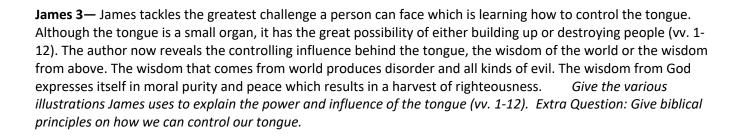
### Psalm 22, James 1-5, Exodus 1 (#14) Revised 2022

**Psalm 22** — This is obviously a Messianic psalm. Jesus even quotes the first verse on the cross. The description of suffering here is consistent with the torment of crucifixion. We too may feel abandoned by God at some point. However, for him to do so would be to deny his promise, "Lo I am with you always to the very end of the age." Have you ever felt abandoned by God? What can we rely on to get us through those seasons of struggle?

James— The Book of James, was written by the half-brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55), between 45 AD. to 48 AD., to the Jewish Christians who were dispersed throughout the Roman Empire. James was the leader of the church in Jerusalem until his death in 62 A.D. His book expresses concern for those Jewish Christians who were suffering persecution both from the non-Christian Jews and Gentiles. "James is classified as wisdom literature. This short, pithy exhortation on a variety of subjects more resembles pearls strung on a common thread than closely reasoned argument." Source #6 p.765. James exposes hypocritical practices of believers and thus questions whether they have genuine faith since true faith should produce a godly lifestyle (2:18)

James 1— After the opening greeting, James encourages us to focus on the spiritual results of trials and testings and to ask for wisdom to know how to respond to them. When we have endured the trials successfully, God promises us a crown of life at Christ's appearing (vv. 1-12). The opposite of testing by God is temptation sent by Satan. God's purpose for allowing temptation in our lives is to refine our faith and to draw us to depend on Him. James says that temptation is a process whereby we are enticed by our desires which ultimately leads to sin and death (vv. 13-18). The central idea of this last section is that the "implanted Word" will transform the believer in the way he speaks and reacts as well as the way he puts into practice what he hears. The result of the doers of the Word is the caring for the destitute and keeping oneself from being contaminated from the world's values (vv. 19-27). Give five practical commands that we need to put into practice that are given by James in this chapter. Which one convicts you the most?

James 2— James confronts the sinful inclinations of some believers who show partiality toward the rich and the shameful treatment of the poor. In Heaven, people will <u>not</u> be judged by economic or social status, race, gender, or any other measuring stick. Each local church should showcase the values of heaven to the world, and each person must know that he will be judged by God in the way he treats the least of these (vv. 1-13). James continues to take the believers a step further by not only examining their <u>attitudes</u> toward the poor, but also their <u>actions</u> toward them. James gives the lives of Abraham and Rahab as examples that real, biblical faith involves inner dynamic transformation. Clearly in the scriptures, salvation is a free gift of grace, but good works are the necessary result of genuine faith (Ephesians 2:8-10). 1. In verses 3-13, what are the reasons James opposes favoritism? Can you add any other reasons? 2. Paul said, "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith" (II Corinthians 13:5). As you look at your own life as a Christian, what evidences can you show that you are "God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Ephesians 2:10)?



James 4— James talks of the earthly and demonic forces that try to dominate our lives including quarrels, passions, greed, and friendship with the world. God, however, intervenes and gives us grace to have victory over sin and selfishness as we humble ourselves, cleanse and purify our hearts, submit ourselves to God's will, and resist the attacks of the Devil. We must not judge or speak evil of our brother or neighbor. We must not live our daily lives forgetting God's providential control or the brevity of life. What are six or seven nuggets of wisdom we can mine from this chapter that could be used by the Holy Spirit to transform our lives? Extra Question: How can we resist the Devil?

James 5— From 4:13 to 5:6, James addresses the business community and wealthy landowners who defraud their workers in order to make themselves rich. In the end, like cattle, the wicked rich landowners are only fattening themselves for the final day of the slaughter of God's judgment (vv.1-6). Now the author turns his attention to the poor and oppressed, calling them to patient endurance in the midst of trials, remembering Job's suffering, and the blessed outcome of his life (vv. 7-12). James writes a powerful paragraph on the importance and efficacy of prayer in the local church and in the believer's life (vv. 13-18). The author ends his book with a plea for believers to be God's agents to reclaim sinners (vv. 19-20)?

1. What lessons about physical healing are taught in verses 14-16 as well as the rest of the New Testament? 2. James 5:16b says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (NIV). Share a story how you found this verse to be true in your life or in the life of someone else.

