

Message Notes

Moses: No Ordinary Child

Introduction – Epic stories in our culture

The Gospel According to Moses: a study of Exodus

A quick recap of chapter 1

“The midwives feared God.”

Five parts to a story: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution

Exposition: First came love, then came marriage...

Exodus 2:1

Rising Action: A boy, a gut-wrenching decision, a “basket”, a sister, he’s discovered!

Exodus 2:2-5

Narration time vs. narrative time

Climax: Pharaoh killed the boys, save one...

Exodus 2:6

Falling Action: A sister, a (paid) wet nurse (who is his birth mom)

Exodus 2:7-9

Resolution: A form of royal adoption
Exodus 2:10

Connecting Exodus story to the gospel story

Connecting your story to the gospel story

Gospel Application

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Exodus 2:1-10

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. 5 Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. 6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said. 7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” 8 “Yes, go,” she answered. So the girl went and got the baby’s mother. 9 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

Luke 24:25-27

25 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 9:28-31

28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. 29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. 30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. 31 They spoke about his departure (i.e. exodus), which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

Message Notes

Moses: No Ordinary Child

Introduction – Epic stories in our culture

The Gospel According to Moses: a study of Exodus

A quick recap of chapter 1

“The midwives feared God.”

Five parts to a story: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution

Exposition: First came love, then came marriage...

Exodus 2:1

Rising Action: A boy, a gut-wrenching decision, a “basket”, a sister, he’s discovered!

Exodus 2:2-5

Narration time vs. narrative time

Climax: Pharaoh killed the boys, save one...

Exodus 2:6

Falling Action: A sister, a (paid) wet nurse (who is his birth mom)

Exodus 2:7-9

Resolution: A form of royal adoption
Exodus 2:10

Connecting Exodus story to the gospel story

Connecting your story to the gospel story

Gospel Application

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Exodus 2:1-10

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. 5 Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. 6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said. 7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” 8 “Yes, go,” she answered. So the girl went and got the baby’s mother. 9 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

Luke 24:25-27

25 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 9:28-31

28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. 29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. 30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. 31 They spoke about his departure (i.e. exodus), which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.















The page is framed by a wide, intricate border of floral and foliate motifs. The design features scrolling vines, acanthus leaves, and various flowers in shades of blue, orange, and green, set against a light background. The border is enclosed within a thin gold line.

The Gospel
According to
St. Moses
a study of exodus

Exodus 1:6-7

⁶Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, ⁷but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

Exodus 1:8-14

⁸Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. ⁹“Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. ¹⁰Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”

Exodus 1:14

¹⁴They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

Exodus 1:15-16

¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶“When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.”

Exodus 1:17, 21

¹⁷The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

They (Shiphrah and Puah) should have feared Pharaoh. Because what do you think will happen to these women if they are caught not doing what the Pharaoh told them to do? This man has the power of life and death over them. But they do not fear him. Why? They fear God (v. 1:17, 1:21). They are way less concerned with giving an account to Pharaoh and way more concerned with giving an account to a holy God and so they do not do what he has asked.

~ Jen Wilkin, Podcast: *Exodus I, week 2: A Deliverer Delivered*



Exodus 1:22

²²Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

The page is framed by a wide, intricate border of floral and foliate designs. The border features a repeating pattern of stylized flowers, leaves, and scrolling vines in shades of blue, orange, and green, set against a light background. The central text is enclosed within a thin, gold-colored rectangular border.

The Gospel
According to
St. Moses
a study of exodus

Exodus 2:1-10

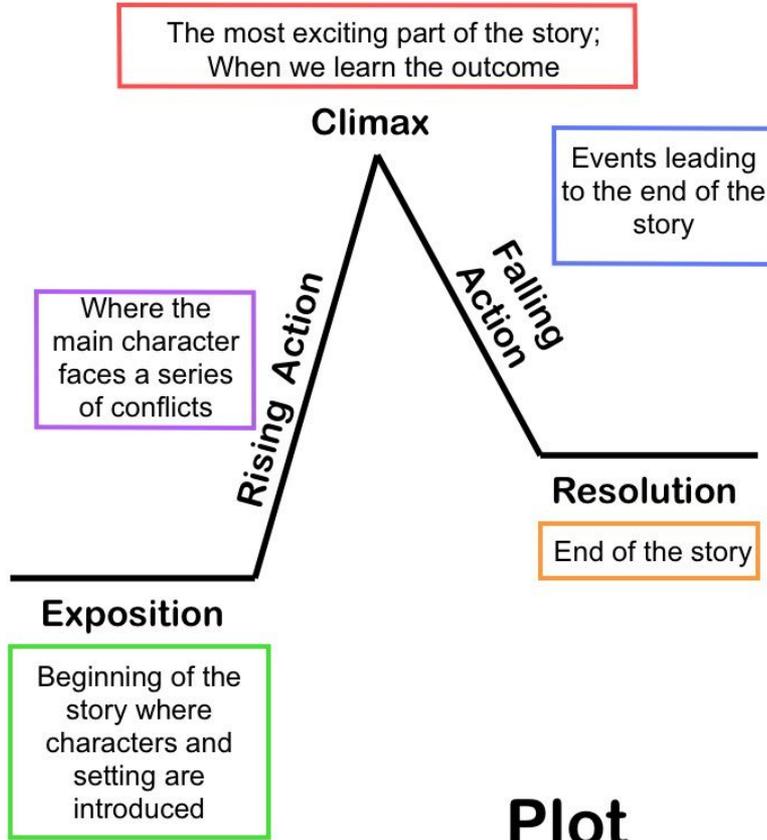
1 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. 5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it.

