

An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible Week 3

ONLINE STUDY GROUP

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

SPRING 2023



Prayer

Holy God of Abundance,

as we sow and reap and gather into barns; as we work and earn and calculate our net worth, let us consider the birds of the air.

Let us consider the lilies of the field.

Let us notice and look and give thanks for the food that feeds us and the food that feeds the birds; for the clothes that cover and warm us and the colors and textures that clothe the flowers and fields.

May we live in gratitude—

not gratitude as a denial of today's problems, a refusal to admit that tomorrow will bring troubles of its own,

but a gratitude that is deep trust, a choice to embrace the grace.

Holy God of abundance, ease us away from worry and point us on the path toward your Kingdom.

Amen.

Moses

Did he exist?	Leadership roles
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Probably• Sagas• No evidence to give certainty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negotiator with pharaoh• Miracle worker (magical rod)• Logistics expert in leading the exodus and wilderness trek• Covenant mediator• Lawgiver• Military commander• Appointer and installer of priests• Judge of disputes• Prophet

What Happened at the Sea of Reeds?

Storm surge – Ex. 14:21 (J)	Parting of the sea – Ex. 14:22 (P)	Boats capsizing – Ex. 15:4-10 (J)
<p>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land.</p>	<p>The waters were divided and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.</p>	<p>Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh’s officers are drowned in the Red Sea. The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone. Your right hand, Lord, was majestic in power. Your right hand, Lord, shattered the enemy... But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.</p>

The Exodus

WHEN WAS IT?

- 15thC – Pharaoh Thutmosis III
- 13thC – Pharaoh Rameses II

WHAT WAS THE KEY EVENT?

1. Crossing of the sea of reeds
2. Secret flight with stolen goods

The Exodus

WHO LEFT EGYPT?

- Former residents of Canaan – the name Israel contains El suggesting Canaanite origins
- War captives
- Voluntary migrants

THE MOSES GROUP

- New deity
- Cult that included an ark/tent and sacrifice
- Covenant
- Not yet settled farming – migratory herders
- A few hundreds or thousands
- Moses group was only part of the whole people of Israel
- Did key leadership come from the Moses group and its cult of Yahweh?

What Connects the Moses Group with Later Israel?

A people uniting to escape bondage to kings

A people freeing themselves from imposed social order – experimenting with new forms of community

Leadership without state power

Cultivating their own land in order to sustain the people

Hygiene measures to protect from plague and disease

Roles for the public activity of women

Women

Midwives prevent genocide

Pharaoh's daughter saves Moses

Zipporah saves Moses (from Yahweh)

Miriam and the women dance

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.