

This study sheet belongs to:

Study 1. Salvation from Egyptian Slavery

READ: Exodus 11: 1, 4-6 and 12: 1-14 & 29-31

What a night it was! Death and dreadful sadness came to every house where no blood was on the door. But life and liberty were experienced by the Israelites, as Pharaoh gave permission for them to leave Egypt. Triumphant they marched away, in their tens of thousands!



KEY VERSE:
Exodus 12: 13

“When I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you . . .”

The Old Testament contains many excellent ‘pictures’ or illustrations of the salvation which God has provided for us in our Lord Jesus Christ. In this series of Studies, we shall examine four of these.

The back-ground to this Study is well-known. For more than 400 years, the Israelites had been living in Egypt. As their numbers increased, the king of Egypt, Pharaoh, viewed them as a threat to his power, so he made them his slaves and treated them increasingly harshly. God directed His servant Moses to go to Pharaoh to ask for the release of the Israelites, but Pharaoh refused.

As the king became more and more stubborn, God sent upon Egypt a series of ten plagues, or judgments, the last of which is usually known as ‘the death of the first-born’. In it, the eldest son (or ‘first-born’) in every Egyptian household was to die; there would be no exceptions, and when it took place, indescribable grief would spread over Egypt. So great would Pharaoh’s distress be, that he would immediately let the slaves go. God planned to save His people from ‘the death of the first-born’ and so He unfolded to Moses a very wonderful way of salvation.

The plan, as it applied to each family, centred on a lamb. A year-old, healthy lamb was selected, kept isolated for a few days and then killed. Its blood was put upon the side-posts and lintel of the door of each Israelite home. That done, all the families went indoors and feasted upon the roasted lamb. All this was happening on the night of ‘the death of the first-born’, but the Israelites knew that no harm would befall them, for God had promised, **“When I see the blood, I will pass over you”**. (Exodus 12: 13)

In all the years of Israel’s history, this was their greatest ‘salvation’. On other occasions, God saved them from many kinds of troubles, but the ‘Exodus from Egypt’ exceeds all the others. Jews, everywhere, remember it annually, right up to the present time. But for us it has a special significance, for it illustrates clearly God’s way of salvation today. Note how the facts of the Exodus ‘salvation’ are matched by the teachings of the New Testament concerning God’s way of saving sinners TODAY.

1

EXODUS: The first-born was under sentence of death, and in need of deliverance.

TODAY: We, as sinners, are condemned before God, and in need of salvation. (Romans 5: 12)

2

EXODUS: Salvation was provided by God through a lamb.

TODAY: The Lord Jesus, the Son of God, is called **“The Lamb of God”**. (John 1: 29)

3

EXODUS: The lamb had to die, in order to provide deliverance for the Israelites.

TODAY: The death of the Lord Jesus is absolutely necessary for our salvation. (Hebrews 9: 28)

4

EXODUS: The lamb took the place of the first-born (in death). It died ‘for him’.

TODAY: The Lord Jesus died **“for us”**. (Romans 5: 8) He gave Himself **“for me”**. (Galatians 2: 20)

5

EXODUS: For peace of mind, and the assurance that all was well, the first-born had only to rely upon God’s promise. See **Key Verse**.

TODAY: We, today, believe what God has said, and trust His promise. **“Whoever believes in Him shall not perish.”** (John 3: 16)

Study 1. Salvation from Egyptian Slavery

1 GIVE ONE-WORD ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS:

- a. In what country were the Israelites held in slavery?
- b. What was the name of the king of Egypt?
- c. Whom did God send to ask for the Israelites' release?
- d. How many plagues did God send?
- e. What plant was used to put the blood on the door? (*Exodus 12:22*)

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2 READ *Exodus 11:4-6* AGAIN, AND DESCRIBE IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT THE FINAL PLAGUE, OR JUDGMENT, WAS.

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3 A. IF AN ISRAELITE FIRST-BORN SON SAID, 'I DON'T NEED LAMB'S BLOOD ON MY DOOR', WHAT WOULD THAT SHOW ABOUT HIM?

