

Key to Unit 3

GOD SELECTS A FAMILY

Here is our suggested answer for Unit 3.

Question. How did God use Joseph to preserve the tribal line, through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Judah, from extinction?

Joseph's jealous brothers sold him as a slave to the Midianites who in turn sold him to the captain of Pharaoh's guard. Even so God enabled Joseph to become governor over all of Egypt's produce. Forewarned by God of a severe famine Joseph stored enough food for the Egyptians and to sell to others. So Jacob's family escaped dying from starvation because they were able to get food in Egypt. Gen.37:1-28, 41:14 to 42:2, 45:1-8, Acts 7:9-18

Supplementary information:

God has a purpose and invites mankind to be involved in that purpose. Those who love Him and respond to Him will experience difficulties but God works through even their hardships for their good. Romans 8:28-29

RECAPPING

1. God created everything perfectly.
2. Satan slandered God, causing man to sin.
3. God predicted **the woman's seed** who:
4. would defeat Satan, restoring the status-quo.
5. Only Noah's family survived the flood.
6. Abraham offers up Isaac.
7. Promises made to Abraham and Isaac.
8. Joseph saved Jacob's family from famine.
9. "Shiloh" to come from Judah's tribe.
10. Job expected to meet God on the earth.

Understanding the Bible

Unit 4 GOD PREPARES A NATION

Centuries later they were still in Egypt

A later Pharaoh, who did not know about Joseph, despised and enslaved Jacob's numerous descendants. Amazingly, Pharaoh's own daughter adopted one of their children, named Moses. In due time God made Moses a prophet.^A God used Moses to bring the Israelites^B out of pagan Egypt.¹ and to make them into a distinctive nation for God, as part of His ultimate purpose for all nations - for all mankind.²

The Exodus from Egypt

The first book of the Bible, called Genesis meaning origin, records how everything began from creation up to when God's chosen race, Jacob's family, settled in Egypt. The second book, called Exodus meaning departure, explains how the Israelites came out of Egypt and became a separate nation with their own political and **religious laws**, known as Moses' Law.³

The Plagues:

God inflicted increasingly severe plagues on the Egyptians to persuade Pharaoh to release the Israelites, and to make everyone realise that there is one living God⁴ (God had told Moses to tell Pharaoh that God's name is "He exists")^C but as each plague subsided Pharaoh became more and more obstinate

The Passover:

The last of the plagues killed all the Egyptians' first-born males, both children and cattle.

God instructed the Israelites to observe an annual feast to commemorate this last plague. It was called the Passover because the angel of death

past over the Israelites firstborn and did not slay them. God could have spared the Israelite firstborn without the Israelites having to **slay an innocent lamb**. Seeing God does not do things without reason, had it something to do with God's ultimate purpose for mankind - through the **woman's male seed**? It is significant that:-

- a) Only **firstborn males** were killed.
- b) The lamb had to be **an unblemished male**.
- c) Only **one lamb** is allowed for each household.
- d) **None** of the lamb's **bones** were to be **broken**.
- e) The **shedding** of its **blood** is emphasised.

The Tabernacle (Tent of Meeting):

Whilst in the Sinai peninsula, God gave Moses precise instructions on how the Israelites were to make a special tent (tabernacle) and its furniture. This was to be the focal point of their worship. It had two rooms but only one entrance. Only the son's of Moses' brother - Aaron - could perform the priestly duties connected with the tabernacle.

The inner room was where YHWH made His presence known. Theologians call that presence the SHEKINAH, which is a noun form of the Hebrew word SHAKAN (to dwell). God said He would dwell in the tabernacle and when it was dedicated YHWH's glory filled it. **Only the high priest** could enter the awesome inner room and only once a year.- the Day of Atonement. Then he had to take with him the blood of sacrificed animals both for his own and the people's sins.⁵

God ordained many daily and annual rituals **involving the sacrifice of innocent animals**.

After Moses

After Moses' death — his aid — Joshua,^D settled the nation of Israel in Canaan the land God had

promised to Abraham's descendants.

God said *He would send another prophet like Moses.*⁶ When would this be and would he be the woman's seed?

God's Covenant with the Nation of Israel

YHWH would be their God and they would be His people. If they trusted Him implicitly, they would prosper, but if they let Him down He would punish them severely. To this they all agreed.

Approximate Time-scale

Year Zero	The Creation	6,000 yrs. ago.
Year 1,650	The Flood	4,350 yrs. ago
Year 2,080	Call of Abraham	3,920 yrs. ago
Year 2,280	Joseph in Office	3,720 yrs. ago
Year 2,480	Job [very approx.]	3,520 yrs. ago
Year 2,510	The Exodus	3,490 yrs. ago
Year 2,570	The Occupation	3,430 yrs. ago

Oddities to ponder over

- The tabernacle. Its rituals and the festivals.
- The stress on *firstborn* and on *sacrifices*.
- The *scapegoat sent into the desert*.

[For more on sacrifices ask for our free leaflet:- "THE ODD PHENOMENON OF OFFERING SACRIFICES"]

- *All the ritual had to be done exactly as God had instructed.*⁷
- *Those dying from the snake bites had to gaze at a bronze snake.*⁸

Suggested Reading

Exodus 1:1-6:13, 6:28-14:31, 18:1-27:21, 31:18, 33:7-23, 34:11-16, 40:12-35.
Leviticus 5:7-10, 8:10-12, 9:1-10:3, 16:6-10, 27-31, 20-22, 23:26-32.
Numbers 3:1-13, 8:1-4, 18:21-24, 21:4-9, 27:15-23.

Deuteronomy 7:1-11, 11:26-32, 12:1-11, 18:15-22, 25:5-10, 30:15-20, 31:1-8, 14-18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 34.

Joshua 1:1-9, 2:1-24*, 6:1-27*, 23, 24. *cp. Matt. 1:5

Questions:-

1. Why did Melchizedek not have the qualifications to be a priest under Moses law?
2. Does God need sacrifices to pacify Him?
3. Describe how the promised prophet would be like Moses [Deuteronomy 18:15-20]

Interesting Notes:-

- A) A prophet was a person through whom God spoke.
- B) Jacob's descendants were called Israelites.
- C) Exodus 3:14-15. See Unit 3, note E.
- D) "Joshua" and "Jesus" mean "YHWH saves" [Matthew 1:21].

Useful References:-

- 1 Acts 7:18-36, Hebrews 11:23-29.
- 2 Genesis 18:18, Galatians 3:8.
- 3 Joshua 8:31, 1 Corinthians 9:9
- 4 Romans 9:17, Hebrews 10:31 "living God".
- 5 Hebrews 9:1-10:23
- 6 John 1:21, 25, 6:14 Acts 3:22-23, 7:37 & 52
- 7 Hebrews 8:5
- 8 John 3:14-15.

Send any queries to:-

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*Understanding
the
Bible*

Unit 4

GOD PREPARES A NATION
[Moses to Joshua]
with
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