Moses probably faced many lonely years. He left a loving mom and dad and brother and sister to live with an idolatrous princess. The princess probably dreamed that Moses, her adopted son, would one day be the next pharaoh of Egypt. However, God had other plans!

18. Have you found it futile to try to plan a child's future? How have your plans, your child's plans, and God's plans gone in different directions?

19. How can Psalm 37:23 encourage you when you think of the future?



From My Heart

Have you been going through desperate days? Have you felt that God has forgotten the pain and turmoil you are in? I encourage you not to doubt in the dark what you know in the light. God loves you; God sees your struggles; God hears your cries for help; God cares! Keep trusting!

If we don't trust God in the dark, we put ourselves in bondage. We become slaves to worry, fear, anger, loneliness, depression—the list goes on and on. So how do we move from victim to victory? We must focus on the promises of God instead of on our problems.

Listed here are promises you can remember when facing various problems.

Problem	Promises
Worry	Philippians 4:6, 7; Psalm 37:23
Fear	2 Timothy 1:7; Isaiah 26:3
Forgiveness	Colossians 3:13; Matthew 6:14
Loneliness	Hebrews 13:5; John 14:18
Confusion	James 1:6, 7; Psalm 32:8
Depression	Isaiah 43:2; Philippians 4:8
Anger	Proverbs 15:1; Proverbs 16:32

If you don't know Jesus Christ as your Savior, you need to claim the promise in Romans 10:13: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." The plan of salvation below explains how you can call on the Lord to save you.

God **loves** you and wants you to enjoy the **abundant life** He offers you (John 3:16; John 10:10).

Man is **sinful**, and his sin **separates** him from God (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23).

Jesus Christ's death is the only **provision** God has made to pay for man's sin (Romans 5:8; John 14:6).

We cannot earn a place in Heaven by our good works (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

You must **receive** Jesus Christ as your Savior before you can personally experience His love for you and the abundant, happy life He has planned for you (John 1:12).

You can invite Christ into your life right now by a simple act of faith (Romans 10:9–13). Are you ready to invite Christ into your life to be your Savior? Use the following prayer to help you express your desire to God.

"Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. Right now I open my heart and invite You into my life as my Savior. Thank You for forgiving my sin and giving me everlasting life. I want You to have control of my life so I can experience the blessed life You have planned for me."

The Bible **promises eternal life** to all who receive Christ as Savior (1 John 5:11–13).

From Your Heart



Have you been trusting God in dark situations? If you haven't been trusting, do you feel in bondage to your situation? Which of the problems listed on page 16 have put you in bondage? What other verses have helped you?

Notes:

1. E. H. Hamilton.