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B. IF A PERSON TODAY SAYS, 'I AM TRUSTING IN THE DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS TO SAVE ME', WHAT DOES THAT INDICATE ABOUT HIM?

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6

4 READ WHAT PETER WRITES IN *1 Peter 1:18 & 19*, AND WRITE A SENTENCE ABOUT HOW HE DESCRIBES THE LORD JESUS.

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2

5 THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAVE A NAME FOR THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THEIR DELIVERANCE FROM EGYPT.

- (a) What is it? (Need help? - Look up *Exodus 12:27 & 43* AND *Matthew 26:2*)
- (b) Can you suggest a reason for so naming it?

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4

6 GOD SPOKE OF "SEEING THE BLOOD". (*Exodus 12:13*) THE BLOOD ON THE DOOR INDICATED THAT A DEATH HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE IN THAT HOUSE, AND THAT GOD HAD ACCEPTED THE LAMB'S DEATH IN THE PLACE OF THE FIRST-BORN. IT WAS AS THOUGH THE LAMB HAD DIED FOR THE BOY. IN WHAT WAY DOES THIS HELP US TO UNDERSTAND THE DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS?

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7 TODAY, OUR SALVATION IS BASED ON "THE BLOOD OF CHRIST". (*Ephesians 2:13*) OUR ASSURANCE OF BEING SAVED RESTS UPON OUR ACCEPTANCE, OR BELIEVING, OF WHAT GOD HAS SAID. READ *1 John 5:13*, AND WRITE IT OUT.

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This study sheet belongs to:

Study 2. Israel's Red Sea Experience

READ: Exodus 14: 1-31 & 15: 1-7



KEY VERSE:

Exodus 15: 2

“The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; my father’s God, and I will exalt Him.”

Pharaoh’s change of heart was short-lived! No sooner had the Israelites set out upon their journey towards the ‘Promised Land’, than Pharaoh regretted giving them permission to go. He determined to send his army after them to bring them back!

The Israelites found themselves trapped. Ahead of them was the Red Sea; behind them the chariots and the soldiers of a huge Egyptian army! They were in a hopeless situation, out of which only God could deliver them.

And that is what He did! By the power of an east wind, which blew all night, the Lord caused the sea to go back, making a path-way through which the Israelites walked to safety. When the Egyptians attempted to do likewise, the waters returned, and they were all drowned.

This outstanding deliverance of the Israelites helps us to understand some important points about the salvation which God offers us in the Lord Jesus Christ.

TOTAL HELPLESSNESS

Think, first of all, about the Israelites’ TOTAL HELPLESSNESS. There was nothing they could do to get themselves out of the difficulty in which they found themselves.

One of the most difficult facts for us to accept is that we are altogether unable to save ourselves from our sins. Yet that is exactly what the Bible teaches! Read, for example, **Romans 5: 6**. Even the very best things that we do, cannot save us. It is **“NOT by works of righteousness which we have done”** that God saves sinners. (Read **Titus 3: 5**) If salvation can be obtained by our efforts, there would have been no need for the Lord Jesus to die upon the Cross!

COMPLETE PROVISION

Think also about GOD’S COMPLETE PROVISION. He did everything that had to be done to save the Israelites. It was not a case of merely giving them ‘a helping hand’, in their moment of extreme need. His saving power was so great that Moses said to the people, **“Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord.” (Exodus 14: 13)**

This serves to illustrate the central truth of the Gospel; God has done everything needful for us to come into favour with Him. He has given us a Saviour, the Lord Jesus, who has borne our sins when He died at Calvary. What He did for us is complete and final - it will never need to be done again! (**Hebrews 10: 12**) In His finished work upon the Cross, we see today **“the salvation of the Lord”**.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The third point of the Old Testament illustration is what we may call PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. The Israelites had to step out upon the path-way which God had made for them through the Red Sea. When all was ready, the Lord said to Moses, **“Tell the children of Israel to GO FORWARD.” (verse 15)** By doing so, they were showing their acceptance of what God had done for them.

