

ICEBREAKER

History is important. Nearly every nation on earth has foundational events that shape its history and sometimes even the character of its people. These events might be to do with when settlement began, or something that happened in the life of the country... it may be something that people are proud of, or something that they are ashamed of, but it defines the identity of that nation in some way.

Think about your own home country and its people. Can you think of an event that has shaped the people's national identity or consciousness more than any other?

The book of Exodus tells the story of the most foundational event in the history of the people of Israel. It is part of the Bible's one big story -- all about God's dealings with the world. So, before we look at Exodus, we need to understand where we are up to in the story.

THE STORY SO FAR

A man called Abram lived in the Middle-East around 1900 BC. In Genesis (the first book of the Bible), God makes some promises to Abram which become a formal agreement.

Read **Genesis 12:1-5**

Genesis 15:13-16

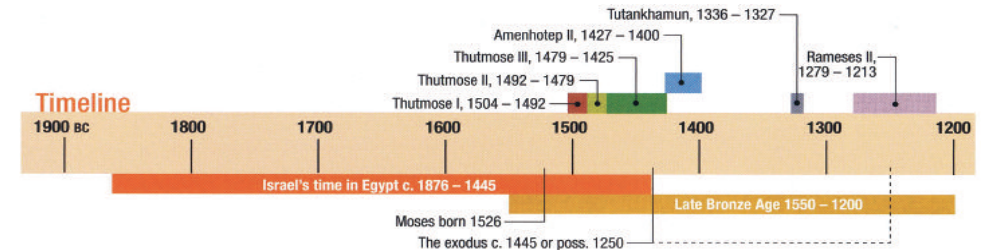
Genesis 17:1-8

What did God promise Abram?

God chose Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to be the ancestors of a dynasty (the people of Israel) who God would use to eventually bless all peoples on earth. The rest of the Bible is the story of how God carries out this plan.

What do we learn about God and his plans for the world?

The rest of the book of Genesis tells the story of how Abraham's descendants ended up living in Egypt. The story of Exodus begins about 4 centuries after they had settled in Egypt.



Read **Exodus chapter 1.**

Have God's promises to Abraham been fulfilled yet?

- descendants/great nation
- land
- blessing

What (or who) threatens the fulfilment of God's promises?

Why was the king of Egypt worried about the people of Israel? (1:10)

How did the king try to stop the Israelites from increasing?

1:8-14

1:15-22

How successful was he in his plans?

INTRODUCING MOSES

Into this situation, a special baby is born - Read **Exodus 2:1-10**.



Moses grows up... Read **Exodus 2:11-22**.

GOD REMEMBERS...

Read **Exodus 2:23-25**.

What verbs are used to describe God's response to the groaning of the people of Israel?

What do these verbs tell us about God's character?

What happened to baby Moses when he was crying out (2:6)?

What do you think might happen to Israel when they cry out (2:23)?

What have you learnt about God from this study? Talk to him about this.



Exodus • Week 1

THE GOD WHO KEEPS HIS PROMISES

The scene has been set for the rest of the Exodus story...
What will happen to the people of Israel? What will God do? What happens when the most powerful empire on earth sets itself against the God of all the earth?
Come back next week (or read on in Exodus) to find out!