

We will begin the 4<sup>th</sup> lecture on “An Introduction to the Old Testament. /Exodus 1 starts like this. The book introduces Jacob and his 70 family members who went to Egypt. /But if we read Exodus 1:7, we see that the Israelites multiplied and were fruitful.

/Beloved believers! The Bible, especially the Pentateuch, is not just history. /It is not merely an event, but it is history that fulfills God’s covenant.

/As we study the Old Testament Bible, we need to observe the flow of God’s word. What is this flow? It is God blessing every people of all nations and carrying out his plan of salvation. /We call this the work of redemption.

/When he carries out his work of redemption, God chooses his people, and he makes a covenant with them and keeps the covenant. /In Genesis 3, we saw how God, after the fall of man, carries out the work of redemption-- how he chooses people, how he makes promises with people, and how he fulfills the work of redemption.

/God chose Abraham and his descendants as he was doing his work of redemption. God also made a promise to Abraham and his descendants. /What did he promise? God promised to make Abraham and his descendants prosperous.

/God told him that he would make him into a great nation. /He also promised Abraham land. /Through this, God would bless all people of all nations. /Thus Abraham’s descendants are not limited to the nation of Israel.

/In the midst of God’s plan to redeem all nations, the Israelites were specially chosen by God. /They were not chosen so that they would be proud of themselves but that all nations would be blessed through them.

/In order to bless all nations, God blesses Abraham’s descendants. /God made this promise in Genesis 12:1-3, and in Genesis 15, he fulfills the promise. /What is this important message?

/It is that Abraham will become a great nation. /If we take a look at Genesis 15, God says he will give Abraham land 400 years later. /If we look at Exodus 1, we see that 70 of Abraham’s descendants live with Joseph in Egypt.

/God allows Abraham’s descendants to prosper at this place, and he makes them into a great nation. /Abraham died 400 years earlier, but after 400 years, God keeps his promise with Abraham.

/Beloved believers! God is a faithful God who always keeps his promises. /However, the Israelites encountered a problem while they were in Egypt. /Joseph had died, and the kings that acknowledged Joseph had died as well. A new king had emerged.

/The new kings who did not know Joseph did not like the Israelites. /The kings feared them. They feared the Israelites because they were growing in number.

/To prevent the Israelites from multiplying, the Egyptian king called the Israelites to work in construction. /Even still, their prosperity did not decline. /The reason is God blessed them.

/The king of Egypt came up with another great idea. /It was to order the midwives to kill every born son. However, this plan did not succeed.

/It did not succeed because the midwives feared God and therefore could not kill the children. /In the midst of all this, God continued to make the Israelites more prosperous. / Seeing that their brilliant idea had failed, the Egyptians ordered that the Israelite children be thrown into the Nile River.

/As all of this was happening, Moses was born to a Levite family. /His parents did not throw him into the Nile, but they hid him for 3 months. /Afterwards, Moses was abandoned in the Nile, but God was with him.

/The Egyptian princess discovered Moses, and she took him home and raised him. /This is the work of God. /The Egyptian king tried to kill the Israelites' children, but God raised Moses in an Egyptian house.

/Raised under an Egyptian princess, Moses grew up learning about Egypt. /But because his nurse was also his mother, Moses realized that he was an Israelite.

/Living in the Egyptian palace for 40 years, he came to look back on the nation of Israel. / He witnessed two Hebrew people fighting, and he stepped in to stop the fight.

/He also killed an Egyptian who was bothering a Hebrew. /Because of this incident, Moses had to flee from Egypt and live in the Midian wilderness.

/He tried to help a fellow Israelite, but he had failed. /Taking care of sheep in the house of a Midianite priest, Moses lived for 40 years in the land of Midian. /As he was tending the flock, Moses, who was 80 years old, saw a strange bush.

/The bush was on fire, but it continued to burn. /In dry places, these bushes easily catch fire. /However, seeing that the bush continued to burn, Moses became curious about it.

/God was present in the flames of the bush. /God calls to Moses from the bush. /He says that he will save the Israelites, the descendants of Abraham, who are suffering in the land of Egypt.

/God says that he will use Moses. /However, Moses rejects God's word. /Moses says that as an old 80-year-old man, he could not do anything. /At this time, God says he will be with him when he leads the Israelites.

/Moses asks God for God's name, the name he should tell the Israelites. /God says to Moses in Exodus 3:14, "I AM WHO I AM."

/God tells Moses that he is the sovereign God, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. /God says that he will keep what he promised. /Moses rejects God once again.

/This time, Moses claims that he is slow of speech and tongue. /God says he will meet his brother, someone who can speak well. /God also gave him great power.

