

# *Introduction to Exodus*

## **I. Title**

Taken from Vulgate (“exodus” ch.19:1), via the LXX (Gr. “Exodos”). “The way out”  
Hebrew name: *Welleh Shemot* : “These are the names”

## **II. Mosaic authorship:**

- A. Moses’ qualifications: Well educated, familiar with Egyptian and Midianite geography
- B. Moses’ motivation: As Israel’s leader, he would want to leave this record for them
- C. Direct reference to Moses writing: 17:14; 24:4; 34:28
- D. New Testament attestation: Mark 7:10; 12:26 / Luke 24:44 / John 7:19 / Heb.9:19
- E. Connection with Genesis: Begins with the word “And...” Presupposes knowledge of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, as well as the six-day creation account.

## **III. Contents of the Book of Exodus:**

- A. *The affliction of Israel* (Chapter 1)
- B. *The Birth and early years of Moses* (Chs.2-4)
- C. *Moses confronting Pharaoh* (Chs.5-13)
- D. *The exodus and journey to Sinai* (Chs.14-18)
- E. *The covenant enacted and law given at Sinai* (Chs.19-24)
- F. *Instructions for the tabernacle and priesthood* (Chs.25-31)
- G. *The Golden calf incident* (Chs. 32-34)
- H. *The erection of the tabernacle* (Chs.35-40)

## **IV. Historicity of Exodus**

### A. Against:

1. No mention in Egyptian records (but those records are highly propagandistic)
2. No archaeological remains in Goshen (but their mud buildings would long-since be washed away by recurrent flooding)
3. No archaeological remains in Sinai peninsula (but they did not built buildings or permanent traces)

### B. For:

1. It is unlikely that a race of people would invent a national history representing their founders as former slaves to a foreign power;
2. Many foreigners were employed in brick-making and building projects in Egypt in the second century BC.
3. An Egyptian stele from Pharaoh Merenptah (1209 BC) speaks of his invading Israel in Canaan (this would be during the period of the judges, by biblical chronology)
4. There is evidence of Israel’s encampment at a site (in Midian) alternative to the traditional site of Mt Sinai

## **V. Length of captivity in Egypt (2 views):**

- A. 430 years (12:40) from Jacob’s family migration to the exodus  
(population would only have to double every 25 years)

- B. 215 years (from Abraham's sojourn to the exodus=430 years)  
(If each couple, by age 21 had at least three children, then the population at the time of the exodus could be attained in 215 years, not counting attrition by death)

## **VI. The date of the Exodus, and the identity of the Pharaohs (2 theories):**

The date is important to Israel's calendar (12:2), but does not give any indication of the year—apparently assuming the readers were well enough familiar with it—another indicator of Mosaic authorship.

- A. **1270 BC** (Egypt's 19<sup>th</sup> dynasty), based upon the reign of Raamses II (1279-1213 BC), placing the entry into Canaan at about 1230 BC.
1. Israel built Raamses (Ex.1:11), seemingly named after Raamses II (1279-1213 BC)
  2. There is archaeological evidence for the burning of Canaanite cities after this date.
  3. The 480 years would then be taken to mean "twelve generations"—which would then be about 300 years (12 x 25 years).
- B. **1446 BC** (Egypt's 16<sup>th</sup> dynasty, beginning 1550 BC [after the Hyksos]--Late Bronze Age) Thutmoses III or Amenhotep II was pharaoh that year. Moses' birth would be 1526 BC.
1. 1 Kings 6:1, making the exodus 480 prior to Solomon's fourth year as king (966 BC). This places the entry into Canaan at 1406 BC.
  2. Jephthah (1100 BC) claimed that Israel had inhabited the land for 300 years (Judges 11:26). See also Acts 13:19-20.
  3. From the invasion of Canaan to David was 5 generations (Ruth 4:21-22).
  4. The Amarna Letters were written by Canaanite chieftains requesting aid from Pharaoh Akhenaten (1352-1336 BC) against foreign raiders (referred to as the *Habiru*).

## **VII. Geography of Exodus :** Multiple opinions exist about location of Sinai and the route taken getting there (see maps)

- A. *Mount Serbal, Mount Catherine, or Jabal Musa*, in Sinai Peninsula, reached by skirting the Red Sea
- B. *Jabal al-Lawz* in Midian (modern Saudi Arabia—Gal.4:25), crossing the Gulf of Aqaba

## **VIII. The importance of Moses and his contribution**

- A. Under God's guidance, he took a band of slaves and forged them into one of the most significant nations in earth's history.
- B. The laws delivered to Israel formed the basis for the legal codes and ethical systems of almost the whole modern world.

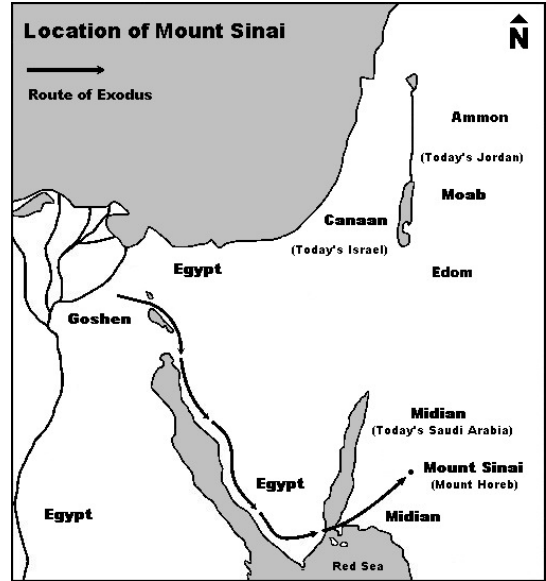
## **IX. Fulfillments in New Testament**

- A. Exodus—Isaiah 11:10, 15-16 / Jer.23:5-7 / Hos.11:1 / Luke 9:31 / 1 Cor. 10:1-6 / Rev.15:3

B. Passover—Luke 22:13-20 / John 19:33, 36 (Ex.12:46) / 1 Cor.5:6-8

C. Tabernacle—Heb. 8:2, 5; 9:1-5, 11-12; 10:23ff

Sinai region today:



Traditional route and site of Mount Sinai:



Alternative routes and site of Mount Sinai:

