



WEEK 3 : RESCUE & PURPOSE (Exodus - Deuteronomy)

Question: Why do you think the Christian Old Testament uses the same texts as the Hebrew scriptures?

The first five books of the Christian Bible are the five key texts that make up the Jewish "Torah" (Law). Having made the world in Genesis, and promised Abraham that his family would be a special people, God blesses them protects them from famine by moving them to Egypt, where the family grows.

But then they become slaves, and the first section of Exodus tells us how God calls Moses to lead the people out of Egypt after protecting them from his punishment on Egypt's rejection of his authority. This is done by wiping the blood of a sacrificed "Passover" lamb on their doorposts so that judgment would literally "pass over" their homes.

Read Exodus 12:1-14

We count our years from the birth of Jesus. What is significant about the Passover? (v2)

What type of lamb is to be used? (v5)

What were the people to do with the lamb's flesh? (v 8)

What does Paul call Christ in 1 Corinthians 5:7?

Why do you think he calls Jesus this?

Having rescued the people from Egypt, God then communicates his standards for living at Mount Sinai (also called Mount Hor, or Horeb) and then establishes a system of sacrifice and worship that enables God to live among the people – right in their camp in a tent of his own, called the tabernacle.

What does Jesus say about the law in Matthew 5:17?

What did Jesus (the Word) do in John 1:14? (The Greek word ἐσκήνωσεν [[eskēnōsen](#)] that John uses literally means “tabernacled” or “lived in a tent”)

Now that he can live among his people, God then leads them to the edge of the land he promised, but they are too scared to go in (Exodus). So, God leads them round and round in the desert, for 40 years until a new generation grows up to claim the promise.

Read Numbers 21:4-9 below.

⁴ They travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

⁶ Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

How do the people describe where they are now? (v3) [GOD'S PLACE]

What do the people do and why? (v4-5)

What happens next? (v6)

How do the people respond? (v7)

How does God show commitment to the people? (v8) [GOD'S PEOPLE]

What does Moses do? (v9)

How are the people healed? (v9) [GOD'S PROTECTION/BLESSING]

Why is this passage in the Bible?