

Exodus

God begins to lay the groundwork for the promise to bring his people back to their land.

- A woman's desire to save her baby was a part of God's plan to save His people.
 - God allowed Moses' mother to nurture him until he was weaned (somewhere around 3 or up to 4 years old). The most significant, formative years in the life of Moses were with his people, the Israelites.
- Moses was then taken into the household of Pharaoh where he would have received the most advanced training and education available on earth.
- Moses' actions in killing the Egyptian reveals that he was aware of his identity

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- Moses' actions in killing the Egyptian reveal:
 - He was aware of his identity
 - He was moved by the treatment of his people
 - He had a desire to address the suffering of his people
 - He needed to learn that his best efforts and reactionary behavior do not bring about the purposes of God.
- The exile of Moses as a result of his killing the Egyptian was under the direction of God to finish the final forty years of his preparation for the task God had for him.

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- Exodus 2:15-25 covers a period of 40 years during which:
 - Moses flees to Midian which is outside of the area controlled by Egypt
 - Moses encounters the priest of Midian, Reuel's (Jethro) daughters and is invited into the hospitality of his home.
 - Moses married Zipporah, Reuel's daughter and a son was born to him (two sons were born to him during this time, Exodus 4, but only one named in this passage.
 - The king of Egypt that sought to kill Moses died.
 - The people of Israel cried out to God for help
 - God heard and remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
 - God was aware of their plight all along.

The call of Moses: The first phase of the plan to bring the Israelites back to their land.

- Moses spent many years in the area through which he would later bring the nation of Israel.
- Caring for his father-in-law's flock in the wilderness was a part of the training to care for God's flock in the wilderness.
- The term "angel of the LORD" is used often (but not exclusively) of an observable manifestation of God's presence.
- The voice from the burning bush addresses Moses by name and gives an indication of the character of the One speaking as holy.

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- He further identified Himself as the God of Moses' ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- God reveals to Moses that He is the One who sees, hears, knows and acts. He reveals to Moses what He is about to do.
- God drops the bombshell—I am sending you to bring my children out of Egypt.

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- Moses responds by indicating that he has no standing or authority to do such a thing.
- God's reply is that it is not about who Moses is but who God is.
- God gives Moses a confirming sign that He will know that God has sent him when he brings the Israelites back to this very place. Note, how confirming signs follow rather than precede obedience.

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- Moses asks God for His name:
 - Name indicates character. The term Elohim is the generic term for God such as is used in the English language.
 - God gives Moses what has become known as the Tetragrammaton (the four letters) various translated in English as either Jehovah or Yahweh

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- The meaning is: I Am Who I Am. This indicates the unchanging nature of God and the resulting faithfulness to His covenants and promises He has expressed to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Going forward this is the name always used to emphasize God's covenant relationship with His people.

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- God now begins to give specific instruction:
 - Meet with the elders (leaders) of and tell them that the “I Am”, the God of their fathers has sent you
 - I know your condition
 - I promise to deliver you and bring you into the Promised Land.
 - God assures Moses that they will listen
 - They are then instructed to approach the king of Egypt with the request to journey 3 days in to wilderness to worship “the LORD our God.”
 - God revealed the resistance of the king of Egypt
 - God revealed how He will break that resistance.
 - God revealed that deliverance would happen, including how the Egyptians would be plundered.

The call of Moses: The first phase of the plan to bring the Israelites back to their land.

- Moses, up to this point, has responded by asking some reasonable questions. Now he begins to raise objections by challenging God on things He has already revealed.
 - Moses challenges fact that the elders will listen to him.
 - God responds by giving Moses two demonstrations of His power and promises a third
 - The staff becomes a serpent and back to a staff
 - His hand becomes leprous and then is healed
 - God tells Moses that he will turn water from the Nile into blood, not Moses’ ability that will produce results.

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- Moses, up to this point, has responded by asking some reasonable questions. Now he begins to raise objections by challenging God on things He has already revealed.
 - Moses tried to disqualify himself on the basis of his perceived personal limitations.
 - Moses did not consider himself an effective communicator.
 - God responded once again by revealing that it is His ability that is sufficient.

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- Moses, up to this point, has responded by asking some reasonable questions. Now he begins to raise objections by challenging God on things He has already revealed.
 - Finally Moses pleads with God to send someone else.
 - Moses' response invokes God's anger but God acts in mercy
 - God does not let Moses off the hook but provides Aaron, Moses' brother to help him.