

EXODUS PROFILE

AUTHOR

Though challenged by critical scholars, there are no compelling reasons to deny Mosaic authorship of Exodus. The external and internal evidence for Mosaic authorship is convincing.

External:

- Attributed to Moses since the time of Joshua (cf. Ex 20:25 with Josh 8:30-32)
- Attributed to Moses by other biblical authors (Mal 4:4; John 1:45; Rom 10:5; Mark 12:26)
- Attributed to Moses in both Jewish and Samaritan historical traditions

Internal:

- Portions of Exodus directly attributed to Moses (Ex 15; 17:8-14; 20:1-17; 31:18; 34:1-27)
- The consistency of style and development point to a single author
- Moses' education and knowledge regarding the customs of Egypt
- Moses' knowledge regarding the wilderness

DATE AND OCCASION

Given Moses' authorship of Exodus, the book should be dated after the Exodus event (c. 1450-1440 B.C.) and before his death about 1406 B.C.

Exodus is the record of Israel's birth as a nation. God's covenant promise to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3), to bless him and make of him a great nation, is fulfilled in the growth of Israel from a family of seventy to a nation numbering between two and three million. After four hundred years of bondage God takes His people out of Egypt (under the leadership of Moses), and brings them into the wilderness where they are divinely protected, fed, and nurtured. While travelling in the wilderness the Lord gives the people His law, thus specifying the terms of their covenant relationship. The reestablishment of God's dwelling with man is witnessed in the exodus from Egypt, the giving of the Law, and His condescension to dwell with them in the tabernacle.

PURPOSE AND THEMES

Themes:

Deliverance under Moses 1-18: God delivers His people through His mighty power, not through the power of human effort.

Covenant under Moses 19-24: God, who is holy, gives the law to guide His redeemed people.

Worship under Moses 25-40:

- 25-31, 35-40: God must be worshipped according to His instructions in order for there to be fellowship with Him.
- 32-34: False worship destroys fellowship with God because it brings God's judgment (32-34).

(Portions of this information were drawn directly from *The Reformation Study Bible*, *The Open Bible*, and lecture notes taken from *Genesis through Joshua*, by Dr. Richard P. Belcher, Jr.)

