



LIFE GROUP STUDY 2019

OPERATION OVERLORD PART 1
(Exodus 3)

OPERATION OVERLORD PART 2
(Exodus 7-12)

WHO IS GOD
(Exodus 33:12-34:10)

10
(Exodus 20:1-21)

LOOK UPON IT AND LIVE
(Numbers 21:4-9)

INTRODUCTION TO EXODUS AND NUMBERS

For an introduction to Exodus and Numbers, watch the following two clips from *The Bible Project*:

Exodus 1-18:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=jH_aojNJM3E&feature=emb_logo

Exodus 19-40:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNpTha80yyE&feature=emb_logo

Numbers:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tp5MlrMZFqo&feature=emb_logo

Why should we care?

Although the Old Testament language of these books can seem tedious and irrelevant, these works are actually revealing what it means for a Holy, galaxy-forming being to reach out and even dwell in the midst of a bunch of unholy, sinful human beings. God dwelling with us means a whole lot of requirements for the human race to fulfil in order to be in the presence of such magnificence. Yet we also see in these books God's incalculable grace. He is not only choosing to dwell amongst the ones he loves, but through acts like the Exodus and revelations like the Law (10 commandments), he is showing us his character, and giving us a way to be truly human. These books are also essential in setting up the themes of liberation, the Passover and God's desire to be *with us* – themes that are ultimately fully realised in Jesus Christ.

THE TEN PLAGUES – *Exodus 6-12*

Warm Up:

Talk about what you've observed and felt over the past few weeks, as the COVID-19 situation has escalated rapidly around the world. Talk specifically about the sense of fear, helplessness, loss of control, anxiety and panic that this crisis has produced.

Study:

1. Read Exodus 6:1-12. The Israelites had been captive in Egypt for over 400 years at this point. Describe the powerlessness in their situation and in Moses' response to God. In contrast, what power is evident in God's words to Moses?
2. The plagues are summarised in the table below, along with the corresponding Egyptian "gods" that are revealed to be powerless by God's actions.

PLAGUE	"GODS"	PHAROAH
1. Waters to blood	Apis, Tevnut	No
2. Plague of frogs	Heket	Pray-Go-No
3. Gnats like dust	Geb, Set	No
4. Swarms of flies	Khepri	Go-No
5. Plague on livestock	Hathor	No
6. Festering boils	Isis	No
7. Worst hailstorm	Seth, Shu, Nut	Sinned-Pray-Go-No
8. Plague of locusts	Osiris	Men-Sinned-Go-No
9. Darkness that is felt	Horus, RA	People-Sinned-Go-No
10. Firstborn sons die	Min, Pharoah	Go-Bless-No

What would it have been like to be an Egyptian experiencing all these things?
What would it have been like to be an Israelite witnessing all these things?

3. Read Exodus 12:1-30. This was an identity-forming moment for the people of Israel. The Passover meal would shape them as a nation for centuries to come. What do you see in this passage that points to the coming of Jesus, the ultimate rescuer?
4. Read Exodus 9:15-21 and 12:31-38. What signs of God's grace do you find in these passages, not only for the Israelites but also for the Egyptians? (one hint: 12:38)

5. Interlude: Some Christians believe God still directs the world in a similar way to what we read in Exodus, e.g. God sent rain on Trump's inauguration as a sign of blessing; God sent rain on the Mardi Gras as a sign of God's judgement; God sends viruses, natural and man-made disasters in judgement on particular people (or the whole world). How would you respond to such beliefs?
6. As dramatic a victory as the Exodus story represents, its effects were only temporary. God's people soon fell back into distrust, disobedience, idol worship and ultimately were made captives by a foreign nation once again. Also, three big enemies of God remained: the universal and eternal enemies of sin, death and fear. So God acted in power once again, this time sending his own Son, Jesus, to earth. Using the verses below, compare God's purposes in Egypt with God's purposes on the Cross:

- **Self-Revelation:** John 1:18
- **Judgement:** John 12:31; 1 Peter 2:24
- **Defeat:** Colossians 2:13-15
- **Rescue:** 1 John 2:2
- **Demonstration:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-25
- **Freedom:** Galatians 5:1; Romans 6:6-8; Hebrews 2:14; Galatians 2:20
- **Grace:** 2 Peter 3:9
- **Also compare:** Exodus 13:17-22 and Acts 2:1-4

In what ways does the good news of Jesus Christ represent the second (and ultimate) exodus for God's people?

Application:

- God intends for you to live in freedom: from sin, fear and death. Our natural instincts though often take us back to a form of slavery. What steps can you take to live more in the freedom Jesus won for you on the cross?
- Christians throughout history have shown a great willingness to care for others in times of crisis. What practically can you do – and for whom – to show love and care in the midst of the crisis we find ourselves in now?

Final Thought:

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. Let these words speak hope and faith to your soul, and pray together that you would "give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord" this week.