

BIBLE  
IN A  
YEAR

*The Pursuit*

# NATION

## EXODUS TO JOSHUA

### AN OVERVIEW



#### A PROMISE TO KEEP

God had a covenant promise to keep. He had told Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation, but for that nation to rise, they needed their own land.

Joseph had brought his family to Egypt, where they prospered and their numbers grew. However, the Egyptians grew fearful and enslaved the Hebrews. It seemed God's promise was slipping away. Yet, God had not forgotten; He was preparing to raise a deliverer.

Moses, born into a Hebrew family but raised by Egyptian royalty, was God's chosen leader to bring His people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Standing boldly before Pharaoh, Moses demanded freedom for the Hebrews. Pharaoh's refusals unleashed a series of plagues that revealed the power of God. Even after nine plagues, Pharaoh's heart remained hard until the final one. Moses warned of the death of every firstborn Egyptian, but God offered protection to His people through the blood of a lamb placed on their doorposts. That night, as Egypt mourned, Pharaoh ordered the Hebrews to leave.

The Hebrews fled quickly, but Pharaoh's army trapped them between his soldiers and the Red Sea. Remembering God's promise, Moses stretched out his staff, and the waters parted, creating a path of escape. The Hebrews crossed safely, but the waters returned when Pharaoh's army followed, destroying them completely.

#### GOD'S PROVISION

As they journeyed toward the Promised Land, God provided for their every need: bread from heaven, water from rocks, and guidance by a pillar of cloud and fire. But He also gave them a covenant. At Mount Sinai, God promised to be their God and called them to live as His holy people, guided by laws that would shape their identity and set them apart.

Through this nation, God intended to show the world what living in a relationship with Him looked like. Millions journeyed to Canaan, ready to become the nation God had promised. But they needed laws, leadership, and order. Along the way, God gave these to Moses, recorded in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

#### FEAR AND DOUBT

When they finally reached Canaan, fear overtook them. The people doubted God's promise and were convinced the land's inhabitants were too strong. Their lack of faith cost them 40 years of wandering in the wilderness until a new generation, one ready to trust God, emerged.

Finally, through Joshua's courage, they entered the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God had heard their cries in Egypt, provided for them in the wilderness, and now gave them victory in Canaan.

Once settled, they grew complacent. They pursued wealth, comfort, and idols instead of pursuing the God who had pursued them. For the next 400 years, they struggled spiritually, economically, and politically, crying out for a king to lead them. Yet even in their failure, God's promise endured. He would remain faithful to His covenant and His plan for His people.

# FROM CAPTIVITY TO COVENANT: GOD'S VISION FOR A PROMISED LAND



## 1800 BC

Joseph brings his family to Egypt.



## 1440 BC

Moses leads the exodus.

Exodus 1	The Israelites cry out for deliverance from oppression.
Exodus 2-4	God calls Moses to lead His people.
Exodus 5-15	Moses challenges Pharaoh to let God's people go.
Exodus 16-18	God's people leave Egypt.
Exodus 19-40	Guidelines for worship in new land.
Leviticus	Instructions for fellowship with God.
Numbers	Guidelines for restoration amid failures.
Deuteronomy 1-26	Laws for faithful living.
Deuteronomy 27-34	Blessings for obedience, consequences for disobedience.



## 1400 BC

Joshua enters the Promised Land, living life fully.



## 1000 BC

Israel calls for a king.

# EXODUS

## A PICTURE OF SALVATION



### EXODUS



### SALVATION

Israel is in bondage to the Egyptians

We are in bondage to sin

Israel calls to God for a deliverer

We call out to God for freedom

Moses delivers the people

Jesus delivers us

The blood of a lamb marks homes for deliverance

The blood of Jesus marks us for deliverance from sin

The people walk through waters of the Red Sea into new life

We go through waters of baptism, a symbol of new life in Christ

They receive the Covenant of Moses at Mt. Sinai (how to live)

We receive the New Covenant through Jesus

Israel wanders in the wilderness

We are on a pilgrimage to the Promised Life Jesus gives

God gives Israel instructions on how to live in His presence

We are given understanding on how to live with the presence of God's Holy Spirit with us

Joshua leads people into the Promised Land

We enter the fullness of Heaven in the next life

## KEY THEMES

- 1 Faithful Even When We're Not
- 2 A Picture of Salvation
- 3 A Call to Holiness
- 4 God With Us
- 5 Judgment Rooted in Love

# KEY THEMES

- 1. Faithful Even When We're Not:** God raises up Moses to deliver His people, proving His unwavering faithfulness, even when they fall short.
- 2. A Picture of Salvation:** Israel's journey from slavery, through the waters of the Red Sea, into a new future mirrors our salvation: leaving bondage, being washed in baptism, and stepping into new life.
- 3. A Call to Holiness:** God calls us to be holy as He is holy, and He provides everything we need to pursue a life set apart for Him.
- 4. God With Us:** The Tabernacle and Ark of the Covenant in the wilderness were reminders of God's presence with Israel, just as He remains present with us today.
- 5. Judgment Rooted in Love:** A loving God must confront sin, hate, and oppression. His judgment is not reckless wrath but a patient and just response, ensuring the restoration of His world.

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## PURSUIT THROUGH COVENANTS

As seen in earlier chapters, God is a covenant-making and covenant-keeping God, shaping His relationship with humanity through His promises (Genesis 3, 9, 12, 15 & 17).

