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The Book Of
E X O D U S
Wednesday, September 1, 2010

Study # 11
Wrap-Up And Intro To Joshua

We have studied the first 25 chapters of Exodus, from Pharaoh's decree to commit genocide against the Jews to the establishment of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness. Most of the rest of Exodus deals with details of the Tabernacle which I will not include in this general study. However, there are some highlights we will discuss and then lead into the actual invasion of Canaan, led by Joshua upon the death of Moses.

The books of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy deal with other details of the 40 year "wandering in the wilderness" as well as giving us some parallel or repeated stories - such as the Golden Calf episode as related in Deuteronomy 9. Perhaps at a later time we will deal with them as well.

Tonight we go directly to **Exodus Chapter 32** to study one of Israel's darkest hours.

THE GOLDEN CALF
Chapter 32

Moses was atop Mount Sinai for the better part of six weeks receiving the Ten Commandments and the plans and specifications for the Tabernacle in the Wilderness. Down below, on the plain, the people of Israel grew restless. Had Moses died in the fire on the mountain? Had he left them alone? Was God really in this whole plan of leaving Egypt? Was there really a promised land? The doubters and skeptics were having a field day!

Exodus 32:1-10

When Moses failed to come back down the mountain right away, the people went to Aaron. "Look," they said, "make us some gods who can lead us. This man Moses, who brought us here from Egypt, has disappeared. We don't know what has happened to him."

1 [2] So Aaron said, "Tell your wives and sons and daughters to take off their gold
2 earrings, and then bring them to me."

3 [3] All the people obeyed Aaron and brought him their gold earrings. [4] Then
4 Aaron took the gold, melted it down, and molded and tooled it into the shape of a
5 calf. The people exclaimed, "O Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of
6 Egypt!"

7 [5] When Aaron saw how excited the people were about it, he built an altar in
8 front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord!"

9 [6] So the people got up early the next morning to sacrifice burnt offerings and
10 peace offerings. After this, they celebrated with feasting and drinking, and indulged
11 themselves in pagan revelry.

12 [7] Then the Lord told Moses, "Quick! Go down the mountain! The people you
13 brought from Egypt have defiled themselves. [8] They have already turned from the
14 way I commanded them to live. They have made an idol shaped like a calf, and they
15 have worshiped and sacrificed to it. They are saying, 'These are your gods, O Israel,
16 who brought you out of Egypt.' "

17 [9] Then the Lord said, "I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people
18 are. [10] Now leave me alone so my anger can blaze against them and destroy them
19 all. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation instead of them."

20 MOSES, THE INTERCESSOR

21
22
23 God was ready to destroy the Israelites and form a whole new nation from Moses. It
24 could have been a great temptation to Moses, after all those long years in the wilderness.
25 But Moses was a leader, one who understood responsibility. At this point he began to
26 CONTEND with God on behalf of the Israelites. In so doing, he was following
27 somewhat of a pattern we have already seen:

- 28
- 29 • Jacob contended with God (he wrestled with the angel) - Genesis 32:24-32
- 30 • Abraham contended with God regarding Sodom - Genesis 18:16-33
- 31 • Daniel contended with God over the Jews' return to Jerusalem - Daniel 9
- 32 • Jesus contended with God in Gethsemane - Matthew 26:36-46
- 33

34 Is contending with God, then, a sin? Obviously not. It is never wrong to ask God
35 "why." Throughout Scripture, God-fearing saints pleaded with God to turn aside His
36 Judgment. Let's hear Moses' contention:

37
38 Exodus 32:11-18

39 But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God not to do it. "O Lord!" he exclaimed.
40 "Why are you so angry with your own people whom you brought from the land of

1 Egypt with such great power and mighty acts? [12] The Egyptians will say, 'God
2 tricked them into coming to the mountains so he could kill them and wipe them
3 from the face of the earth.' Turn away from your fierce anger. Change your mind
4 about this terrible disaster you are planning against your people! NOW MOSES
5 STANDS ON GOD'S PROMISES: [13] Remember your covenant with your
6 servants—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You swore by your own self, 'I will make
7 your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven. Yes, I will give them all of this
8 land that I have promised to your descendants, and they will possess it forever.' "

9 [14] So the Lord withdrew his threat and didn't bring against his people the
10 disaster he had threatened.

