Moses and the Exodus

“Exodus” is from a Greek word, meaning, “to exit” or “to go out”. Yahweh freed the Israelites from slavery and brought them out of Egypt. This is the most remembered event of the Old Testament of the Bible.

The People Suffer

1. How did the descendents of Joseph’s family become slaves in Egypt? What were they forced to do?

2. What did the king do in order to keep the population of the Hebrews (Israelites) small?
Moses was rescued from the Nile River (Exodus 2:1-10) and adopted by the King’s daughter. Later, he killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and he had to escape to another country.

**God Speaks to Moses**

*Exodus 3:1-15 (p. 66)*

1. Where did Moses hear God’s voice?

2. What does God tell Moses to do?

3. What is God’s name?

**Yahweh Gives Great Power to Moses**

*Exodus 4:1-5 (p. 67)*

1. What does the Lord give to Moses to show God’s power?
Moses and his brother Aaron ask the king of Egypt (Pharaoh) to let the Israelites leave. The king refuses. Yahweh sends 10 disasters or plagues on Egypt. Read Exodus 7:14-11:45. What are the first nine plagues?

Plague 1

Plague 2

Plague 3

Plague 4

Plague 5

Plague 6

Plague 7

Plague 8
The Passover

Exodus 12: 3, 6-8, 12-14

1. What are the Israelites to eat that night?

2. What are they to do with the animal’s blood?

3. What will the blood do?

4. This event is the most important holiday for the Jews even today. What is this holiday called?
The Israelites Cross the Red Sea (Sea of Reeds)  Exodus 14: 5-10, 21-27

1. How did the Israelites cross the Sea of Reeds?

2. What happened to the Egyptians?

In Class Assignment

Watch the Video on the Life of Moses and the Children of Israel after Crossing the Sea of Reeds. Be prepared to share your impressions and insights at the finish of the video.
The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-17

The Ten Commandments are the basis for all Jewish Law, and have made a profound and lasting effect upon Western Culture. This is the story of the Ten Commandments.

After Moses and the Israelites fled the slavery of Egypt, they wandered the desert. Yahweh provided the travelers with food to eat (manna) and water to drink. After long months Moses brought his followers to the foot of a mountain called Sinai.

On the third day of the Hebrew month of Sivan, Moses was commanded by Yahweh to prepare the Jewish people for Yahweh’s decent and visit. The Israelites washed and purified their clothes and their bodies. Three days later, on the sixth day of Sivan, the people were awakened by thunder and lightning. Thick, dark clouds hung over the mountain. The sounds of the Shofar, the ram’s horn, were heard echoing across the desert. The earth began to tremble and shake.

Then the Israelites heard a voice, Yahweh’s voice, as he spoke to them from out of the clouds. And Yahweh gave them his Ten Commandments

"I am the Lord your God, Who has taken you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods but me"

"You shall not make any idols."

"You shall not take the name of your Lord in vain"

"You shall remember and keep the Sabbath day holy"

"Honor your father and mother"

"You shall not kill"

"You shall not commit adultery"

"You shall not steal"

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"
"You shall not covet your neighbor's goods. You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his bull, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbour's."

Moses went up the mountain and returned with the Tablets that contained the Ten Commandments. Through the centuries the Jewish people have celebrated this important event. It was at Mount Sinai that this band of worn and weary travelers would become the nation known as Israel.

Questions

Look again at the Ten Commandments. Change the negative sentence to a positive sentence. The first one has been done for you.

1. "You shall have no other gods but me" – *Worship only the Lord your God.*

2. "You shall not make any idols."

3. "You shall not take the name of your Lord in vain"

4. "You shall remember and keep the Sabbath day holy"

5. "Honor your father and mother"

6. "You shall not kill"

7. "You shall not commit adultery"

8. "You shall not steal"

9. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"

10."You shall not covet your neighbor's goods."

Many of the Ten Commandments continue in the form of modern laws such as "you shall not kill" (modern society severely punishes the crime of murder), "you shall not commit adultery" (modern society allows a divorce on this grounds) and "you shall not steal" (modern society punishes theft as a crime).

The first four Commandments are not related to justice *per se* but are
purely religious statements. They imply that if one does not have a right relationship with God, other crimes will follow. The other commandments represent basic principles of justice that have been adhered to by Judeo-Christian societies since they were first published.

The Old Testament Law makes it quite clear that to transgress the Commandments was punishable: "the soul that sins, it shall die", "sin is the transgression of the law" and "If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments". Christians will be familiar with formal religious statements such as "The almighty God will punish all those who disobey the above ten commandments. Therefore let us love and fear God and take care that in no way we act contrary to the above commandments."

In the context of legal history, the words of a British father explaining to friends that the first book he gave to his son who was aspiring to become a lawyer was "the Bible, the Holy Bible." "The Bible ... for a lawyer?!" exclaimed his friends. "Yes sir," answered the proud father. "the properest and most scientific book for an honest lawyer, as there you will find the foundation of all law as well as all morality."

**Homework**

Rent a video of “The Ten Commandments” (1956, Cecil B. De Mille, Director). Take notes as to your impressions of the movie in light of your reading of Exodus. Be prepared to share your thoughts during the next seminar session.