

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
BIBLE STUDY – CHRISTIANITY 101
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025

Stan Campbell, *Bible to Go: Genesis to Revelation in One Hour*, (New York: Faith Words, 2006)

The Wilderness

As our journey through the Bible continues, we will stay in Egypt and let about four hundred years pass. During that time, the Israelites presence continues to grow. The seventy people from Joseph's family (Exo. 1:5) who migrated to Goshen become a formidable force of hundreds of thousands (Exo. 1:6). Meanwhile, the Egyptian leaders forget about Joseph and his God-given wisdom that allowed Egypt to prosper during a horrible widespread famine (Exo. 1:8).

Moses: His Birth, His Felony, and the Burning Bush (Exodus 1-3)

As a result, the new Pharaoh has decided to enslave the Israelites (Exo. 1:9-14). And to make things worse, a command has gone out to kill all male Hebrews babies by throwing them into the Nile River (Exo. 1:15-16). It is under this death sentence that Moses is born (Exo. 2:1-2). But rather than obey the edict (decree), Moses' mother coats a basket with pitch, places it among the reeds of the Nile, and has his big sister watch to see what will happen. The baby cries just as Pharaoh's daughter is taking her bath, and she adopts him, even hiring his own mother to be his wet nurse (Exo. 2:3-9).

Moses grows up Egyptian, but he is aware of his Hebrew roots (Exod. 2:10). One day, upon witnessing an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, he kills the Egyptian while no one is looking – or so he thinks (Exod. 2:12-13). But when he discovers that people know what he has done, he flees into the wilderness to escape Pharaoh's wrath (Exod. 2:14-15). There he marries Zipporah, one of seven daughters of a man named Jethro, and work as a shepherd for his father-in-law (Exod. 2:16-3:1). While out with the sheep one day, Moses comes upon a bush that appears to be burning yet does not burn up. God addresses him by name from the bush and tells him to go lead his people out of Egypt “into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey” (Exodus 3:8). Moses is reluctant and offers a number of excuses (Exo. 3:11; 4:1, 10) but he eventually obeys (4:18).

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Pharoah, the Plagues, the Exodus, and the Red Sea (Exodus chapter 4-14)

Moses returned to Pharoah and tells him to “let my people go,” just as God instructed, but Pharoah only intensifies the workload of the Israelites (Exo. 5:1-9). God then sends a series of plagues upon Egypt – frogs, locusts, hail, darkness, and more. Pharoah resists plague after plague, even though his country is in turmoil while the land where the Israelites live is spared. But in a final plague, God strikes down the firstborn in all human and livestock families (Exodus chapters 7-11). The Israelites have prepared ahead of time by placing lamb’s blood on their doorposts, causing God to pass over their houses with no harm (and instituting the Jewish celebration of Passover (Exodus chapter 12 - which Christians recognize today as Communion in commemoration of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection – I Cor. 11:23-25) But the death in the Egyptian homes are finally what convince Pharoah to relent (give-in) and let the Israelites go.

However, Moses and his people don’t get far when Pharoah changes his mind. The Israelites are camped at the Red Sea as the Egyptians army rides up. The Israelites seem to be trapped, but God instructs Moses to hold his staff over the waves and as he does, the waters part (14:16). The Israelites cross on dry ground (14:22). As the Egyptians try to follow, their chariot wheels come off and they realize that “The Lord is fighting...against Egypt! (Exodus 14:25). But too late. The waters come down and there are no Egyptian survivors.

Next Week’s Focus on 3/25/2025:

- Forty Years In The Wilderness,
- Joshua, and the Promised Land

Note: Please continue to review the above information in preparation and enhanced understanding of God’s Word and our Bible Study’s discussion.