**Exodus**— As God promised, the people of Israel would multiply to become a great nation after 400 years in Egypt. This book marks the Exodus of Israel from Egypt under Moses to prepare them to go to the promised land of Canaan. God sent ten plagues to finally convince Pharaoh to allow Israel to go. After the final destruction of Egypt's army in the Red Sea, God led Israel into the wilderness to Mount Sinai where they were given the 10 Commandments and other laws to prepare them as a special people. God gave precise instructions to Moses on the building of the Tabernacle, a movable tent to worship and sacrifice that declared God's presence in the midst of His people.

**Exodus 1**— Exodus begins where Genesis left off by speaking of the seventy people that Jacob brought to Egypt and how their numbers greatly increased in the ensuing years (vv. 1-7). A new Pharaoh is fearful of the strength and growing population of the Israelites and does through whatever means possible to enslave them and keep them from growing (vv. 8-14). Although Pharaoh commanded the Hebrew midwives to kill all male babies, they feared God and would not do it (vv. 15-22).

1. As we read chapter 1 of Exodus, where do we see the faithfulness, providence and blessing of God?

2. What example do we see of civil disobedience in this chapter? Where else in the Bible do we see examples of civil disobedience?

#### Revised 2022

### Psalms 23-24, Exodus 2-7 (#15) Revised 2022

**Psalm 23** — This is one of the most cherished of the Psalms and for good reason. We see in this Psalm the protection of our Great Shepherd, in good times or bad, He is ever present with us. List the actions God takes on our behalf.

**Psalm 24** — David answers two crucial questions, who can stand in God's presence, and who is the King of Glory? How does this psalm answer them?

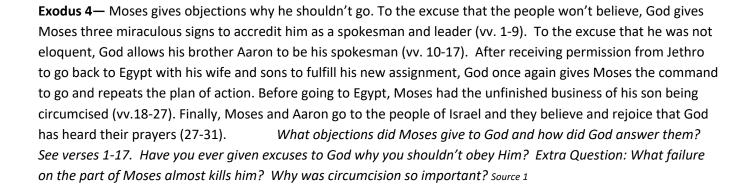
Exodus 2— Whenever God wants to do something strategic in His eternal plan, He chooses and prepares a person to lead the charge. In this chapter we see the providential workings of God in the life of Moses from his birth, to his life in Pharaoh's court and finally to his forty years in land of Midian. At eighty years of age Moses thought his life was almost over, but God was only finished with His preparation of Moses. God was now ready for Moses to enter into his life's purpose, leading the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the land of Canaan.

1. As you look at Moses in this chapter, where do we see God's providence and preparation for his life's work?

2. Was Moses' father- in- law Reuel (also called Jethro) a priest of the true God or not? See Genesis 25:1-2 for a possible clue.

**Exodus 3**— As Moses was tending his flock on Mount Horeb/Sinai, he notices a burning bush that is not consumed and turns aside to see it. God spoke from the bush and calls Moses to deliver his people out of the enslavement of Egypt and lead them into the promised land. Even though Moses struggles to accept God's calling, God reveals His name, promises, and purposes to him. The omniscient God tells Moses the whole process of the exodus including the refusal of Pharaoh, the wonders He will perform, and the plundering of the Egyptian's wealth when they left Egypt.

1. When Moses asked, "What is his (your) name?" How did God respond? What is the significance of the name, "I am who I am (Yahweh/Jehovah)?" 2. What does Jesus say about Himself and why is that significant? See John 8:58-59.



**Exodus 5**— In the initial meeting of Moses and Aaron with Pharaoh, things go from bad to worse. Pharaoh sneers at the God of Israel, whom he considers vastly inferior to his gods, who he believes has given Egypt wealth and power. To give the Israelites a wakeup call about what he thinks of the idea of Moses to give the Israelites a rest, Pharaoh mistreats them even worse and forces them to find their own straw for the bricks they are making, but demands the same quota as before. The Israelite foremen turn against Moses and then Moses complains to God.

1. What are the character traits of Pharaoh you see in this chapter? 2. How is what happened to Israel in chapter five similar to us in our Christian lives? Can you give a personal illustration of this?