Exodus 2:1-10

6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

8 "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."



Plot Diagram

Exposition: Important information to set the stage

First came love, then came marriage, and you know the rest

Exodus 2:1-2a

**1 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman
2 and she became pregnant...**

Rising Action: Events leading up to the main problem

It's a BOY!?!

Exodus 2:2a

...and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. 5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it.

The difference between
narration time and narrative time

Rising Action: Events leading up to the main problem

“What are we going to do?”

Exodus 2:2b

...and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. 5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it.

Hebrews 11:23

23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

Rising Action: Events leading up to the main problem

A last-ditch effort to save their son

Exodus 2:3

...2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. 5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it.

This word “basket” here is the word “tevah” (or “teba”) and it means “ark” or “casket.” It occurs 28 times in Scripture, 26 of them are found in the account of Noah and the Ark and the other two are found right here in the story of Moses being placed in the Nile...the water that was to drown him, the water that no doubt had drown many of his contemporaries.

~ Jen Wilkin, Podcast: *Exodus I, week 2: A Deliverer Delivered*





Simon de Myle
Noah's ark on the Mount Ararat
1570, oil on panel
114 × 142 cm
Collection privée du sud-ouest
de la France

Rising Action: Events leading up to the main problem

A family affair – his sister is lookout

Exodus 2:4

...2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. 5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it.

Rising Action: Events leading up to the main problem

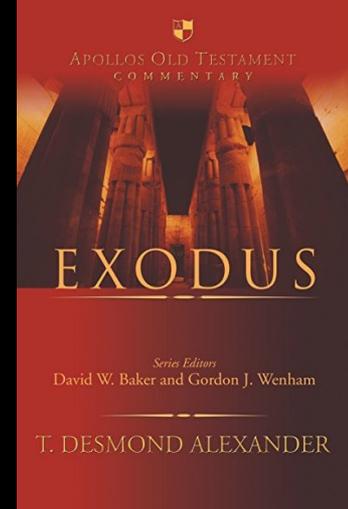
He's discovered! What will come of the boy? Of his family?

Exodus 2:5

...2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it.

The narrative contains no suggestion that Moses' mother planned for him to be rescued by an Egyptian princess. Such a strategy would have been exceptionally dangerous, for Pharaoh's daughter might well have felt duty bound to enforce her father's decree.



~ Alexander, T. Desmond, *Exodus*. Intersity Press, p. 62.

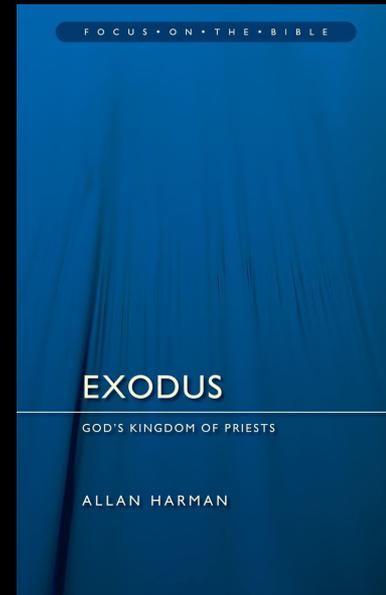
Climax: Most exciting – reader learns the outcome!

Exodus 2:6

6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said.

She clearly would have known the decree commanding death to infant Hebrew babies, but she chose to disregard it and save this child.

~ Harman, Allan, *Exodus: God's Kingdom of Priests*. Christian Focus Publications, p. 59.



Pharaoh killed the boys, save one.

Pharaoh killed the boys, save one.

Pharaoh's daughter saved the one.

Falling action: Events leading to the end of the story

A family affair – his sister is lookout

Exodus 2:7

7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

8 "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him.

Falling action: Events leading to the end of the story

A last-ditch effort to save their son brings him home again!

Exodus 2:8-9

7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

8 "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him.

Resolution: How things end...which set up next week!

A form of royal adoption

Exodus 2:10

10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

The page is framed by a wide, intricate border of floral and foliate designs. The border features a repeating pattern of stylized flowers, leaves, and scrolling vines in shades of blue, orange, and green, set against a light background. The central text is enclosed within a thin, dark rectangular border.

The Gospel
According to
St. Moses
a study of exodus

The New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New.

St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo Regius in North Africa,
Important works include *Confessions* and *The City of God*



The New Testament lies hidden in the Old

Luke 24:25-27

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

The Old Testament is unveiled in the New

Luke 9:28-31

28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. 29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. 30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. 31 They spoke about his departure (i.e. exodus), which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

Although Exodus stands as a unique and unrepeatable event in the history of Israel, it also stands as a paradigmatic and highly repeatable way God wishes to act in the world, and ultimately will act for the whole creation.

~ Wright, C. J. H. *The Mission of God* (2006). (p. 275). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.



God's saving *in* Exodus cannot be repeated;
God's saving *like* Exodus is constantly repeated.

Pharaoh killed the boys, save one.

Pharaoh's daughter saved the one.

King Herod killed the boys, save one.

Joseph and Mary saved the one.

We should recognize a biblical pattern: God takes a place of death (i.e. the Nile) and turns it into a place of life and salvation.

Think about Noah and the flood; Jonah and the sea/fish; the Red Sea and God's people; and how Jesus' tomb became the place of life. All of these stories point to God's divine power to take death and bring life.

~ Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in Exodus*, page 11



Gospel Application:

Do you see God as author of (y)our story?

Gospel Application:

Do you see God as author of (y)our story?

Do you trust him as he invites you into his story?