/Moses' staff became a serpent. /Moses' hand became leprous, but God miraculously heals it. /Now, Moses goes with Aaron to meet the Pharaoh.

/Pharaoh questions Moses and Aaron, asking them who they are, what God they believe in. /Moses asks Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, so that they may worship God.

/Pharaoh not only immediately denies their request, but he also forces the Israelites to do more work. /He does not supply them with the straw to make bricks. /The Israelites suffered more because of this.

/God sends Moses to Pharaoh one more time. /The Israelites were in a difficult situation, for they were burdened with more work. At this time, God says that he, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, will deliver them.

/God appeared to Abraham as the Almighty God, /but now, he is working as Jehovah, the God of salvation who redeems the Israelites. /In the book of Exodus, God appears as Jehovah, the God who redeems the people.

/Moses and Aaron return to Pharaoh. /They prove that God is the true God by showing Pharaoh the staff. /The staff turns into a dangerous snake. /However, Pharaoh summons his magicians to do the same thing.

/The surprising thing here is that Aaron's staff that had turned into a snake swallows the Egyptian magicians' snakes. /Still, Pharaoh does not accept Moses' proposal. /He rejects God because his heart is hardened.

/God sends a plague to Pharaoh by turning the water of the Nile River into blood. /To Pharaoh and the Egyptians, the Nile River was like a god. /However, because God had turned the water into blood, the river water was useless.

/When Pharaoh still does not listen, God sends frogs to cover the entire country as the second plague. /Facing trouble, Pharaoh requests to Moses that he take the frogs away. But when the frogs are gone, Pharaoh once again rejects Moses' proposal.

/Through Moses, God sends more plagues of flies and the death of livestock. /He also strikes Egypt with hail, locusts, and darkness. /Still, Pharaoh rejects God.

/After the 9 plagues, for the final 10<sup>th</sup> plague, God brings the plague of killing every firstborn. /But first, God commands Moses to instruct the Israelites to put blood on their doorposts so that their firstborn sons and firstborn livestock will not die.

/Exodus 12:13 talks about the Passover. /The Passover is about the plague that God sent right before the Israelites' exodus from Egypt.

/The angel passes over the doors with the blood of lambs, but the firstborn of every Egyptian household that does not have this blood on the door will die. This is the Passover.

/The Passover means "Because of the blood of the lamb, the angel of death will not kill, but it will pass over." /Long after, when Jesus comes to this earth, John the Baptist says this about Jesus: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

/Before Jesus died on the cross, he ate the Passover meal, and he died during the Passover. /What does this mean? The blood of the lamb that saved the Israelites in Exodus symbolizes Jesus.

/Whoever believes in Jesus' blood and is forgiven of their sins will stand before God, similarly to how the Israelites in Egypt were saved because of the Passover lamb. /God continues to tell his chosen people how he will bless all the nations.

/One of these things is the principle of atonement, which was revealed to Abraham as he was sacrificing Isaac. /The ram that died in Isaac's place was the atonement sacrifice. Through this event, God shows how he will bless all the nations.

/God showed Abraham the principle of atonement, and in the book of Exodus, he shows us the principle of atonement through the Passover lamb. Through the blood of Jesus Christ, who is the Passover lamb, all nations will be blessed before God and will be saved.

/Due to God's miraculous work of the Passover, the Israelites were able to leave Egypt. /They had reached the Red Sea. /God wanted the Israelites to go through the way of the Red Sea, not the way of the Mediterranean Sea, which was easier to navigate through.

/He had brought them to a dead end, the place of the Red Sea. Watching the Israelites head towards the Red Sea, Pharaoh thought they were lost and wandering about. /He brought a large army and chased the Israelites with the intention of capturing them and bringing them back.

/The Egyptian army had drawn closer. /The Israelites, who had escaped from Egypt, resented Moses, and they were afraid. /Moses, following God's orders, lifts his staff and tells the people to see how God saves.

/In Exodus 14:24, Moses stretches his staff over the sea, and God divides the Red Sea.  
/By blowing strong winds, God divided the sea.

/As soon as all the Israelites cross the sea, God drowns the Egyptian soldiers in the water.  
/In this way, God by himself saved the Israelites.

/Now that they crossed the Red Sea, the Israelites walk three days in the wilderness.  
/Even after experiencing the wondrous work of God at the Red Sea, the Israelites, who did not have water for three days, grumbled against God.

/They found water, but it was bitter water that was undrinkable. God changes the water so that it is drinkable. /Next, they grumble against Moses because they want meat to eat.

/God sent quails for them to eat. /He daily gave them manna to eat. /They were in the wilderness, where they could not find anything to eat, but God fed them meat and manna.