11 [15] Then Moses turned and went down the mountain. He held in his hands the
12 two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant. They were inscribed on
13 both sides, front and back. [16] These stone tablets were God's work; the words on
14 them were written by God himself.

15 [17] When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting below them, he
16 exclaimed to Moses, "It sounds as if there is a war in the camp!"

17 [18] But Moses replied, "No, it's neither a cry of victory nor a cry of defeat. It is
18 the sound of a celebration."

19
20 Let's note a few highlights of Moses' intercession:

21
22 1. His prayer was honest. He didn't beat around the bush. He knew the future of
23 Israel was hanging in the balance. He was straight-forward and to the point.

24
25 2. His prayer was based on God's Word. "Lord....you said!" If you are going to
26 pray in this manner, then you will have to know what God has said about the issue.

27
28 3. His prayer was logical. "Lord, if the people die out here in this wilderness, the
29 Egyptians will say, 'Their God could get them out of Egypt but He couldn't get them to
30 the Promised Land!'"

31
32

Moses was so intense and passionate in his prayer that it seems he almost broke down at one point: <u>Exodus 32:31-32</u> So Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Alas, these people have committed a terrible sin. They have made gods of gold for themselves. [32] But now, please forgive their sin—and if not, then blot me out of the record you are keeping." This passage shows how much Moses loved the people he was leading. The first criteria, I believe, for any pastor or spiritual leader, is to have an intense love for those he is called upon to lead.
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33
34 Exodus 32:19-24

1 **When they came near the camp, Moses saw the calf and the dancing. In terrible**
2 **anger, he threw the stone tablets to the ground, smashing them at the foot of the**
3 **mountain. [20] He took the calf they had made and melted it in the fire. And when**
4 **the metal had cooled, he ground it into powder and mixed it with water. Then he**
5 **made the people drink it.**

6 **[21] After that, he turned to Aaron. "What did the people do to you?" he**
7 **demanded. "How did they ever make you bring such terrible sin upon them?"**

8 **[22] "Don't get upset, sir," Aaron replied. "You yourself know these people and**
9 **what a wicked bunch they are. [23] They said to me, 'Make us some gods to lead us,**
10 **for something has happened to this man Moses, who led us out of Egypt.' [24] So I**
11 **told them, 'Bring me your gold earrings.' When they brought them to me, I threw**
12 **them into the fire—and out came this calf!"**

13
14 Here we see clearly why God chose Moses to lead Israel instead of his older brother
15 Aaron. Aaron was weak and when confronted with it he tried to weasel his way out of
16 the situation.

17 1. Aaron caved in to a minority of people who were without faith. We will see
18 later that God killed 3,000 of the people for this sin of the golden calf. 3,000 out of
19 3,000,000 is not very many people but enough to make Aaron's knees buckle.
20

It is sad, but true, how many churches are mired in mediocrity because the pastor
knuckles under to the criticism of the few instead of the leading of God. If 100 people
say to him, "The message was strong today - thank you for it," and 1 person says,
"You're a lousy preacher," he will remember the ONE. It's just human nature. But
leadership has to transcend human nature and depends on God's promise and power.

21 2. Aaron tried to lie his way out of his transgression. And his lie was ludicrous:
22 "Well, Moses, I just took their gold jewelry, threw them into the fire, and this golden calf
23 walked out!" Oh - puhleeze!!!!!!!!!! Repentance never begins until a person stops
24 blaming others for his or her own weakness. The buck stops at our own doorstep.
25

26 Listen again to David's plea for forgiveness in Psalm 51: "I have sinned....I have
27 sinned...." And he never blamed Bathsheba or anyone else. He did it!

28
29 Exodus 32:25 KJV **And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron**
30 **had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)**

31
32 **Observation: The farther people get away from God, the more they want to take their**
clothes off in public. Public nudity has been around for a long, long time and it is an
indicator of people in a backslidden state.

1 THE RESULT OF THE SIN

2
3 Exodus 32:26-30

4 (Moses) stood at the entrance to the camp and shouted, "All of you who are on
5 the Lord's side, come over here and join me." And all the Levites came.

