



A BOOK ABOUT SLAVES

Understanding the Tale of the Exodus — And What It Means for Us

Exodus is the story of how a faithful God heard the cries of an oppressed group of slaves and rescued them in order to crown them with glory and honor, make them a holy people, and dwell in their midst.

When They Worship...

- We must learn to see the significance of the events of Exodus 14.
- God has just brought the most powerful, brutal, abusive, and oppressive nation to its knees.
- Through the Ten Plagues (and the Sea of Reeds), God cripples the Egyptian Empire militarily and economically...all for the sake of slaves.

When They Make The Tabernacle...

- God isn't just giving them a complicated list of rules to see if they will obey.
- God is crowning them with honor and beauty by filling craftsmen with the Holy Spirit and having them create a beautiful and intricate tent, so God can live with His people.

When They Worship the Golden Calf...

- ...they are breaking God's heart.
- He has given them such a marvelous gift and they have shown disdain for His gift, for God Himself.
- God still filled the tent with His glory at the very end of the book.

...I Am Not One of These People

- This book isn't about me. I have never been a slave. My people have never been slaves.
- My people were on the other side of that divide. My people built their nation on the backs of slaves (as did the UK, Rome, Greece, and Persia).
- ...I don't know that I'm actually supposed to identify with Israel.

...I Am a Gentile

- I have to put myself in this story as an Egyptian or a Canaanite.
- “This group of slaves is favored by God. Even though their road looks like it might be filled with struggle and sorrow, I think I would be better off hitching my wagon to theirs.”

...I Am a Gentile

- I have to break allegiance with my gods, the idols of my people, and swear allegiance to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- I have to be one of the Egyptians who left the mighty empire of Egypt and went along with this group of slaves.
- I have to be like Rahab, the harlot of Jericho, who betrayed her people and gave her allegiance to the God of these foreigners.

Jesus, God's True Son

- When Jesus showed up on the Earth, Rome was the new Egypt. But sadly, some of the Jews had become like Gentiles.
- They manipulated and oppressed their fellow man. They were filled with hatred, bitterness, and violence. They were not loyal, in their hearts, to the God of Israel.

Jesus, God's True Son

- Jesus became the new Israel, God's true firstborn Son. He offered to lead anyone, Jew or Gentile, out of bondage and into freedom if they would follow Him. And He is still making that offer. The only way to the Father is through Him.

Jesus, God's True Son

- In order to be rescued by Him and become God's people, we have to break allegiance with the gods of our nation.
- We have to join ourselves to a lowly and oppressed slave man, who died a shameful death.
- We have to be willing to follow Him even to our own shameful deaths, knowing that on the other side – when He returns – we will be crowned with glory and honor.

Jesus, God's True Son

- The only way to the Father is through Israel's Messiah. Are we willing to forsake our idols and clothe ourselves in His shame and lowliness?
- If we are, we get to become children of God, heirs of the promises God made to Abraham.
- We get to become living stones in the glorious, beautiful, and intricate temple of God.

If you want to become God's child, you have to become a slave. Period. That's the story of Exodus and that's the Gospel story.