### THE MOSAIC COVENANT: EXODUS 19-31

God's covenant with Israel was an invitation to be His treasured possession and holy nation, set apart to reflect His character. They were set apart to show the world the value of worshiping the One True God. It was a covenant of relationship, calling Israel to trust and worship God alone. If they pursued Him, they would experience His blessing, protection, and provision. But if they turned to other gods, they would face hardship, defeat, and exile.

#### KEY ELEMENTS

**Ten Commandments** A moral foundation shaping Israel's relationship with God and one another.

**Civil Laws** Guidelines for governing Israel as a nation under God's kingship, some meant specifically for Israel in the wilderness.

**Religious Laws** Instructions for sacrifices, feasts, and priestly mediation for the forgiveness of sins and spiritual purity. These laws also outlined how to approach God, including worship at the Tabernacle and later the temple, where the Ark of the Covenant symbolized His presence and promise.

#### PURPOSE OF THE MOSAIC LAW

Reveals God's holiness.

Exposes sinfulness in the human heart and the need for a Saviour.

Shows that no one can fully keep the law.

Points to Jesus, the High Priest and sacrifice, who fulfills the law and restores our relationship with God through faith.

### MOST HOLY PLACE

Separated by a veil, it housed the Ark of the Covenant, symbolizing God's throne. Inside were the 10 Commandments, manna, and Moses' rod. Once a year, the High Priest sprinkled blood on the Ark for atonement.

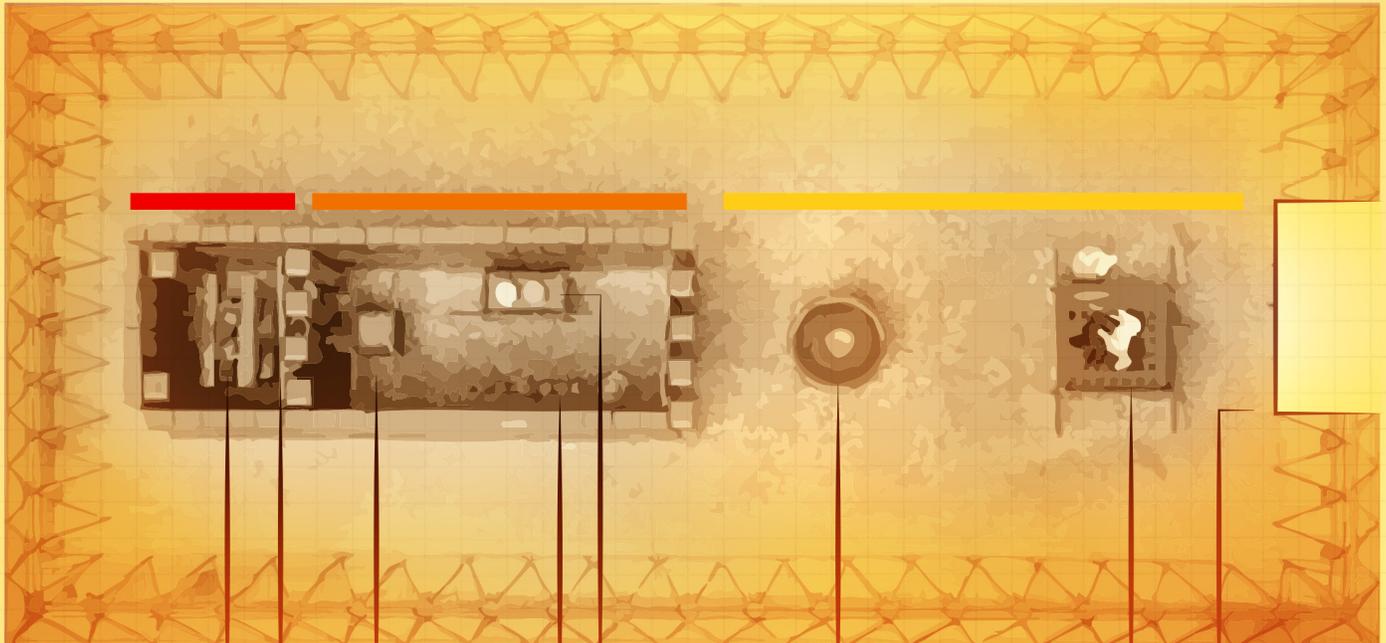
### HOLY PLACE

Contained the golden lampstand, table of bread, and altar of incense.

### OUTER COURT

A place for ceremonial washing and sacrifices on the bronze altar.

The Tabernacle was the sacred dwelling of God's presence and the center of Israel's worship. It had three main areas.



ARK OF COVENANT WITH "SZEKHINAH"



Jesus on the cross, the mercy seat

VEIL

Through Jesus, the veil is torn

TABLE OF SHEWBREAD



MENORAH

ALTAR OF INCENSE



LAVER: PLACE FOR WASHING

ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERINGS



Jesus cleanses the feet of his followers

Jesus is the spotless lamb

### JESUS: CLEANSER

He cleanses us and is our perfect sacrifice.

### JESUS: INTERCESSOR

He is the Light of the World, the Bread of Life, and continually intercedes for us.

### JESUS: HIGH PRIEST

As our High Priest, He offered His own blood as the ultimate sacrifice for sin.

# THE TABERNACLE



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How does the Exodus story reflect your own salvation journey?
2. Which biblical promises are most meaningful to you?
3. How are you living out those promises?
4. Why is it difficult to trust God's promises?
5. How do the Ten Commandments reveal God's priorities?
6. What does Judges 21:25 teach about following our own way? Where do we need godly direction?

## THE PURSUIT

1. How do you see God pursuing relationships with His people in this section of scripture?
2. Where do you see hints and promises of Jesus in these chapters?
3. What characteristics of God do you see in these chapters that give you hope and courage?