6 [27] He told them, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Strap on your
7 swords! Go back and forth from one end of the camp to the other, killing even your
8 brothers, friends, and neighbors." [28] The Levites obeyed Moses, and about three
9 thousand people died that day.

10 [29] Then Moses told the Levites, "Today you have been ordained for the service
11 of the Lord, for you obeyed him even though it meant killing your own sons and
12 brothers. Because of this, he will now give you a great blessing."

13 [30] The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a terrible sin,
14 but I will return to the Lord on the mountain. Perhaps I will be able to obtain
15 forgiveness for you."

16
17 Sometimes in God's work there has to be a subtraction before there can be an addition.

18
19 Chapter 33

20 MOSES - THE FRIEND OF GOD

21
22 What a resume for this man Moses! Think about it. He was a colossal failure and a
23 murder fugitive at age 40. At age 80 he had a personal rendezvous with God. A few
24 months later, after a simply amazing leadership demonstration, God meets with him
25 "face-to-face" and calls him "His friend."

26
27 Exodus 33:1-6

28 The Lord said to Moses, "Now that you have brought these people out of Egypt,
29 lead them to the land I solemnly promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I told them
30 long ago that I would give this land to their descendants. [2] And I will send an
31 angel before you to drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites,
32 and Jebusites. [3] There is a land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not travel
33 along with you, for you are a stubborn, unruly people. If I did, I would be tempted
34 to destroy you along the way."

35 [4] When the people heard these stern words, they went into mourning and
36 refused to wear their jewelry and ornaments. [5] For the Lord had told Moses to
37 tell them, "You are an unruly, stubborn people. If I were there among you for even
38 a moment, I would destroy you. Remove your jewelry and ornaments until I decide
39 what to do with you." [6] So from the time they left Mount Sinai, the Israelites wore
40 no more jewelry.

1
2 There was a sense of repentance now growing among the remaining Israelites. They
3 were developing a sense of the holiness of God and they no longer attempted to beautify
4 themselves with the trappings of Egypt - the old world. This scripture is not intended to
5 be a condemnation of jewelry, but a lesson not to let the world dictate to the believer in
6 any way, shape or form.

7
8 Exodus 33:7

9 **It was Moses' custom to set up the tent known as the Tent of Meeting far outside**
10 **the camp. Everyone who wanted to consult with the Lord would go there.**

11
12 It was not until chapter 40 that the earthly presence of God filled the Tabernacle:

13 Exodus 40:34-35

14 **Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glorious presence of the Lord**
15 **filled it. [35] Moses was no longer able to enter the Tabernacle because the cloud**
16 **had settled down over it, and the Tabernacle was filled with the awesome glory of**
17 **the Lord.**

18
19

Until that indwelling took place, the Tabernacle was just another meeting place. It is the same principle today: unless the anointing of God is upon a church and the people who meet there are faithful and obedient to God's direction, there is no difference in a church and a civic club - they are "just meeting places."

20
21 Exodus 33:8-11

22 **Whenever Moses went out to the Tent of Meeting, all the people would get up**
23 **and stand in their tent entrances. They would all watch Moses until he disappeared**
24 **inside. [9] As he went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and hover**
25 **at the entrance while the Lord spoke with Moses. [10] Then all the people would**
26 **stand and bow low at their tent entrances. [11] Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord**
27 **would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. Afterward Moses**
28 **would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, Joshua son of Nun,**
29 **stayed behind in the Tent of Meeting.**

30
31 (It is at this point that Joshua's name will become more and more predominant. God
32 will choose this talented and dedicated man to fill the shoes of Moses when the people
33 actually cross the Jordan into the Promised Land.)

34
35 This 33rd chapter now tells how close God and Moses were to each other. But why
36 Moses? What was God's attraction to him?

1 Hebrews 11:24-27

2 **It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be treated as the son of**
3 **Pharaoh's daughter. [25] He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead**
4 **of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. [26] He thought it was better to suffer for**
5 **the sake of the Messiah than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking**
6 **ahead to the great reward that God would give him. [27] It was by faith that Moses**
7 **left the land of Egypt. He was not afraid of the king. Moses kept right on going**
8 **because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible.**

- 9
- 10 1. Moses would not tolerate sin in his life. He forsook Egypt and all its attractions.
 - 11 2. Moses was willing to pay whatever cost discipleship exacted from him.
 - 12 3. Moses endured - he persevered to the end.
 - 13 4. He lived a life of absolute faith.