**Exodus 6**— God assures Moses that He will deal with Pharaoh so that Pharaoh himself will force Israel to leave. God declares His faithfulness to all the descendants of Abraham and again promises them deliverance from slavery. Moses relays God's reply to Israel, but they are too disheartened to listen (vv. 1-14). The chapter closes with a genealogy showing especially the line from Jacob through Levi to Moses, Aaron and Aaron's sons. *In verses 1-9, God said "I will" seven times. What are the seven things He promised to do?* 

**Exodus 7**— God tells Moses and Aaron to go to Pharaoh and show signs and wonders before him, but still he will harden his heart and not let the people of Israel go (vv. 1-7). Moses gives his first miracle with Aaron casting his staff down and it becomes a serpent, but the magicians and sorcerers duplicate the same miracle (vv. 8-13). Then God has Moses do the **first of ten plagues** by **turning the River Nile to blood**, but again this was duplicated by Pharaoh's magicians (vv. 14-25). How was it possible that the sorcerers and magicians of Egypt were able to duplicate the miracles that Moses and Aaron did in this chapter?

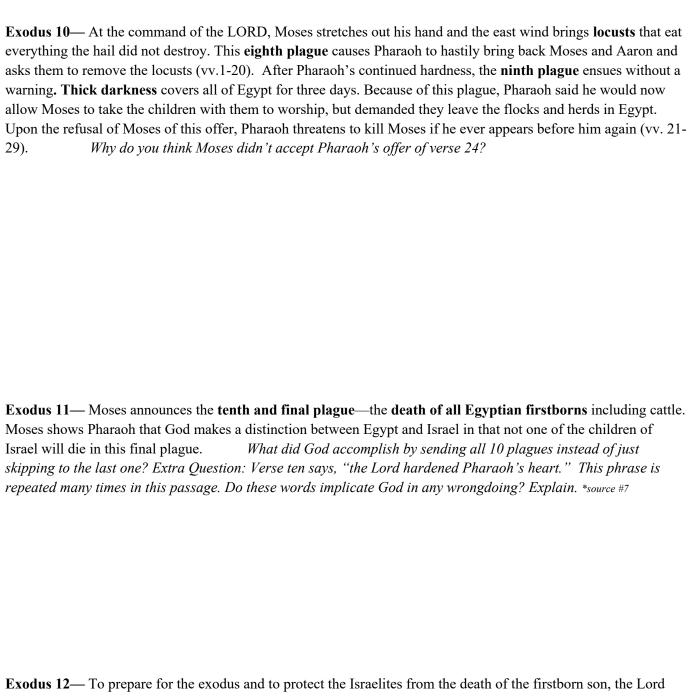
## **REVISED 2022**

## Psalm 25, Exodus 8-13 (#16) Revised 2022

**Psalm 25**—David longs to know God better. Discontent with his current level of awareness, he begs for more of God. 1. Name three things that David asks for. 2. What will God do for the person who fears Him (vv. 12-14)?

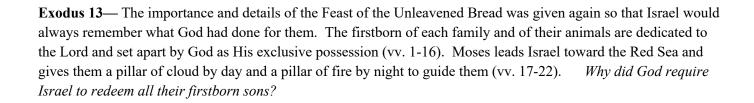
Exodus 8— The second plague happens when Moses commands frogs to come up from the Nile River and go into every place, including homes and bedrooms. Frogs were a fertility symbol associated with the goddess Hequt who was here defeated by Yahweh. Source #6. The magicians were again able to duplicate the miracle. Although agreeing to let the Israelites go and sacrifice to the Lord, once the frogs were gone Pharaoh changed his mind (vv. 1-15). In the third plague Aaron stretched out his hand and billions of gnats were all over the land of Egypt, but this time the magicians were not able to reproduce the miracle. Therefore they said that this is the finger of God (vv. 16-19). The fourth plague comes and swarms of flies are all over the land. This time, as well as all the rest of the plagues, the land of Goshen was exempt, showing the distinction God makes between Egypt and Israel (vv. 20-32). What distinctions and differences are there in the three plagues in chapter 8? Extra Question: In verse 8 Moses let Pharaoh choose when he wanted the houses to be rid of the frogs. What did Pharaoh say? Why is it surprising?

**Exodus 9**— In the **fifth plague**, all of the **Egyptian livestock** in the fields are **killed** but not one of the livestock of the people of Israel. (vv. 1-7). Moses throws soot from the brick-making kiln (furnace) in the air and in this **sixth plague boils** break out in sores on man and animals (vv. 8-12). In the **seventh plague**, God rains down **hail stones** and fire on the people and animals that are in the fields. God states His purpose for Pharaoh and gives the Egyptians a chance to get their servants and cattle out of the fields before the hail comes. Pharaoh finally admits he has sinned but changes his mind about letting the Israelites go once the hail stops (vv. 13-35). What was the purpose for which God raised up Pharaoh? See verse 16 and Romans 9:17. Extra Question: What devastation did the plague of hail do?



Exodus 12— To prepare for the exodus and to protect the Israelites from the death of the firstborn son, the Lord gives detailed instructions on the observance of the Passover. Moses explains that the Passover and the Feast of the Unleavened Bread will also be celebrated as a memorial and statute throughout all their generations (vv. 1-28). When Yahweh struck down all the firstborn of Egypt, Pharaoh tells Moses to go and take everyone and everything with them (vv.29-36). The final verses of chapter twelve tell us about the exodus including the number of fighting men (600,000), the number of years Israel has been in Egypt (430 years), and more details about the future observance of the Passover (vv. 37-51).

1. What were the instructions of the Passover (as many as you can remember) the Israelites were to follow in order that the death angel would not kill their firstborn? 2. Explain the symbolism of the Passover as it relates to Christ and our salvation.



# **REVISED 2022**

### Psalm 26, Exodus 14-19 (#17) Revised 2022

**Psalm 26**— David's love for God runs deep, to his very core. His love runs so deep that David dares God to test him. That's a bold request, but it is driven by an insatiable desire to please God. We would want to know if anything we're doing displeases our Lord. What can we do to cultivate a deeper relationship with God?

**Exodus 14**— Forgetting Yahweh's power evidenced in the 10 plagues, Pharaoh thinks he made a big mistake by letting his slave force go and pursues Israel with his crack chariot army (vv. 1-9). The people of Israel are fearful and complain to Moses, preferring the slavery in Egypt to death in the wilderness. Moses assures them that the Lord will fight for them (vv. 10-20). God dries up the Red Sea so Israel can pass over on dry ground. Once all of Israel had passed over to the other side, the Egyptian army follows them into the Red Sea. The whole army dies when the waters returned and covered their chariots and horsemen (vv. 21-31). What lessons was God teaching Israel in this chapter (vv. 10-14, 30-31)?

**Exodus 15**— Israel celebrates God's final victory over Pharaoh and his army as they all die in the Red Sea. Miriam and the women joyfully sing this song and dance with tambourines as they saw Yahweh triumphing gloriously, bringing the powerful Egypt to its knees (vv. 1-21). Israel quickly goes from singing to complaining because they had a lack of drinkable water, a very significant problem. As always, God comes through and causes the bitter water to become sweet showing that He can be trusted and thus, we need never to grumble (vv. 22-27). God reveals Himself as "Jehovah Rapha" (the God who heals) to Israel in this chapter. What were the conditions God gave to Israel to keep them from suffering the diseases of Egypt?

**Exodus 16**— After setting out from Elim, the people grumble for lack of food. God responds to their cry by providing manna each morning and quail in the evening. God tests Israel to see if they will follow His instructions on gathering manna but they often fall short of obedience. The amazing provision of manna by God continues for the next forty years until they come to the border of the land of Canaan. Israel begins to keep the Sabbath as God teaches them the weekly pattern of work and rest. Why did God give only one day's supply of manna at a time? How does that apply to us in our spiritual journey? Extra Question: What were the promises and requirements associated with God's provision of manna? #1

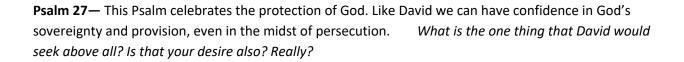
**Exodus 17**— As they camp at Rephidim, Israel grumbles for the third time because of lack of provision, again forgetting God's complete faithfulness. Yahweh again comes through for Israel as Moses strikes the rock with his staff and water gushes out (vv. 1-7). Israel faces their first battle as they are attacked by the people of Amalek (descendants of Esau). Joshua chooses men to fight against Amalek while Moses, Hur, and Aaron go on top of a hill to intercede to God for Israel. As long as Moses arms were outstretched, the army of Israel prevailed (vv. 8-16). What spiritual meaning do we see in the lifting up of Moses' arms during the battle with the people of Amalek? ...Aaron and Hur holding up the arms of Moses? Extra Question: After the battle, Moses built an altar and called it "Jehovah Nissi" (the Lord is My Banner). What spiritual significance does this have for us as we fight our daily battles against our great enemy Satan?

**Exodus 18**— Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, comes and brings with him the wife of Moses and their two sons. Jethro marvels at Yahweh for His power and majesty, offering Him sacrifices followed by a meal with Moses, Aaron, and the elders of Israel (vv. 1-12). After seeing Moses continuously judge people all day, Jethro rebukes Moses, encouraging him to learn to delegate much of the responsibility to men of ability and character. Moses takes Jethro's advice so that in the future he will only judge the most difficult cases (vv. 13-26). This chapter gives us the leadership principle of delegation of authority. What are the qualifications given here of the leaders that Moses should choose?

