

## VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD: EXODUS

William D. Watley, New Seasons Press, All Rights Reserved.

**Name:** The name “EXODUS”, which means exit or departure, like the name “GENESIS” does not appear in the Hebrew Bible. It appears in the Septuagint or first Greek translations of the scriptures that sometimes used themes to give names to biblical books.

**Date of Composition:** Exact date unknown. Estimates range from 1440 BCE if Moses was writer. Exodus in its final form may have emerged around sometimes between 600-500 BCE.

**Author:** Traditionally scribed to Moses, who probably wrote sections of this book (17: 14; 24: 4; 34: 27). However, the commonly accepted view is in addition to Moses there are various hands and traditions that give Exodus its present shape. Those traditions are known as J (Yahwist), E (Elohim) and P (Priestly).

**Content:** Exodus is the second book of the Pentateuch (first five books known as the Books of the Law). In Exodus unlike Genesis, we see the beginning of the importance of the Jews becoming people of the Book, or the Law, in the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai. Exodus is significant for the emergence of the religion of Israel for at least three reasons: The deliverance from Egypt (Exodus event is similar to Calvary for Christians as anchoring event for the faith); the establishment of the covenant at Mt. Sinai; the beginning of the formal worship tradition.

### **Contents of the Books of Exodus:**

Chapters 1-2:	Prologue
Chapters 3-18:	God’s deliverance of Israel
Chapters 19-24:	Covenant at Sinai
Chapters 25-40:	God’s Royal Tent in the Wilderness

### **Points to Remember:**

- God’s deliverance of his people is one of the pillars of Old Testament theology, prefiguring later calamities that occurred in the history of Israel and later messianic hope.
- God deliverance of Israel shows God’s character as historical rather than simply nature.
- God’s deliverance of Israel also shows God’s action on behalf of the oppressed (Black, indigenous and Third World theologies; Black as synonym for oppressed)
- The move of God can be imitated but not duplicated
- Human arms are too short to box with God
- God establishes formal relationships (covenant, in which God obligates God self) with God’s people based on their obedience and faithfulness to God.
- God’s focus on Promised Land demonstrates truth that God never forgets a promise even a century old promise made to Abraham (Genesis 17: 1-8).
- The emphasis on the tent of meeting shows the significant place that organized worship is to hold in the life of an individual and the community