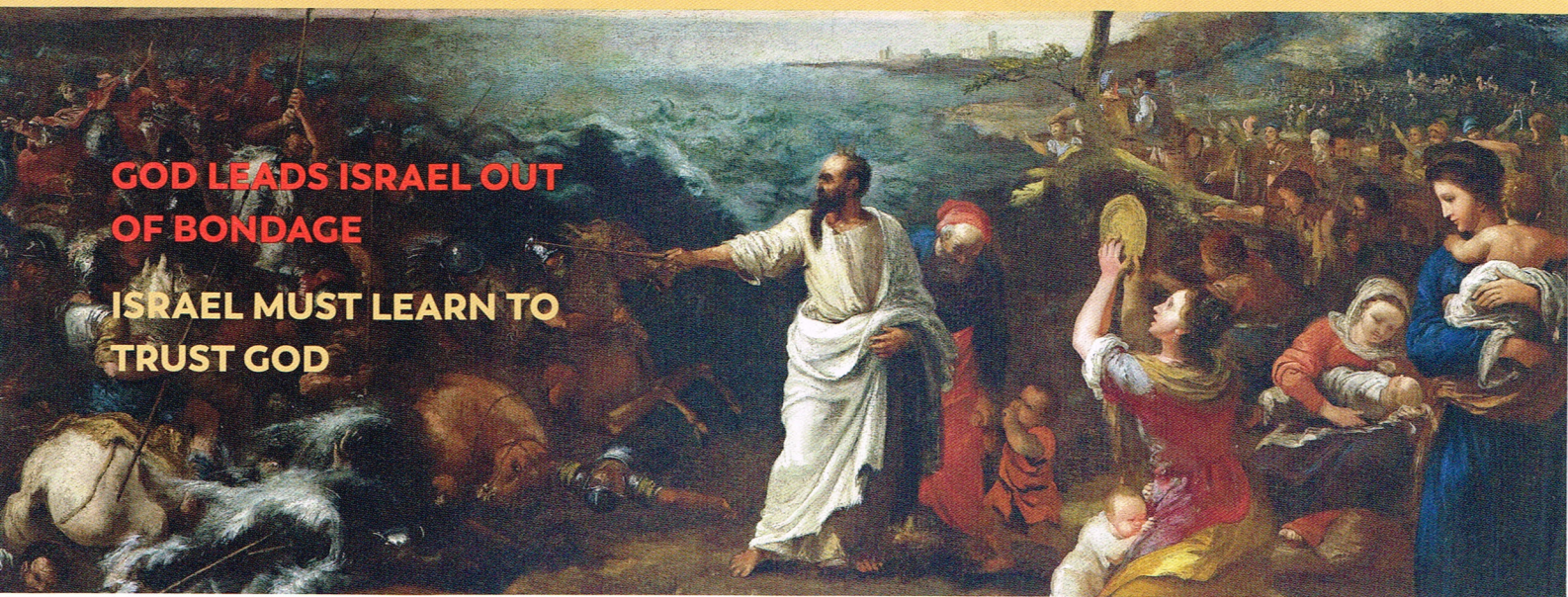


Session Four – EGYPT AND EXODUS

and DESERT WANDERINGS



Crossing of the Red Sea by Jacques Courtois

Session Four Talk Notes

- I. Egypt and Exodus and Desert Wanderings on the Chart
- II. Egypt and Exodus
 - A. Release from Egypt (Exodus 1–15)
 1. Israel cries out to God (Exodus 1)
 2. God raises up Moses (Exodus 2)
 - a. “Moses” is from the Hebrew *moshe*, “to draw out” (of water)
 - b. Moses flees to the desert
 3. Burning bush (Exodus 3)
 - a. “I AM” – “I AM WHO I AM” (tetragrammaton, *YHWH*, or “Yahweh”)
 - b. God sends Moses to Pharaoh
 4. Plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7–10)
 5. The Passover
 - a. The central redemptive event in Israel’s history
 - i. Freedom
 - ii. Provision
 - iii. God’s presence
 - iv. Liturgy and worship, intimacy with God

