

# Week 11

## Exodus – twmv<sup>1</sup>

### Shemot = Names

Today we return to the original intent the A/P.  
So far, we have read Genesis, Psalms and Isaiah in the Old Testament,  
John and Galatians in the New Testament  
And become very acquainted with the birth of Christ during December  
This week is Exodus

If Genesis is a tragedy, then Exodus is a redemption story. Here God begins to provide for his people a way back to the garden. In Exodus we are introduced to the central story of Judaism (the exodus), the central figure of Judaism (Moses) and the central concerns of God (the Law – the way of life for a free people). God is far more active in the people's lives in the book of Exodus, than He appeared to be in Genesis. He breaks into their history. He is visibly observable to all the people for much of the book. He has a tent of his own (the tabernacle). He is with his children.

**Sunday, Jan 2**

**Exodus 1<sup>2</sup> - That Recent Unpleasantness<sup>3</sup>**

**For Reflection:** What is the most difficult situation in which you have found yourself. How was God involved?

**Lagniappe:** Galatians 5:1

**Monday, Jan 3**

**Exodus 3/4<sup>4</sup> - God Hears and God Calls**

**For Reflection:** When has God called you to do something you felt ill-equipped to do? What is your experience of saying, "No" to God. How does the fact that God has a history of listening affect your prayer life?

**Lagniappe:** Isaiah 6:8

**Tuesday, Jan 4**

**Exodus 7:8-8:15<sup>5</sup> - A Plague of Frogs**

**For Reflection:** Why do miracles only happen in rare seasons?<sup>6</sup> What are the gods of our culture?

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<sup>1</sup> **Fun Fact:** The first five books of the Hebrew Bible (the Torah) take their names from the first main word in the book. In English Bibles Exodus starts with, "These are the names of the sons of Israel" The book that we know as Exodus, Jewish believers know as *Shemot* – which is the noun "names" in Hebrew. Genesis is entitled **בראשית** – Bereshit, which translates to - yes, you guessed it - "In the beginning."

<sup>2</sup> The redemptive story in Exodus begins with the horror of slavery, a helpless people, and acts of righteous and courageous defiance. If you lack for role models you or your children could do worse than Shiphrah and Puah

<sup>3</sup> This is how some Southerners, at least in Alabama, refer to the Civil War – the phrase is understatement in the extreme.

<sup>4</sup> It's important to remember that God isn't calling Moses to teach the third graders, he is calling him to dive into dangerous geopolitical waters. Pharaoh may well be the most powerful person on earth at the time.

<sup>5</sup> Being a graduate of TCU I had to include the plague of Frogs. You could read to 11:10 if you want all the first 9 plagues. The next plague, #3, the plague of gnats is the one that stumped the Egyptian magicians.

<sup>6</sup> Miracles are limited to just a few generations (Moses/Joshua, Elijah/Elisha, Daniel, Jesus and the apostles). That's not much considering the Bible spans 1,300 - 1,500 years of history.

**Lagniappe: Matthew 12:38-39**

**Wednesday, Jan 5 Exodus 12<sup>7</sup> - When Being Passed over Is Good**

**For Reflection:** What is the most important story in your life, the story that reminds you who you are and what you do? The one the grandchildren might hear.

**Lagniappe:** John 1:29, 36

**Thursday, Jan 6 Exodus 20 – The Real Big 10**

**For Reflection:** What do you learn in these ten commandments about what God values?

**Lagniappe:** Deuteronomy 5:1-21

**Friday, Jan 7**

**Exodus 25:1-9 and 28:1-43 – God’s House**

**For Reflection:** Why does the material stuff the tabernacle and the garments of the priests matter so much?

**Lagniappe:** 1 Corinthians 6:19<sup>8</sup>

**Saturday, Jan 8 Exodus 32:1-14, 33:1-6, 34:1-12 – Sin and Forgiveness**

**For Reflection:** What have the people done (32)? Why does God refuse to continue with his people (33)? Why does God change his mind (33/34)? What do you do when you sin?

**Lagniappe:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

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<sup>7</sup> This is the quintessential story for the Jewish people, just as the cross is our quintessential story. It seems they are related.

<sup>8</sup> In this reference the 2<sup>nd</sup> person pronoun is plural; You all’s body = the church is the temple of the Holy Spirit?