

The Pentateuch II: Exodus

Instructor-Pat Reeder

Wednesday evenings, 7pm-9:30pm

Course description

This course is the second of four courses on the Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible). Exodus contains the flowering of many themes first glimpsed in Genesis. We first see Israel as a full nation. God rescues his people from Egypt with spectacular signs and acts of judgment. The Law is given on the Mt. Sinai. All the while, God is dealing with stubborn ingratitude of Israel and the flawed leadership of Moses and Aaron. We will naturally examine the epic-scale narratives and their lessons for us. We will also explore what exactly we can learn about God from his law: a tutor to leads us to Christ and a yoke that neither the Israelites nor the apostles could bear (Cf. Acts 15:10; Gal 3:24).

Course Expectations

Attendance You must attend 4 of 5 classes to receive credit. Roughly, everyone has 1 “excused absence” before receiving an incomplete. Any further absence is negotiable, to be discussed with the instructor.

Readings and Homework There will be weekly readings to keep in step with the material being covered each week. Questions on the readings can be found on the back of this sheet. These are strictly completion based.

Calendar

Week	Content	Readings
1	Review of Themes from Genesis, Historical Issues	N/A
2	Introduction: God, Moses and Pharaoh; Early Plagues	Exodus 1-10:29
3	Passover and Wilderness Episodes	Ex. 11-18:27
4	Decalogue and Golden Calf	Ex. 19-20:26; 32-33:23
5	The Law--what is it good for?	Ex. 21-31; 34-40:38

Miscellaneous

Students will be responsible for their own notes. We will provide notebooks and the presentations will be available upon request.

Homework 1- Read Exodus 1-10:29-Reflect on and answer the following questions.

- A. Is it appropriate that God is “hardening” Pharaoh’s heart? What should we make of this?
- B. Find places where the name ‘Yahweh’ shows up in the Pentateuch before Exodus 6:3? How do you suppose it is to be resolved that God says, “I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, Lord, I did not make Myself known to them.”

Homework 2- Read Ex. 11-18:27- Reflect on and answer the following questions.

- A. Paul refers to Jesus as “our Passover lamb” (I Cor 5:7). Compare and Contrast aspects of the Passover celebration and Jesus’ sacrifice.
- B. The Plague of the first born is a Bible-haters’ favorite. How would you explain this to a friend if they asked you about this?

Homework 3- Read Ex. 19-20:26; 32-33:23- Reflect on and answer the following questions.

- A. What do you think it means that God is “jealous” in Exodus 20:5?
- B. How would you explain the claim that God spoke to Moses face-to-face (33:11) when God says, “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!” (33:20)
- C. What do we learn about God’s character from the Ten Commandments? What do we learn about humans?

Homework 4- Read Ex. 21-31; 34-40:38- Reflect on and answer the following questions.

- A. Here is an extreme law concerning the sacred incense: “Whoever shall make any like it, to use as perfume, shall be cut off from his people.” Why such an extreme punishment? What if you like the smell and want to enjoy it everyday?
- B. There is extraordinary detail in some of the civil laws (21-23). Name some underlying broader moral/ethical principles beneath these rules?
- C. Why do you suppose so much detail is given on the construction of the tabernacle?