14

15 It was a forty-year discipleship program. Today, many want INSTANT success.

16

17 Here's another insight into Moses' greatness with God: (Aaron and Miriam, older
18 siblings of Moses, began lashing out verbally at their younger brother. And God took
19 them to "the woodshed" and explained to them in no uncertain terms what He felt about
20 their brother Moses:

21 Numbers 12:3-8

22 **Now Moses was more humble than any other person on earth. [4] So immediately**
23 **the Lord called to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam and said, "Go out to the Tabernacle,**
24 **all three of you!" And the three of them went out. [5] Then the Lord descended in**
25 **the pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the Tabernacle. "Aaron and**
26 **Miriam!" he called, and they stepped forward. [6] And the Lord said to them,**
27 **"Now listen to me! Even with prophets, I the Lord communicate by visions and**
28 **dreams. [7] But that is not how I communicate with my servant Moses. He is**
29 **entrusted with my entire house. [8] I speak to him face to face, directly and not in**
30 **riddles! He sees the Lord as he is. Should you not be afraid to criticize him?"**

- 31
- 32 1. Moses pursued God's glory, not his own.
 - 33 2. Moses dared to believe God for mighty things.

34 Jeremiah 33:3

35 **Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things,**
36 **which thou knowest not.**

37 Ephes. 3:20

38 **Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or**
39 **think, according to the power that worketh in us..**

1 3. Moses would not compromise God's standards at any cost to himself.

2
3 Now I want to close the Exodus study with a brief look at chapter 36. You will
4 remember that in chapters 24 and 25 Moses met with God atop Mount Sinai and was told
5 to build the Tabernacle. But how to finance it? Take an offering. In the first seven
6 verses of chapter 36 we see the result:

7
8 Exodus 36:1-7 (KJV)

9 **Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the**
10 **Lord put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for**
11 **the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the Lord had commanded. [2]**
12 **And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose**
13 **heart the Lord had put wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him up to come**
14 **unto the work to do it: [3] And they received of Moses all the offering, which the**
15 **children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, to make**
16 **it withal. And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning. [4] And all**
17 **the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his**
18 **work which they made;**

19 **[5] And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than**
20 **enough for the service of the work, which the Lord commanded to make. [6] And**
21 **Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the**
22 **camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of**
23 **the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing. [7] For the stuff they**
24 **had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.**

25
26 Verse 7 is a marvelous reminder. We often think we don't have this or we don't have
27 that – or we're in a recession and so we're hindered in God's work. I don't believe it.
28 THE STUFF WE HAVE IS SUFFICIENT.

- 29
30 1. Note: it was the stuff they already had – not stuff they had to go out and get.
31 2. It (the stuff) was not only sufficient, it was far, far more than they needed.

32
33 Throughout the remaining chapters of Exodus and the entirety of Leviticus, Numbers and
34 Deuteronomy, the Israelites continued their journey toward the Promised Land - a long,
35 arduous 40 year journey.

36
37 LEVITICUS: The theme of this book is holiness unto God. In this book we read that
38 the Israelites were instructed to have access to God through the priests by means of
39 atoning blood and to make clear God's standard of holy living.

1 NUMBERS: Tells intriguing stories of the Israelites wandering through the wilderness.

2
3 DEUTERONOMY: Here we learn of Moses' final days of life and leadership and gives
4 a reminder to the people of God's mighty hand in their deliverance from Egypt and their
5 future conquest in Canaan.

6
7 The only two adults who left Egypt who actually made it into the Promised Land were
8 Joshua and Caleb. All the others died of age, sickness, snakebite, etc., in the
9 wilderness. They did not have the faith or fortitude to stick it out.

10
11 Moses died and was buried by God on top of Mount Nebo (on the east side of the Dead
12 Sea). Joshua became the leader and finally got the people to the east side of the Jordan
13 River in preparation for the invasion of Canaan.

