

A Very Simple Survey of the Old Testament

Study Overview

Block #3 — Lessons 17–24

Block #3 • Lessons 17–24 | Keith R. Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®

About This Block

Block #3 completes the Genesis narrative and launches the book of Exodus, covering Genesis 42 through Exodus 11. Eight lessons complete the Joseph story — his testing of his brothers, his revelation of himself, and his gracious forgiveness — before moving to Jacob’s family’s move to Egypt and Jacob’s prophetic blessings over his sons. The final four lessons introduce the Exodus: Israel’s 400 years of affliction complete, the birth and calling of Moses, the confrontation with Pharaoh, and the ten plagues. Keith R. Blades presents Joseph’s conduct as a model of God-honoring grace and forgiveness, while maintaining the doctrinal thread that everything happening is the outworking of God’s specific declarations to Abraham. The block ends at the threshold of one of the most dramatic demonstrations of God’s power in all of Scripture.

Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Title — Scripture Reference
Lesson 17	Joseph’s Brothers Go to Egypt — Genesis 42–43
Lesson 18	Joseph Tests His Brothers — Genesis 44
Lesson 19	Joseph Forgives His Brothers — Genesis 45
Lesson 20	Jacob’s Family Moves to Egypt — Genesis 46–47
Lesson 21	The Baby Moses — Exodus 1:1–2:10
Lesson 22	God Speaks to Moses — Exodus 2–3
Lesson 23	Moses and Aaron Visit Pharaoh — Exodus 4–6
Lesson 24	The Ten Plagues — Exodus 7–11

Lesson Summaries

L17

Joseph’s Brothers Go to Egypt *Genesis 42–43 • Famine and the First Visit to Joseph*

- The famine is over all the earth; Jacob sends ten of his sons to Egypt to buy

food, keeping Benjamin behind — the stage is set for the fulfillment of Joseph's dreams

- The ten brothers bow before Joseph without recognizing him — Joseph's first dream is beginning to be fulfilled literally; Joseph recognizes them but does not reveal himself
- Joseph's response to his brothers is not revenge but gracious and selfless concern; he provides them food and secretly returns their money, illustrating God-honoring conduct
- Key doctrinal emphasis: Joseph's treatment of his brothers is an example of being gracious, compassionate, and caring more for others than yourself — the character God develops in those who are "great in the LORD"

L18

Joseph Tests His Brothers *Genesis 44 • The Silver Cup and the Test of Repentance*

- Joseph secretly places his silver divining cup in Benjamin's sack — a cup tied to his authority and position as governor, so to steal it is an act of open treachery against God
- By placing his brothers in this position of apparent dishonesty, Joseph is not seeking revenge but working to bring them to honest acknowledgment of their past wickedness before God
- When the brothers are brought back before Joseph, Judah speaks for all of them: a changed heart is evident; they do not abandon Benjamin but offer themselves as servants
- Joseph's strategy achieves what love always aims for: not punishment but genuine godly sorrow leading to repentance and restoration of fellowship

L19

Joseph Forgives His Brothers *Genesis 45 • Grace, Forgiveness, and God's Overruling Purpose*

- Joseph can no longer restrain himself; he reveals himself to his brothers weeping loudly — "I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt" (Gen. 45:4)
- Joseph immediately frames what happened in terms of God's sovereign plan: "God sent me before you to preserve life" (Gen. 45:5) — he sees divine purpose, not human evil, as the dominant reality
- Joseph's forgiveness is complete and unconditional — he provides for his brothers, sends gifts to his father, and charges them not to be grieved or angry with themselves
- Joseph's conduct is held up as the standard for how God wants His people to respond when evilly treated: not rendering evil for evil, but returning grace and seeking restoration

L20

Jacob's Family Moves to Egypt *Genesis 46–47 • Israel's Sojourn Begins and Jacob's Prophecies*

- Israel stops at Beersheba to offer sacrifices to God before going to Egypt — God appears to him and confirms that going down is in accordance with His plan: "I will there make of thee a great nation"

- Seventy souls of the house of Jacob enter Egypt — exactly as God had declared to Abraham, the sojourn in a “strange land” has begun; Israel’s multiplication will take place in Egypt
- In Genesis 49, Jacob gives prophetic blessings over his twelve sons — not personal opinions but God-given declarations about the future of each tribe in Israel’s national history
- Of special importance: Judah’s blessing (Gen. 49:8–12) — the scepter shall not depart from Judah until Shiloh (the Messiah) comes — a clear messianic prophecy pointing to Christ

L21

The Baby Moses *Exodus 1:1–2:10 • Israel Multiplied and God’s Deliverer Preserved*