- v. “Boot camp”
 - b. The lamb
 - 6. The Exodus
 - a. Crossing the Red Sea
 - b. Heading south to Sinai (three months)
 - i. God demonstrates faithfulness
 - ii. God provides *manna* (“what is it?”)
- B. Covenant at Sinai
 - 1. “One Holy Nation” (Exodus 19:6; 1 Peter 2:9)
 - 2. The broken covenant: Someone has to die
 - 3. One year of formation
 - a. Tabernacle: a pattern of worship
 - b. Law (in context of covenant)
 - c. Levitical priesthood (after the golden calf incident)

III. Desert Wanderings

- A. Kadesh-barnea: twelve spies sent out (Numbers 13)
 - 1. Failure to trust God
 - 2. Forty years in the desert, learning to trust (Numbers 14–36)
- B. Moses strikes the rock
- C. Moses’ last words: Deuteronomy
 - 1. *Shema Israel* – “The LORD our God is one LORD” (Deuteronomy 6:4)
 - 2. Teach your children

IV. Conclusion: God Has Been Raising His “Firstborn Son,” a “Holy Nation”

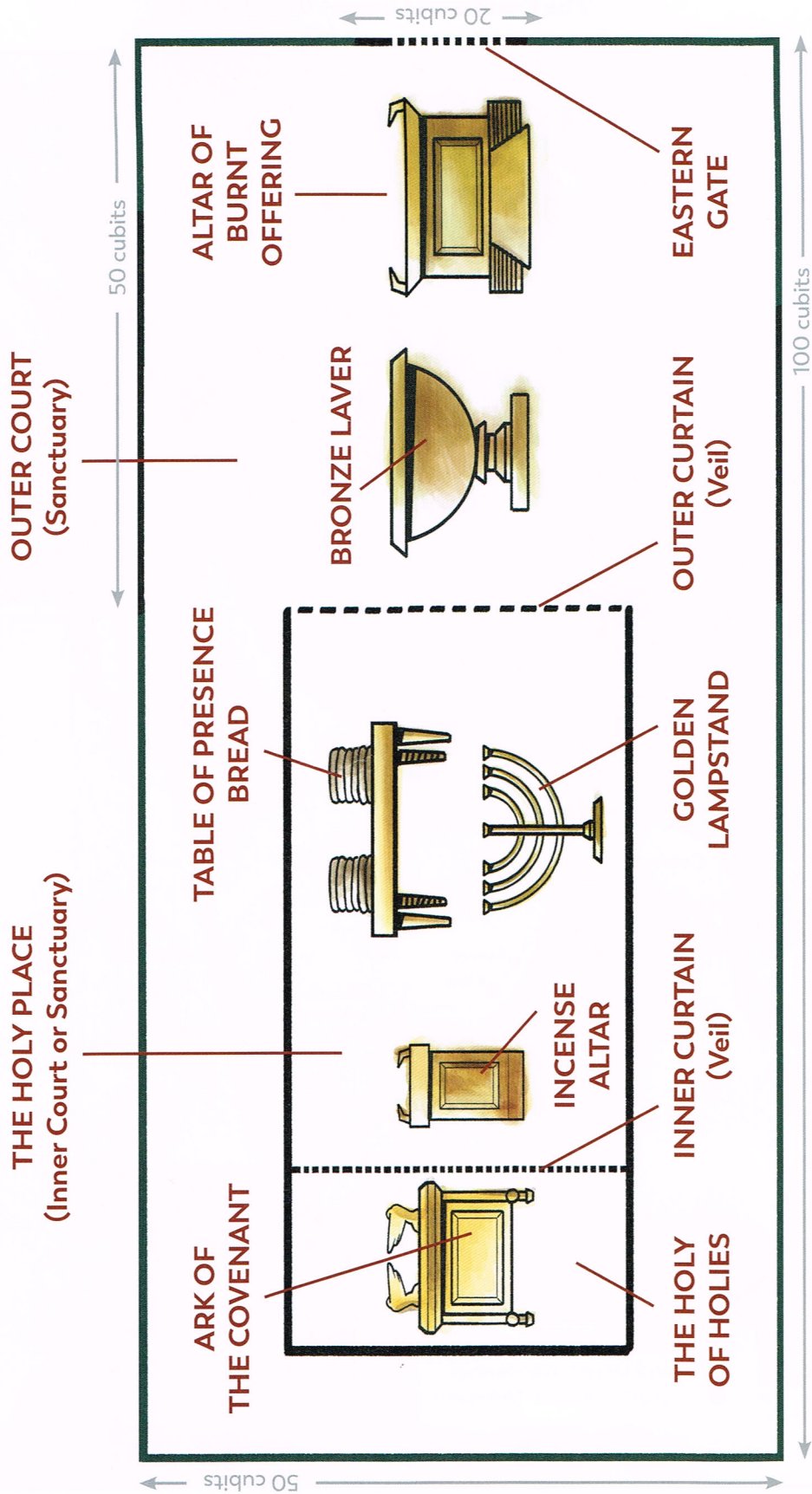
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1. We need to teach our children.
2. Scripture was written for our instruction to give us hope (see Romans 15:4).
3. God hears your cry.

