

# Study No.4 The Exodus Begins



**Timeframe of events:**

c.1400 B.C.  
(some time between c.1500-1300 B.C.)

**Summary:** Over a few hundred years, Jacob’s family in Egypt grew into a nation of about 2 million people. Whilst in bondage, Moses was raised up to lead them from Egypt back to the promised land of Canaan. The readings in this study cover Moses’ early years, the struggles with Pharaoh, the Passover and the first few challenging months of the new nation’s journey.

## Main Reading / Listening



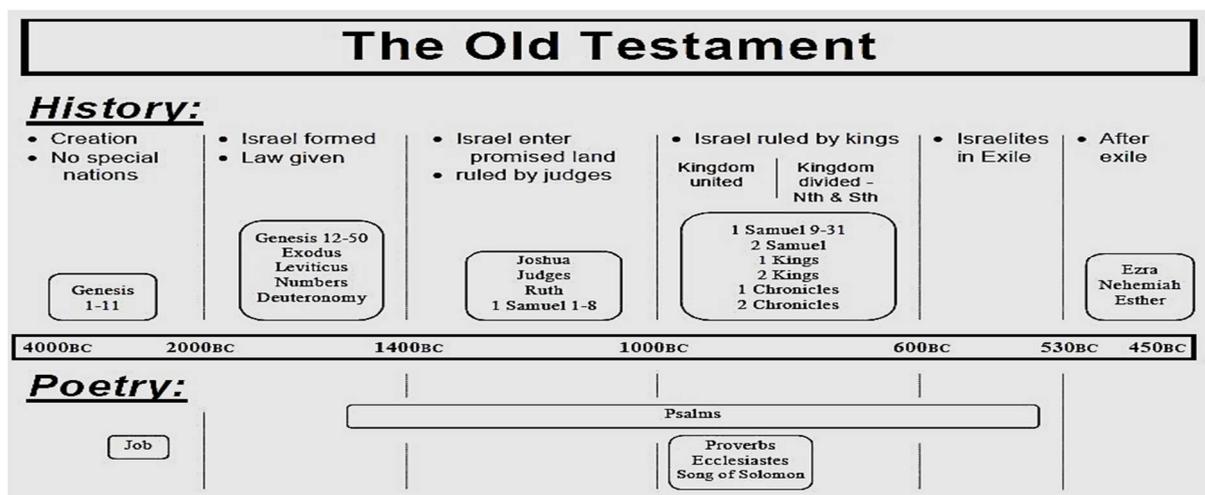
Read and/or listen to the following passages at least once. Twice is better for taking it all in!