- The book of Exodus opens: Israel has multiplied greatly in Egypt and the new Pharaoh who “knew not Joseph” fears them and enslaves them — the “affliction” foretold to Abraham (Gen. 15:13) is now in full effect
- Pharaoh commands that every Hebrew baby boy be thrown into the Nile — Satan’s ongoing strategy: destroy the covenant line before God’s promises can be fulfilled
- Moses is born; his parents recognize him as a “proper child” (Heb. 11:23) and by faith hide him; the ark of bulrushes is placed in the river and watched by his sister Miriam
- Pharaoh’s own daughter finds the baby and takes him as her son — God providentially arranges for Moses to be raised in Pharaoh’s palace, educated and positioned for his future role as Israel’s deliverer

L22

God Speaks to Moses *Exodus 2–3 • The Burning Bush and the Commission of Moses*

- By faith Moses, when grown, refuses to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing to suffer affliction with God’s people rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin — Heb. 11:24–26 reveals his understanding of his calling
- Moses kills an Egyptian defending a Hebrew, then flees to Midian when his act is known — forty years pass; Moses tends sheep in the wilderness
- God appears in a burning bush: “I AM THAT I AM” — God’s name “Jehovah” is revealed; He announces that He has seen the affliction of His people and is ready to deliver them
- God commissions Moses: go to Pharaoh and bring Israel out of Egypt — God promises to be with him and gives him signs as credentials; the four-hundred years are complete and God is moving

L23

Moses and Aaron Visit Pharaoh *Exodus 4–6 • Confronting Pharaoh and God’s Purposes in It*

- Moses raises five objections to God’s commission — God handles each one but Moses’ persistent reluctance reveals that he is not fully trusting God’s own explicit word; Aaron is appointed as his spokesman
- Moses and Aaron present themselves to Pharaoh with God’s message: “Let my people go” — Pharaoh refuses and increases Israel’s burdens, removing

their straw while keeping their brick quota the same

- God's foreknowledge and purpose in Pharaoh's refusal: God told Moses in advance that Pharaoh would refuse, and He planned to use it to manifest His power through the plagues and to "judge Egypt" (Gen. 15:14)
- Key principle: God's timing is perfect; the delays and hardships are not accidents but are God orchestrating the greatest demonstration of His power on Israel's behalf yet seen in history

L24

The Ten Plagues *Exodus 7–11 • God Judges Egypt and Prepares Israel's Departure*

- God's stated purpose for the plagues: to judge Egypt, to manifest that He is the LORD, and to fulfill His word to Abraham that Israel would come out with great substance (Gen. 15:14)
- The plagues systematically target Egypt's gods: each one demonstrates the powerlessness of a specific Egyptian deity and manifests that the God of Israel is the only true and living God
- Pharaoh hardens his heart repeatedly; God also hardens it to maximize the demonstration of His power and ensure that Israel comes out through a total and decisive victory
- The tenth plague is reserved: the slaying of all Egypt's firstborn — the most devastating blow, designed to finally break Pharaoh's resistance and drive Israel out with urgency
- The Passover is instituted: the blood of an unblemished lamb on the doorposts protects Israel from the destroying angel — a picture of Christ as the Lamb of God

Key Doctrinal Distinctions

Joseph's Grace as a Type of Christ

Keith R. Blades draws attention to the remarkable parallels between Joseph's conduct and that of the Lord Jesus Christ: both are rejected by their own brethren, both suffer unjustly, both are eventually exalted, and both respond to those who wronged them with grace and forgiveness rather than vengeance.

God's Specific Prophetic Fulfillments

Block #3 demonstrates that God's word to Abraham in Genesis 15 is being fulfilled with precise accuracy: the strange land, the four-hundred-year affliction, the great nation, and coming out with great substance are all in the process of becoming historical reality. God's prophecies are never vague — they are exact.

Moses' Faith vs. Moses' Doubt

Hebrews 11:24–26 commends Moses' great faith, but Exodus 4 also shows that even the man of faith can be slow to trust God's specific promises. The lesson: God's word must be believed completely, not just partially; the call is to go forward in confident reliance on what God has said.

Pharaoh's Hardening — God's Sovereignty in Judgment

Pharaoh's refusal to let Israel go is used by God to magnify His own glory and demonstrate His power. The plagues are not a Plan B after a failed negotiation; they are God's designed means of judging Egypt and fulfilling His covenant promise to Abraham.

The Passover — Blood as the Basis of Safety

The institution of the Passover (Exodus 12, the next lesson) is introduced here through the tenth plague. The principle is established: only the blood of a substitutionary sacrifice provides protection from God's righteous judgment — a truth that points directly to Christ as the ultimate Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7).

Scripture Reference Index

Reference	Key Statement or Theme
Gen. 45:5	God sent me before you to preserve life
Gen. 49:10	The scepter shall not depart from Judah... until Shiloh come
Gen. 50:20	Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good
Ex. 3:14	I AM THAT I AM... thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel
Ex. 6:6–7	I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians
Gen. 15:13–14	Thy seed shall be a stranger... and afterward shall they come out
Heb. 11:23	By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents
Heb. 11:24–26	By faith Moses... refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter
1 Cor. 5:7	Christ our passover is sacrificed for us
Acts 7:22	Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians