

# 10-B Reflections on Exodus.

I INtroductions and announcements.

II Prayer.

III Review: As we leave our study of Exodus, we need to reflect on the lessons and meaning for us. The three great stories of the Bible are:  
1. The journey from bondage into freedom.  
2. Exile and return.  
3. The New Covenant. Jer.31:31-34, Luke 22:20.

IV The Exodus story starts with the children of Israel in bondage in Egypt. Why did this happen? Was it due to weakness or lack of foresight? Or was it caused by perfidy and greed of the Egyptians?

V Review the birth and childhood of Mōses and the reason for his flight to Midian. What do we learn of the character and values of Moses?

VI When the LORD called Moses to return to Egypt, c.3, Moses resisted. Why? Have you ever had the sense of resisting God's call?

VII The struggle with the Egyptians ended with the disastrous 'deaths of their first-born children. Israel was spared, 'passed-over' by the Angel of Death. This event is the basis of Judaism's most important memorial feast. What is the Christian parallel or derivative celebration? Lk 22:7f

VIII In the desert, the Israelites experience hunger and thirst, hostile bandits and disease epidemics. They were frightened and complained a lot, feeling that they should have stayed in Egypt.

Do you know what it feels like to be fearful and uncertain and afflicted with doubts about God and/or your leaders?

IX The revelation of God at Mt. Sinai and the legal code, summarized by the Ten Commandments. c.20,, is the core of Judaism. Do Christians still comply with the Ten Commandments? If not, what is our ethical basis? Rm 12

X Even while Moses was on Mt. Sinai working out with YHWH the religious practices of the Jews: Priests, sacrifices, liturgy, Tabernacle, the people became impatient and forced Aaron to provide an idol for worship, the golden calf. What represents idols for people today? What do people tend to serve instead of God?

XI The Tabernacle, c. 25-31, 35-40, was a structure on which to base the religious practices of the people. It was to symbolize not only God's holiness but also God's approachable presence.

The function of the Tabernacle was replaced by Solomon's temple in Jerusalem, 966 to 587 BCE and Temple II, 520 BCE to 70 CE. The Ark of the Covenant disappeared with the destruction by the Babylonians in 587.

What replaces the temple in contemporary Judaism? Christianity? Is it our church buildings? How many church buildings are there in Salina?

XII Moses was one of the landmark figures of all human history: "Born of Israelite parents, raised with all the perquisites and power of a prince of Egypt, he was a man who could not deny his ancestry, could not tolerate injustice and insisted that humans had certain rights:

1. to be free,
2. to have their basic needs met,
3. to have a religion that was helpful and non-exploitative, and
4. to live in a society regulated by just and appropriate laws."

He is an authentic man for all ages.

XIII Conclusion: Let us remember Moses with great respect. An insecure and irritable man, he has altered the course of human history in favor of justice and peace. Shalom.

GMx