

## p 91 WEEK 12: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

As we conclude this study of Exodus, we begin by summarizing the big picture of the book as a whole. We will then review some questions for reflection in light of the entire Exodus account, with a final identification of Gospel Glimpses, Whole-Bible Connections, and Theological Soundings, all with a view to appreciating the book of Exodus in its entirety.

### The Big Picture of Exodus

Over the course of this study we have seen that Exodus divides into two major parts.

The first part (Ex. 1:1–18:27) records Israel’s exodus from Egypt. God calls Moses to lead Israel out of their oppressive situation in Egypt, sends plagues against the Egyptians, delivers Israel at the Red Sea, and then guides them through the wilderness to the foot of Mount Sinai.

The second part (19:1–40:38) details the covenant God made with Israel at Mount Sinai. As a response to God’s gracious salvation through the exodus, Israel is called to commit themselves to living according to God’s word. After receiving God’s covenant law and instructions for building the tabernacle, p 92 Israel violates the covenant by their idolatry of the golden calf. Once again, however, God shows himself to be gracious and forgives their sin. Israel then responds faithfully to God’s word by constructing the tabernacle according to his specifications, after which he comes to dwell in their midst.

Putting both of these parts together, the book of Exodus shows us that the God of Israel graciously saves his people, forgives their sin, and pursues relationship with them. This basic storyline provides a marvelous foretaste of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, God has fully and finally saved his people by his grace. Because of Jesus’ work on our behalf, we are forgiven in God’s sight, and through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit God has come to live in our midst. (For further background, see the *ESV Study Bible*, pages 139–144; also online at [www.esvbible.org](http://www.esvbible.org).)

**Read through the following three sections on *Gospel Glimpses*, *Whole-Bible Connections*, and *Theological Soundings*. Then take time to reflect on the *Personal Implications* these sections may have for your walk with the Lord.**

### Gospel Glimpses

Throughout the book of Exodus we have seen many instances where God’s grace is evident and the gospel is reflected. God saw his people in misery and suffering, and due to his compassion and covenant commitment he responded by saving them. He showed his power through the

plagues and his mercy through the Passover, and despite Israel's doubts and grumbling as he delivered them, God continued to provide for them along the way. God's grace was the foundation upon which the law was given, and his mercy was demonstrated after Israel quickly violated that law. In the end, Israel experienced God's gracious presence as he descended upon the tabernacle and came to live in their midst.

Has your understanding of the gospel changed at all during the course of this study? If so, how?

**p 93** Are there any particular passages in Exodus that have brought the gospel home to you in a fresh way?

## **Whole-Bible Connections**

Many images and events from Exodus are recalled and echoed throughout the rest of Scripture. For example, Israel's fruitfulness and multiplication (Ex. 1:7) alludes back to God's original mandate to Adam at creation (Gen. 1:28) and finds its fullest expression in the spread of the gospel through the church (Acts 6:7; 12:24). In addition, images such as God as the divine warrior, Israel as a kingdom of priests, and the tabernacle as a new Eden are all elaborated upon as the storyline of the Bible unfolds. In fact, the story of Exodus itself is a microcosm of the overall story of Scripture: God sees his people in need, saves them by his grace, and comes to live in their midst.

How has your understanding of the place of Exodus in the sweep of the Bible been deepened through your study of Exodus?

What are some connections in Exodus to the New Testament that you hadn't noticed before?

**p 94** Has your understanding of the unity of the Bible been clarified through studying Exodus? How so?

What development has there been in your view of how the Old Testament prefigures the person and work of Jesus?

## **Theological Soundings**

Exodus contributes much to Christian theology. Doctrines that are addressed and reinforced include God's sovereignty, election, substitution, providence, sin, atonement, idolatry, and spiritual gifts.

Where has your theology been tweaked or corrected as you have studied Exodus?

How might our understanding of God be impoverished if we did not have the book of Exodus?

p 95 How does Exodus uniquely contribute to and clarify our understanding of Jesus?

Are there any specific ways in which Exodus helps us understand the human condition?

## **Personal Implications**

As you consider the book of Exodus as a whole, what implications do you see for your own life? Consider especially the relationship between God's grace and his call for his people to obey him. What are the ramifications for your own life of Exodus's teaching on what it means to be a follower of God?

What implications for life flow from your reflections on the questions already asked in this week's study concerning Gospel Glimpses, Whole-Bible Connections, and Theological Soundings?

p 96 What have you learned in Exodus that might lead you to praise God, turn away from sin, or trust more firmly in his promises?

## **As You Finish Studying Exodus ...**

We rejoice with you as you finish studying the book of Exodus! May this study become part of your Christian walk of faith, day-by-day and week-by-week throughout all your life. Now we would greatly encourage you to continue to study the Word of God on a week-by-week basis. To continue your study of the Bible, we would encourage you to consider other books in the *Knowing the Bible* series, and to visit [www.knowingthebibleseries.org](http://www.knowingthebibleseries.org).

Lastly, take a moment to look back through this study. Review again the notes that you have written, and the things that you have highlighted or underlined. Reflect again on the key themes that the Lord has been teaching you about himself and about his Word. May these things become a treasure for you throughout your life—this we pray in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.