We must never forget that we have a personal responsibility to accept God’s provision of salvation. We are not saved merely by hearing about the Saviour; we must, at a personal level, receive Him as our Lord and Saviour, committing ourselves to Him in complete trust. Have YOU taken that step?



Study 2. Israel's Red Sea Experience

1 A. WHY WERE THE ISRAELITES IN GREAT DANGER?

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B. IN WHAT WAY DID GOD COME TO THEIR AID?

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2 SOME PEOPLE THINK THAT THEY CAN PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR HEAVEN BY THEIR OWN EFFORTS. WRITE OUT A BIBLE VERSE WHICH CONTRADICTS THIS IDEA.

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3

3 EXPLAIN, AS CLEARLY AS YOU CAN, WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT THE DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS. SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER BY BIBLE REFERENCES, IF POSSIBLE.

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4 IN Exodus 14, MOSES GAVE TWO COMMANDS TO THE ISRAELITES:-

(a) **“Stand still . . .” (verse 13)** (b) **“Go forward . . .” (verse 15)**

USE MOSES’ WORDS TO COMPLETE THESE TWO SENTENCES:-

1. When Moses said, he was telling the Israelites that they could do nothing in the providing of salvation.

2. When he said,, he was urging them to accept what God had done for them.

2

5 THE BIBLE USES SEVERAL WORDS TO EXPRESS WHAT WE HAVE TO DO TO BE SAVED. LOOK UP THESE REFERENCES, AND WRITE DOWN ONE WORD FROM EACH WHICH TELLS US WHAT WE HAVE TO DO.

(a) **Acts 16: 31**

(b) **John 1: 12**

(c) **Matthew 11: 28**

3

6 A. THE LORD JESUS, ON THE CROSS, UTTERED A CRY WHICH TELLS US THAT HE HAD DONE EVERYTHING NECESSARY FOR OUR SALVATION. FIND IT IN JOHN 19:30, AND WRITE IT OUT.

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B. WHAT IS OUR ‘PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY’ WHEN WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION?

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4

7 LOOK AT Exodus 14:31 AND DESCRIBE IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT THE ISRAELITES WITNESSED AND HOW THEY RESPONDED TO THIS.

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4

8 WHEN ISRAEL REACHED THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RED SEA AND REALISED HOW WONDERFULLY THEY HAD BEEN SAVED, THEY SANG A SONG TO THE LORD. THE KEY VERSE IS PART OF IT. WRITE IT OUT.

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Study 3. Water from the Rock

This study sheet belongs to:

READ: Exodus 17: 1-7



KEY VERSE:

Revelation 22: 17

“And let him who thirsts come. And whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

“No water for the people to drink.” (verse 1) What a dreadful situation for the Israelites, as they moved further into the scorching desert! They were so hot and thirsty that they became angry with Moses, their leader.

But God again proved to be their Deliverer. He instructed Moses to go to a large rock and to strike it with his rod. God performed a wonderful miracle, and out from the rock flowed streams of fresh, cool water.

This incident, from Israel's experiences on the journey from Egypt to Canaan, helps us to understand some other aspects of God's plan of salvation for us.

I. THE THIRST OF THE PEOPLE

For the Israelites, thirst was a physical sensation - a dryness or 'emptiness' which affected their tongues and throats, and which caused them to feel so very weak. For us today, their thirst is a 'picture' of the inner, spiritual emptiness which we experience when we live our lives without God, and without the Lord Jesus as our Saviour. Our deepest longings remain unsatisfied until we are saved, through faith in the Lord Jesus.

The story of **Exodus 17** serves to teach us an important lesson; when we receive salvation, through accepting the Lord Jesus, He fills our lives with a real satisfaction. People try to find inner peace and contentment in all sorts of ways, but alas! - they are often disappointed! The Lord Jesus is the only One who can both SAVE and SATISFY. Read what He said in **John 4: 13 & 14**. (When He speaks about **“the water that I shall give him”**, He is speaking figuratively about Himself, as the Source of satisfaction. **Read John 7: 37**, for a similar verse.)

