

The word Exodus means the way out (emigration) in today's language. Have you or your family had felt like being trapped, and needed to move away from an existing environment. My family had experienced that years ago when I was small in Hong Kong. My Dad had a good job in Hong Kong but lost his job due to the company went bankrupt. He was out of a job for several years and the family had no income. The savings were close to used up. My family felt like we have to do something to get out of this trapped environment of no income. Since my grandparents are in US, my family has decided to leave Hong Kong hoping that this exodus can bring changes to my family economy in US, and would receive good education for my siblings and myself.

If you had some previous experience of being trapped or felt trapped, then you might be able to empathize the being trapped situation of God's people in Egypt at that time. However, the Book of Exodus has much more important contents than God led the people out of the trapped situation in Egypt. The significant points covered in Exodus are actually pointed to the ultimate Christ and His work for us.

1. **The rescuer and savior**

The key theme of Exodus is redemption and deliverance. One of the definitions of redemption is the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil. Moses delivered God's people from physical slavery in Egypt (Exodus chapters 6 to 14). Moses saved the Israelites and made them free from the evil Egyptian control. The physical rescue of people by Moses points to our deliverance by Christ. Jesus in the New Testaments rescued and redeemed us so that we are free from spiritual slavery of sin under Satan. (Rom. 6, Col. 1:13-14, Eph. 1:7, I Tim. 1:15). Moses was the savior for the Israelites at that time while they were on earth; Jesus is the savior for all for eternity.

2. **The sacrificial lamb**

Exodus 12 described the blood of a lamb without defect were used to save the Israelites during the Passover. This physical sacrificial lamb used in Exodus points to the ultimate sacrificial lamb of God that is Jesus. The last supper was a "Passover meal". Jesus is the lamb of God and many Bible verses cited it such as John 1:29, John 1:36, I Cor. 5:7, I Peter 1:19, Isa. 53:7 and Rev. 17:14.

3. The true manna (bread of life)

The Israelites were hungry in the wilderness and complained. God answered by giving manna down from heaven (Exodus 16). He provided their daily needs all the time in wilderness. This physical bread of life has sustained them.

Now let's look at the New Testaments, Jesus miraculously multiplied the five loaves and two fish and fed over 5000 people. The crowd was still not convinced as stated in John 6:30-31 where they recalled what happened in the wilderness. But Jesus replied "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35). Again, in John 6:48-51 Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." Thus, Jesus is the true manna, the spiritual bread that is eternal.

4. The true lawgiver

Exodus 19 to 24 describe how Moses met God and delivered the law to God's people. Thus, Moses is very significant in history where the law was given to people (some reference it as "law of Moses"). However, Moses was not the true lawgiver.

James 4:12 clearly stated the only lawgiver is God. Furthermore, Jesus came to fulfill the Law God had instituted. He lived out in his life the true requirement in the law. Matt. 5:17 states "I didn't come to abolish the Law and the Prophets," Jesus said, "but to fulfill them". Jesus fulfilled them all by his life: by instituting the New Covenant, and by his sacrificial death and the resurrection. Therefore, we have the complete understanding now on the essence of the commandment (Mark 12:30).

5. The true tabernacle

Exodus Chapters 25 to 31 described a lot about the tabernacle. The design and layout of the tabernacle has to be very specific. The key is about how people

should worship. Hence, the tabernacle was the center for God's dwelling and the place where God's people can meet God (Exodus 25:8).

New Testament passages show that Jesus is the "tabernacle" where people can meet/connect to God. John 1:14 states "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." The word dwelling in Greek is tabernacle. Jesus was physically on earth at that time period, and within us today (II Cor. 13:5, Eph. 3:17, Gal. 2:20). That is one of an essence of tabernacle that is a location people can be with God. Hebrews chapter 8:1-5 and chapter 9 also explained the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament on this topic. Tabernacle in the wilderness was an earthly representation of God's dwelling.

In conclusion, Exodus is more than just about the way out of physical slavery. This Bible book showed how God led His people, and more importantly pointed to Jesus Christ as the savior, lamb of God, bread of life, lawgiver and true tabernacle. My emigration out of trapped poverty situation in Hong Kong led me not just physical improvement in my environment but eventually heard the Good News and accepted Jesus as my savior and Lord. Are you in a "trapped" environment? The trapping can be physical like poverty, physical restriction, sickness or emotional like depression, loneliness, can't see the meaning of life, etc. Going back to God is the answer. Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior? If you haven't, take a step of faith and accept Him as your savior. He will lead you, renew your life and give you hope and peace. For those that have accepted Jesus as your savior, let us remember who Jesus is and how Exodus has revealed those truths to us.