/However, they start to grumble against God once again. /If we look at Exodus 17, we see that they complained to God because they did not have water. /At a place called Meribah, God strikes a rock and gives them water to drink.

/After three months of living like this, the Israelites arrive near Mount Sinai. /Starting from Exodus 19, the Bible talks about the Israelites at Mount Sinai. /They stayed near Mount Sinai for about one year, from Exodus 19 to Numbers 10.

/From Numbers 10:11, the Israelites leave Mount Sinai and head for the land of Canaan. /Thus the details from Exodus 19 to Numbers 10:11 are about how the Israelites lived at Mount Sinai for one year.

/The law of offerings written in Leviticus was given to the Israelites when they dwelled near Mount Sinai for one year. /What did God say to the Israelites while they stayed there for one year?

/The most important thing that happened was God himself wanted to meet with the Israelites. /God is someone who longs to be with his people. /After creating the Garden of Eden, God desires to be with Adam and Eve.

/But because Adam and Eve became corrupt and rejected God, he could not be with them. /Now that God chose his people, he wants to be with them on Mount Sinai.

/Before God dwells with them, he first asks them if they can keep his word. /Exodus 19:5 tells us that the Israelites promised to keep their covenant with God.

/19:4 says that if they obey God and keep the covenant, God will give them a great promise.

/Exodus 19:4-5 read, “You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;

/Verse 6 is the most important. /It reads, “and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.””

/If the Israelites obey God’s word and keep the covenant, they will become a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. /What is a kingdom of priests? /The verse shows us Israel’s calling and the reason why God chose the Israelites.

/Much like a priest who stood between God and the Israelites as representative of the Israelites, the people of Israel will become a nation of priests. /God desires for Abraham’s descendants to be his chosen people, a kingdom of priests, through which he will bless all nations.

/Now that they promised to keep the covenant, God tells them how they can meet him. /He forbids the Israelites from washing their bodies and clothes and from having sexual intercourse. /For three days, they must prepare in this way.

/19:16 tells us that when they were all prepared, God came down with trumpet sounds, thunder, and lightning. /Thunder, lightning, thick clouds, and trumpets symbolize God’s coming.

/God does not allow the Israelites to ascend Mount Sinai. /Because God is holy, anyone who mindlessly climbs the mountain will die. /In Exodus 20, God gives the Israelites the Ten Commandments.

/He didn’t give the commandments so that the Israelites would keep the commandments and be saved. /The Ten Commandments are a standard by which people who are already saved live their lives as God’s people. /In 20:2, God says he is the God who brought the Israelites out of Egypt.

/The Israelites did not do anything in Egypt to earn salvation. /God sent the ten plagues and divided the Red Sea to save them in his sovereignty.

/God tells them what is right for them to do. /They are things they should do as people who are saved. /The Ten Commandments can be categorized into two parts.

/The commandments are, like Jesus said, “Love God and love your neighbor.” /As people who are saved, to love God means to serve no other god. /Because God is the only true God, we shouldn’t acknowledge other gods. /The proper way to serve God is given to us in the Second Commandment. /The Israelites must not make an image of the invisible God or make him into an idol.

/People typically want to make images of gods. /This is the tendency of those who serve foreign gods. /People of the world create weird things that appear to be gods, and they pray to them.

/However, God forbids any of this behavior. /God shows them that he alone is sovereign and free. /He also commands the people to remember the Sabbath and to not take God's name in vain.

/At the right time and place, we must worship God appropriately. /Those who are saved must not only love God, but they must also keep good relationships with their neighbors.

/This means honoring one's father and mother first. /It means that the believer does not covet his neighbor's possessions. /The believer must not murder, commit adultery, steal, or bear false witness.

/God, with his own hands, wrote the Ten Commandments. /The Israelites, who were very afraid, request to Moses that he delivers the rest of God's words.

/The laws in Exodus 20:22 are specific laws to be kept by the Israelites, people who are saved. /God wants his saved people to live with a high moral standard.

/Through Moses, God gives the people the rules of ethics regarding how they should live with their neighbors. /In chapter 24, God makes a covenant with the Israelites. /Moses declares the word of God, and he throws the blood of the oxen that are given as offerings on the people.

/The covenant that God made with the Israelites is a covenant of blood. /If the covenant is not kept, they die like the beasts and their blood. /The Israelites must keep their covenant with God no matter what.

/God communicates with Moses and the representatives of the people, and he feeds them.  
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/God calls Moses to Mount Sinai. /He calls him for 40 days and gives him the Ten Commandments and orders him to make the tabernacle.

/We will skip the 5<sup>th</sup> lecture on "An Introduction to the Old Testament."

/Thank you.