**Survey of Old Testament**

**The oppression of Israel in Egypt Exodus 1**

1. The Book of Exodus divides into two sections. The first section (1–18) deals with the plight and deliverance of Jacob’s (Israel) descendants from Egyption slavery. The second section (chapters 19–40) deals with the worship of the redeemed nation.
2. The names and number of the children of Israel that went down into Egypt are listed ﻿(1–5﻿). Joseph and all his brethren of that generation die. The great increase of their posterity (6-7﻿). A new Pharaoh comes into power that knows nothing of Joseph. The cruel policy of the king of Egypt to destroy them,( ﻿8–11﻿).
3. They increase greatly, notwithstanding their affliction. The account of their hard bondage (13﻿-14﻿). Pharaoh’s command to the Hebrew midwives to kill all the male children (15-16). The midwives disobey the king’s command and on being questioned, vindicate themselves (17–19﻿). God is pleased with their conduct, blesses them, and increases the people ﻿(20﻿-21﻿). Pharaoh gives a general command to the Egyptians to drown all the male children of the Hebrews (22﻿).

**The deliverer of Israel from Egypt Exodus 2–4**

1. This chapter begins the story of Moses, that man of renown, the most remarkable type of Christ, as a prophet, saviour, lawgiver, and mediator, in all the Old Testament. Moses was a Levite, both by father and mother.  The parents of Moses had Miriam and Aaron, both older than him. The child was fine (2), that is, beautiful. Stephen said Moses “was no ordinary child” (Acts 7:20); so did the writer to the Hebrews (Heb. 11:23). Acting by faith in God’s ability to solve their problem, Moses’ parents hid him, not fearing the king of Egypt. But after three months it was no longer safe to keep him at home.
2. Moses’ mother decided to hide the child in a basket along the Nile River. God’s providence is clearly evident in His care of the infant, for miraculously the child was restored to his own parents. The sight of a beautiful babe in distress could not fail to make the impression on Pharaoh’s daughter. Pharaoh’s daughter named him Moses meaning “I drew him out of the water”. Moses was draw out of the water and Pharaoh’s army was drown in the water.
3. Being full forty years of age, (Acts 7:23﻿) it came into his heart to visit his brethren. Seeing one of them suffer wrong, by an Egyptian beating him, he avenged him and killed the Egyptian, supposing that God who had given him commission, had given also his brethren to understand that they were to be delivered by his hand (Acts 7:23–25﻿).
4. Moses leaves Egypt to escape Pharaoh and is led by the Lord to his wife.  Moses fled eastward and lived among the Midianites. The father of these people was Midian, a son of Keturah, wife of Abraham, who sent them “to the land of the east” (Genesis 25:1–6).
5. For forty years (Acts 7:30) Moses undertook the toilsome life of a sheepherder in the Sinai area, thus gaining valuable knowledge of the land which later was helpful as he led the Israelites in that wilderness.
6. The Israelites continued to suffer hearing their anguish God thought of His covenant promises to Abraham (Gen. 12:1–3; 15:18–21; 17:3–8), Isaac (Gen. 17:21), and Jacob (Gen. 35:10–12), in His compassion he looked on them (3:7-9) and was concerned about them and decided to intervene (2:24–25).
7. The mountain of God, even to Horeb. Horeb and Sinai are interchangeable terms (Ex 3:1, 12; 19:20). The angel of the Lord appeared unto him. This was no created angel, but, Christ Himself (3:1-2). The presence of God sanctified the ground, and Moses was asked to remove his shoes. I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham. (3:7-10). God clearly announced His intention of fulfilling His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (11–12). Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh …? Moses had learned humility during his forty-year sojourn in the desert (Num 12:3) Certainly I will be with thee.  Moses had several questions for God. What name should be given when the people asked him what God’s name was. God replied, I AM THAT I AM, It means “I am the One who is” (12–14). God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob has sent me to you (15).
8. The phrase a land flowing with milk means that Canaan was ideal for raising goats and cows. Flowing with honey means that the bees were busy making honey. Milk and honey suggested agricultural prosperity.  This land then was occupied by Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites (Ex. 3:17; 13:5; 23:23; 33:2; 34:11). In (Genesis 10:15–18) all of these are listed except Perizzites, along with several other peoples who descended from Canaan, son of Ham and grandson of Noah.
9. God told Moses (3:16–22) that Pharaoh would not respond to his request except by God’s mighty hand. But God would perform wonders (the 10 plagues) to persuade Pharaoh to let them go. The plagues on Egypt would cause the Egyptians to be favorable toward the Israelites so that when asked the Egyptians would give silver … gold, and clothing (12:35–36) to the Israelit.  God’s people were not to leave empty handed. Later the gold and silver were used in constructing the tabernacle (35:5, 22).
10. Again Moses voiced complaints about his assignment because of his sense of personal inadequacy. God patiently and gently dealt with Moses’ apprehensions. The first of the signs to Moses was the turning of his shepherd’s staff into a snake and back into a staff. Grabbing a snake by its tail was normally a dangerous thing to do! To follow the Lord’s directive took courage and faith. Because snakes symbolized power and life to the Egyptians, God was declaring to Moses that he would be able to overcome the powers of Egypt. The second sign was his hand becoming leprous and its healing. This disease was prevalent in Egypt and was considered incurable. The third sign would be Moses’ miraculous ability to turn water from the Nile into blood (9). The Egyptians regarded the Nile River as the source of life and productivity. So Moses’ showing the people that he had power over the Nile would prove that God had given Moses ability to overcome the Egyptians (4:1-17).

“But among the Israelites it will be so peaceful that not even a dog will bark. Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites.”