

## EXODUS

### 1. Brief Outline of Exodus

- I. Exodus: Liberation (1-18)
  - A. Israel in Egypt (1)
  - B. The Early Moses (2-4)
  - C. Plagues (5-11)
  - D. Passover (12:1-13:16)
  - E. Exodus from Egypt (13:17-15:21)
  - F. Wilderness Journey (15:22-18:27)
- II. Sinai: Covenant (19-40)
  - A. Theophany on the Mountain (19)
  - B. Law and Covenant (20-23)
    - 1. Ten Commandments (20:1-17)
    - 2. Book of the Covenant (20:18-23:33)
  - C. Covenant Confirmation Ceremony (24)
  - D. Tabernacle Design (25-31)
  - E. Covenant Breaking and Remaking (32-34)
    - 1. Golden Calf (32)
    - 2. Covenant Renewal (33-34)
  - F. Tabernacle Construction (35-40)

### 2. Creation in Genesis and the Tabernacle in Exodus

Creation of the World	Genesis 2:1-2 (Conclusion of "P" cosmogony)	Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.
Construction of the Tabernacle	Exodus 39:32, 40:33	In this way all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished; the Israelites had done everything just as the LORD had commanded Moses.... So Moses finished the work.

**Tabernacle** – A portable tent shrine that served as God's place of residence among his people throughout their wilderness travels and on into the Promised Land. In Exodus, the "P" source [the Priestly source] devotes two extended passages to the tabernacle: The first details the design of the worship center (Exodus 25-31) and the second narrates its construction (Exodus 35-40). The narrative is ordered as seven divine speeches each introduced with the formula "YHWH said to Moses." The seventh features the Sabbath, suggesting a parallel with the "P" Creation Narrative of Genesis 1. The design is presented as a divine blueprint. The climax of "P"’s Tabernacle Narrative comes in 40:34-38 when the cloud of God's presence descends on the tabernacle and the glory of YHWH fills it. Thereafter (e.g., in Numbers), God's presence accompanies the Israelites throughout their travels; eventually, the presence takes up residence in the Temple built in Jerusalem during the time of Solomon.

## NUMBERS

**I. Final Encampment at Sinai (1:1-10:10)** – *Source*: “P” – *Form*: Priestly Code, prescriptive instructions about the Tabernacle, continue legal material in the previous book, Leviticus – *Themes*: This unit centers on cultic purity within the camp at Sinai.

- 1-4, Census of the tribes, description of the plan of the camp with Tabernacle at the center, census of Levites and outline of levitical duties
- 5, Laws of purity and outline of priestly duties
- 6:1-21, Vow of Nazirite (a kind of lay priest)
- 6:22-27, Priestly Blessing (6) – blessing to be said by priests to Israel
- 7-8, Description of final preparation for the operation of the Tabernacle
- 9:1-14, Passover, the cloud, trumpets- i.e., the first celebration of Passover, the festival commemorating God’s deliverance of Israel from Egypt (see Exodus 12), aptly celebrating just as Israel is about to leave Sinai
- 9:15-23, Description of divine fire-cloud, God’s manifestation to Israel, which guides Israel on its journey
- 10.1-10, Description of silver trumpets that will guide the march

**II. Journey from Sinai to Moab (10:11-21:35)** – *Sources*: “J”/“E”/“P” – *Form*: historical narrative interspersed with priestly regulations – *Themes*: Recounting the generation-long march in the desert, this unit characterized by a recurring cycle of rebellion against the authority of God and Moses followed by punishment; the message is clear: if the Covenant entails God’s promise of fidelity to Israel, as manifests in acts of salvation, then the other side of this is that Israelites’ infidelity will bring divine retribution.

- 10:11-36, Departure on the march
- 11, Three incidents of rebellion followed by punishment
- 12, Rebellion of Aaron and Miriam against Moses’ leadership
- 13-14, Twelve scouts and rebellion
- 15, *Cultic laws*
- 16-18, Rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram + aftermath, outlining responsibilities of Aaronic priests and Levites
- 19, *Red heifer rite of purification*
- 20, Sin of Moses and Aaron and death of Aaron
- 21, Battles and the bronze serpent

**III. Encampment on the Plains of Moab and Preparation to enter Promised Land (22-36)** – *Form*: Narrative and legal material, with lengthy poetic folk traditions. *Themes*: New Israelite community’s final preparation to inherit the Land.

- 22-24, Balaam the prophet
- 25, Israel's apostasy at Baal-Peor
- 26, Second census
- 27, Zelophad's daughters and Moses's successor
- 28-30, Offerings and festivals, vows
- 31, War against Midian
- 32-33, Allotment of land in Transjordan; Israel's itinerary from Egypt to Canaan
- 34, Boundaries of the Promised Land
- 35, Levitical cities and cities of refuge
- 36, Inheritance laws