14 15 A BRIEF LOOK AT THE FIRST PART OF THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

16 17 Joshua 3:1-17

18 **Early the next morning Joshua and all the Israelites left Acacia and arrived at**
19 **the banks of the Jordan River, where they camped before crossing. [2] Three days**
20 **later, the Israelite leaders went through the camp [3] giving these instructions to the**
21 **people: "When you see the Levitical priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the**
22 **Lord your God, follow them. [4] Since you have never traveled this way before,**
23 **they will guide you. Stay about a half mile behind them, keeping a clear distance**
24 **between you and the Ark. Make sure you don't come any closer."**

25 **[5] Then Joshua told the people, "Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will**
26 **do great wonders among you."**

27 **[6] In the morning Joshua said to the priests, "Lift up the Ark of the Covenant**
28 **and lead the people across the river." And so they started out.**

29 **[7] The Lord told Joshua, "Today I will begin to make you great in the eyes of all**
30 **the Israelites. Now they will know that I am with you, just as I was with Moses. [8]**
31 **Give these instructions to the priests who are carrying the Ark of the Covenant:**
32 **'When you reach the banks of the Jordan River, take a few steps into the river and**
33 **stop.' "**

34 **[9] So Joshua told the Israelites, "Come and listen to what the Lord your God**
35 **says. [10] Today you will know that the living God is among you. He will surely**
36 **drive out the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and**
37 **Jebusites. [11] Think of it! The Ark of the Covenant, which belongs to the Lord of**
38 **the whole earth, will lead you across the Jordan River! [12] Now choose twelve**
39 **men, one from each tribe. [13] The priests will be carrying the Ark of the Lord, the**
40 **Lord of all the earth. When their feet touch the water, the flow of water will be cut**

1 off upstream, and the river will pile up there in one heap."

2 [14] When the people set out to cross the Jordan, the priests who were carrying
3 the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. [15] Now it was the harvest season,
4 and the Jordan was overflowing its banks. But as soon as the feet of the priests who
5 were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river's edge, [16] the water began
6 piling up at a town upstream called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water
7 below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the
8 people crossed over near the city of Jericho. [17] Meanwhile, the priests who were
9 carrying the Ark of the Lord's covenant stood on dry ground in the middle of the
10 riverbed as the people passed by them. They waited there until everyone had
11 crossed the Jordan on dry ground.

12
13 The Jordan River today is not very wide. In fact, where the Israelites crossed over, the
14 river today is not much wider than 100 feet. The reason for that is because so much of
15 the water today is re-directed from the Sea of Galilee for irrigation purposes. But in
16 Joshua's day, the Jordan was a pretty good sized river - plus it was flooded.

17
18 Standing on the east bank, Joshua could look across the river and see the skyline of
19 Jericho just six miles to the west. Jericho would be the first city conquered by Israel.

20
21 Interesting note: when the Red Sea divided, and the Israelites walked across, the waters
22 had backed up BEFORE they ever got to the edge. But when they crossed the Jordan,
23 the priests, bearing the sacred Ark, actually got their feet into the water before it backed
24 up. Now that's faith!

25
26 God told Joshua to have a leader from each of the 12 tribes to pick up a boulder from the
27 river bed and carry it to the west bank and use those stones to erect a monument:

28
29 Joshua 4:2-7 (KJV)

30 **Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, [3] And**
31 **command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the**
32 **place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over**
33 **with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night. [4]**
34 **Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel,**
35 **out of every tribe a man: [5] And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark**
36 **of the Lord your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a**
37 **stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of**
38 **Israel: [6] That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their**
39 **fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? [7] Then ye shall**
40 **answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant**

1 **of the Lord; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and**
2 **these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.**

3
4 Verse 6 is so striking: that in time to come “when you children ask THEIR
5 FATHERS....what mean ye by these stones? Then YE (fathers) shall answer them....”

6
7 How desperately today we need men of the Bible, men of the Word, men of faith, men
8 who communicate to their children and grandchildren the veracity and reality of God.

9
10 Jericho would be the first city to fall to the Israelites. The rest of Joshua relates the
11 conquests and failures in taking the Promised Land.

12
13
14
15
16
17
18 Next Wednesday I am speaking for the Southern California District at a convention.
19 Two weeks from tonight, I will take any and all questions from you - verbal or written -
20 until time runs out.