**Exodus 19**— Israel now moves on to Mount Sinai where Yahweh meets with His people and makes a conditional covenant with them. If Israel will obey His voice and keep His covenant, then she will be His treasured possession among all nations. Upon hearing this, the people say they will do all that God commands (vv. 1-9). Moses prepares the people with this very special meeting with the Lord. They must consecrate themselves and wash their garments. On the third day the Lord appears to His people with thunder, lightning, a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast as the whole mountain trembles violently. The people are warned by God to keep their distance from the mountain lest they die (vv. 10-25). *Moses set before Israel all the Lord has commanded them. The people answered, "All the Lord has spoken we will do." Do you think they gave a good response? Why or why not? If not, what would be a better response?* 

### **REVISED 2022**

### **Psalm 27, Exodus 20-25 (#18)** Revised 2022



**Exodus 20**— Yahweh gives the 10 Commandments, revealing His own moral character and defining the core values that He wants the people of Israel to live before Him in community (vv. 1-17). God shows His awesome power and authority through an incredible display of sound, light and smoke so that all the people would indeed fear Him as God Almighty. The Lord gives specific instructions on building alters to make sure that idolatry doesn't creep into their worship (vv.18-26).

1. After studying them, give the 10 Commandments by memory and in order.

2. Which commandment..... A. Gives us a promise with it?

B. Is nullified for the Church in the New Testament (Colossians 2:16-17) C. Is only inward and not normally detected by the human eye? D. Does not prohibit capital punishment?

**Exodus 21**— Chapters 21-23 give the basic guidelines for the chosen people of God to live in community with justice and civility. After being in slavery for many years, God does not want Israel to oppress people in the same manner as they were treated in Egypt. This chapter addresses the rights of servants (slaves) as well as the regulations of personal injury and death. *Does God approve of slavery? Explain.* 

**Exodus 22**— The first part of this chapter deals with civil laws that concern the misuse of property (vv. 1-15). Since not every possible situation can be addressed, these verses are more like case studies that can

be applied when individual situations arise. Each situation is to be judged by godly men who will bring justice and equity. Verses 16-31 gives a variety of concerns God has for social justice including admonitions to the people of Israel for their treatment of aliens, widows, orphans and the poor. What are some examples of the principle of restitution, that is, making wrongs right, that are given in this chapter?

**Exodus 23**— This chapter begins with various humanitarian laws including impartial justice in courts, the treatment of our enemies, the poor and the foreigners (vv. 1-9). God not only established the Sabbath day for rest, but also the Sabbath year rest in which the ground was left uncultivated and the trees and vines unattended (Leviticus 25:2-7). The Lord also establishes three weekly feasts throughout the year when all the men of Israel are required to attend: the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of the Harvest (Weeks/Pentecost) and the Feast of Ingathering or Tabernacles (vv. 10-19). Yahweh promises His presence, guidance, and protection during this journey to conquer Canaan but also gives various warnings to be fully obedient to His commands (vv. 20-32). *Give in summary form, the promises God gave to Israel if they would fully obey Him (vv. 20-31)?* 

**Exodus 24**— Moses reconfirms God's covenant with Israel and then responds with a commitment to obey what the Lord has commanded (vv.1-8). Then Moses, Aaron and his sons, and the seventy elders worship before the Lord beholding an awesome manifestation of Jehovah God (vv. 9-11). Finally, Moses ascends Mount Sinai for forty days to abide in God's presence and receive the stone tablets with the instructions on building the tabernacle (vv. 12-18). During the making of the covenant between Yahweh and Israel, Moses sprinkled the blood of young bulls on the altar and on the people. Why was the sprinkling of blood necessary?

**Exodus 25**— The Lord through Moses requests heart-prompted contributions of valuable items needed for the building of the tabernacle including precious metals, cloths, and spices (vv. 1-9). Because of its importance, God begins with detailed instructions on the building of the Ark of the Covenant which is located in the Most Holy Place. It is here on the Mercy Seat, which is on top of the Ark, that God has His throne and meets with His people (vv. 10-22). The Bread of the Presence was a table inside the Holy Place where twelve loaves of unleavened bread represented the twelve tribes of Israel who were continually sustained and guarded under the watchful eye of Yahweh (vv. 23-30). The Golden Lampstand, the menorah, was the only light in the Tabernacle and was fueled by pure olive oil which was kept perpetually burning. What is the significance of verses 9 and 40 in the building of the ark and all of its properties? See Hebrews 8:5. Extra Question: In this chapter, where and in what way do we see Christ symbolized in the furniture of the Tabernacle?

### **REVISED 2022**