2. THE SMITING OF THE ROCK

The rock which Moses struck was similar to rocks, as we know them. It was God who performed the miracle, and water flowed freely!

It is also true to say that the rock depicts our Lord Jesus, who was **“smitten”** in His death upon the Cross. (**See Isaiah 53: 4**) So here again, we have a reminder of a central truth of the Gospel - it is only by the death of the Lord Jesus that the **“water of life”** is available for us. There is NO salvation for us apart from His sufferings and death. He is the 'Rock of Ages' about whom A. M. Toplady wrote.

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee!
Let the water and the blood
From Thy riven side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure;
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.*

3. THE ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF WATER

When the water flowed from the rock, there was more than enough! No Israelite needed to remain thirsty. None could say, 'There is no water for me'. Whoever wanted it, could have it in abundance, and at no cost!

How true this is of God's wonderful salvation! In Old Testament days, the prophet Isaiah spoke about the joy with which people would **“draw water from THE WELLS of salvation”**. (**12: 3**) As the Bible closes, the message is still the same, **“WHOEVER desires, let him TAKE of the water of life FREELY”**. (**See Key Verse**)

Taking a drink is a very personal thing. No one can drink for someone else! Receiving salvation is likewise very personal. Each of us must put our trust in the Lord Jesus, as individuals. **“Behold, NOW is the day of salvation.” (2 Corinthians 6: 2)**

Study 3. Water from the Rock

1 GIVE SHORT ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS:
 a. From where had the Israelites come?
 b. To where were they going?
 c. Through what kind of territory were they passing? 3

2 WHO SAID?:-
 a. **“Give us water . . .”**
 b. **“What shall I do with this people?”**
 c. **“You shall strike the rock.”** 3

3 OF WHAT IS THIRST, IN THE ORDINARY, PHYSICAL SENSE, A ‘PICTURE’?

 2

4 READ GOD’S WORD TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL IN JEREMIAH 2: 13, AND ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:-
 a. In what way is God described in this verse?

 b. To what are all other sources of satisfaction likened?
 4

5 READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10: 4, AND WRITE A SENTENCE TO SAY WHAT ‘SPIRITUAL MEANING’ IS GIVEN TO “THE ROCK”.
 3

6 A. WRITE OUT EITHER THE KEY VERSE OR JOHN 7: 37.

B. EXPLAIN, AS CLEARLY AS YOU CAN, WHAT IT MEANS TO “TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE”.

 6

7 ANSWER TRUE OR FALSE TO THE FOLLOWING:-
 i) Their livestock were thirsty too.
 ii) Moses had used his rod for God previously.
 iii) The rock Moses struck was in Hebron.
 iv) The people asked, **“Is the Lord among us or not?”** 4

This study sheet belongs to:

Study 4. The Serpents in the Wilderness

READ: Numbers 21: 4-9



KEY VERSES:

John 3: 14 & 15

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Poisonous snakes! We can easily imagine how terrified the Israelites were when this new hazard occurred. How distressed they must have been, as news of one death after another spread around the camp!

Yet the story ends on a happier note. God not only removed the venomous snakes, but also provided a means of healing for those who had already been bitten. Once again, He revealed Himself as **“the God of salvation”**.

To help us understand how this incident illustrates God’s way of salvation for us, we may sum it up under four headings:-

1. THEY SINNED - See verses 4 & 5 again.

As we read of their grumblings and complaints, we can see that they were guilty, not only of unthankfulness, but also of untruthfulness. Perhaps most serious of all was their unbelief, so clearly expressed when they said to Moses, **“Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?”**

It is very evident that they sinned in more ways than one! And so have ALL of us! (See **Romans 3: 23 and 5: 12**) We make a great mistake if we think that only murderers, gangsters, and grossly immoral persons are sinners against God. Other less ‘open’ things like ingratitude, pride and jealousy are also sinful in the sight of God, and put us at a distance from Him.

2. THEY SUFFERED - The judgment of God upon their sin was swift! (See **verse 6**) Today, many people are deluded into thinking that sin pays no ‘wages’, and so they continue in their wrong-doing. The Bible, however, teaches otherwise; read **Ecclesiastes 8: 11** and **Romans 6: 23**.

The violating of God’s laws always leads to suffering of one kind or another. Sometimes its ‘wages’ are paid in this life; sometimes not until this life is

finished. How important it is that we should come to the Saviour, the Lord Jesus, putting our trust in Him for the complete forgiveness of all our sins!

3. THEY WERE SORRY - Read what they said to Moses in **verse 7**, and note how completely their attitude has changed. (The Bible’s word for this complete ‘about-turn’ is **‘repentance’**.) They are now genuinely sorry about the untruthful things they had said, and they are sincerely asking for God’s mercy.

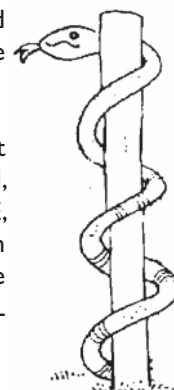
This is an important factor in our case also. If we are to receive salvation, we must be truly repentant of our sins, confess them to God, and whole-heartedly desire to be finished with them. Read **1 John 1: 9** and **Psalms 51: 1-4**.

4. THEY WERE SAVED - God’s unlimited power was available to give life, even to those in whom the deadly poison was already at work. If they would only take God at His word, and look at the uplifted brass serpent, they would be ‘saved’ from the consequences of their wrong-doing. Thankfully, there were many that day who **“looked”** and **“lived”**. (See **verse 9**)

Here is a clear illustration of what can happen to us. Read what the Lord Jesus said in the **Key Verses**. When He speaks about **“the Son of Man”**, He is referring to Himself; He will be **“lifted up”** on the Cross, and through His death, eternal life will be available to all who believe in Him.

With the Israelites in the desert, it was a case of experiencing DEATH, through sin, or of finding LIFE, through accepting God’s way. With us the alternatives are even more awesome; it is either ETERNAL DEATH or ETERNAL LIFE.

Read John 3: 36.



Study 4. The Serpents in the Wilderness

1 (A) READ NUMBERS 21:5 AGAIN. THE REFERENCE IS TO THE SPECIAL BREAD, OR FOOD, WHICH GOD GAVE TO THE ISRAELITES. ALSO LOOK UP EXODUS 16: 14, 15 & 31, AND WRITE A SENTENCE, GIVING ITS NAME AND DESCRIBING IT.

(B) FROM NUMBERS 21:5, WRITE OUT ONE UNTRUE THING WHICH THE ISRAELITES SAID.

4

2 WHAT DID GOD INSTRUCT MOSES TO DO, IN ORDER THAT BITTEN PEOPLE MIGHT NOT DIE?

2

3 WHY DO PEOPLE TODAY NEED TO BE 'SAVED'? SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER BY REFERRING TO SOME BIBLE VERSES.

4

4 WRITE OUT EITHER JOHN 3:36 OR ROMANS 6:23.

2

5 'SIN LEADS TO SUFFERING.'

(a) Write out GALATIANS 6:7.

(b) Give a concrete example of this general principle, from family life today.

5

6 IN LUKE 24:46 & 47, YOU WILL FIND WHAT THE LORD JESUS SAID JUST BEFORE HE WENT BACK TO HEAVEN. READ THE VERSES, THEN ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:-

a. What TWO things did He say are to be preached?

b. In whose Name was the preaching to be done?

c. To whom was the message to be preached?

d. Where was the preaching to begin?

4

7 READ JOHN 3:14 & 15, AND EXPLAIN IN WHAT WAY THE STORY OF NUMBERS 21 ILLUSTRATES HOW WE, TODAY, CAN HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

4

100

Total marks for this Unit

Return your study sheets to:

25

Total marks for this study