The Exodus and Desert Wanderings



Diagram of the Old Testament Tabernacle



Discussion Questions

1. In the episode of the burning bush, God introduces himself to Moses as “the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob” (Exodus 3:6). What does that tell Moses about God?
2. What important message do the ten plagues send to Egypt and Israel?
3. God tells Pharaoh that if he does not free Israel, God’s firstborn son, then he will kill the firstborn sons of Egypt. How does the LORD accomplish this? What is the name of the annual remembrance of this event?
4. **Think About It:** In the Red Sea crossing, the children of Israel are freed from their enemy by passing through water. What sacrament of the New Covenant does this event prefigure? Explain.
5. The first terms of the Sinai Covenant are what we know as the Ten Commandments. St. John Paul II called the Ten Commandments “the law of freedom: not the freedom to follow our blind passions, but the freedom to love, to choose what is good in every situation, even when to do so is a burden.”¹ Think about the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 20). What kinds of “false gods” do they free us from?

¹ John Paul II, “Celebration of the Word at Mount Sinai,” St. Catherine’s Monastery, February 26, 2000.

6. Jeff describes the year at Mount Sinai as a “hinge point” for Israel, during which God gives the people three things. What are those three things?

7. What does the Tabernacle signify to Israel?

8. Why does God make Israel wander for forty years in the desert? What is he trying to teach the people?

9. St. Paul tells us that these stories have been “written down for our instruction” (1 Corinthians 10:11). What message do these stories hold for you today?

Closing Prayer



God’s plan unfolded through history and gives us the “story” for our lives.
Let us pray in the name of Jesus.

You freed your people from slavery in Egypt so they could worship you:

R: Free us from sin so we can serve and worship you.

You taught Israel to walk in faith through forty years’ wandering in the desert:

R: Help us to trust in you, O God.

Our Father ...



Home Preparation: Looking Ahead

The next session will cover two periods, **CONQUEST AND JUDGES** and **ROYAL KINGDOM**. After forty years in the desert, Israel enters Canaan, the Promised Land. God’s first promise to Abraham is fulfilled. However, Israel’s failure to keep God’s commandments leads to sin, oppression, and an incomplete possession of the land.

The people of Israel grow weary of being led by judges and demand a king “like all the nations” (1 Samuel 8:5). God’s second promise to Abraham—that of an everlasting royal kingdom—is fulfilled in King David.

Use your Chart to fill in the following information about these time periods:

Period name: **CONQUEST AND JUDGES** Approximate dates: _____

Period color: _____ Color meaning: _____

Narrative books: _____

List any names familiar to you and tell what you know about them:

Period name: **ROYAL KINGDOM** Approximate dates: _____

Period color: _____ Color meaning: _____

Key people: _____

What would you say is the key event? _____

It is difficult to narrow down the reading because so many wonderful stories take place during the periods of **CONQUEST AND JUDGES** and **ROYAL KINGDOM**. Read some or all of the following passages to get an overview of these two time periods. Make sure to return to this important stage in God’s plan sometime in the future.

CONQUEST AND JUDGES:	Joshua 2	Rahab and the spies
	Joshua 6	The Fall of Jericho
	Judges 1:1–3:6	Conquest; overview of sin cycle
	Judges 13–16	Samson and Delilah
ROYAL KINGDOM:	1 Samuel 8	Israel asks for a king
	2 Samuel 7	God makes a covenant with David
	1 Kings 9, 11:1-13	Solomon’s reign and folly

The Conquest of Canaan



The Tribal Allotment of Israel (Twelve Tribes of Israel)