**As a minimum, please read or listen to:**

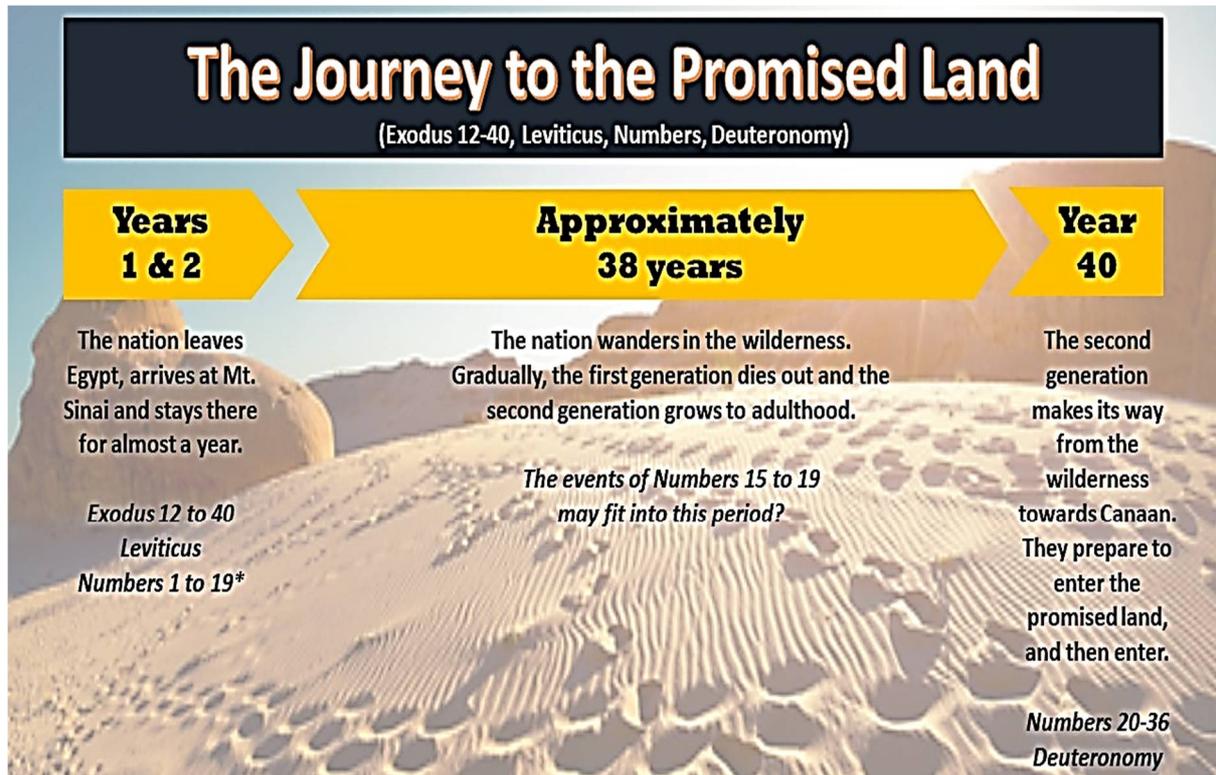
Exodus 12

**To read or listen to the entire Bible systematically, this week’s passages are:**

Exodus 1 to 18  
Psalms 66, 90, 91

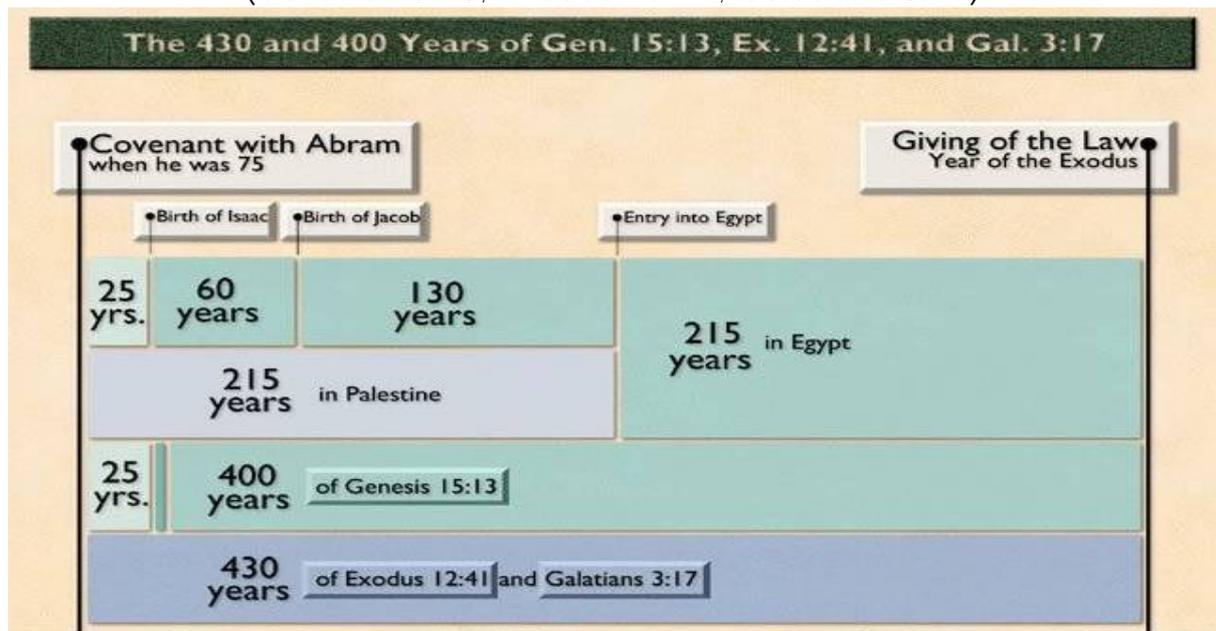


Relevant Charts:



### A possible explanation of the 400 years / 430 years

(Genesis 15:13; Exodus 12:41; Galatians 3:17)



Source: <http://www.biblechronologytimeline.com/>

## The Ten Plagues of Egypt (Exodus ch.7 to 12)

Each of the ten plagues was a direct affront to the gods of Egypt by Jehovah, the one true God of Israel.

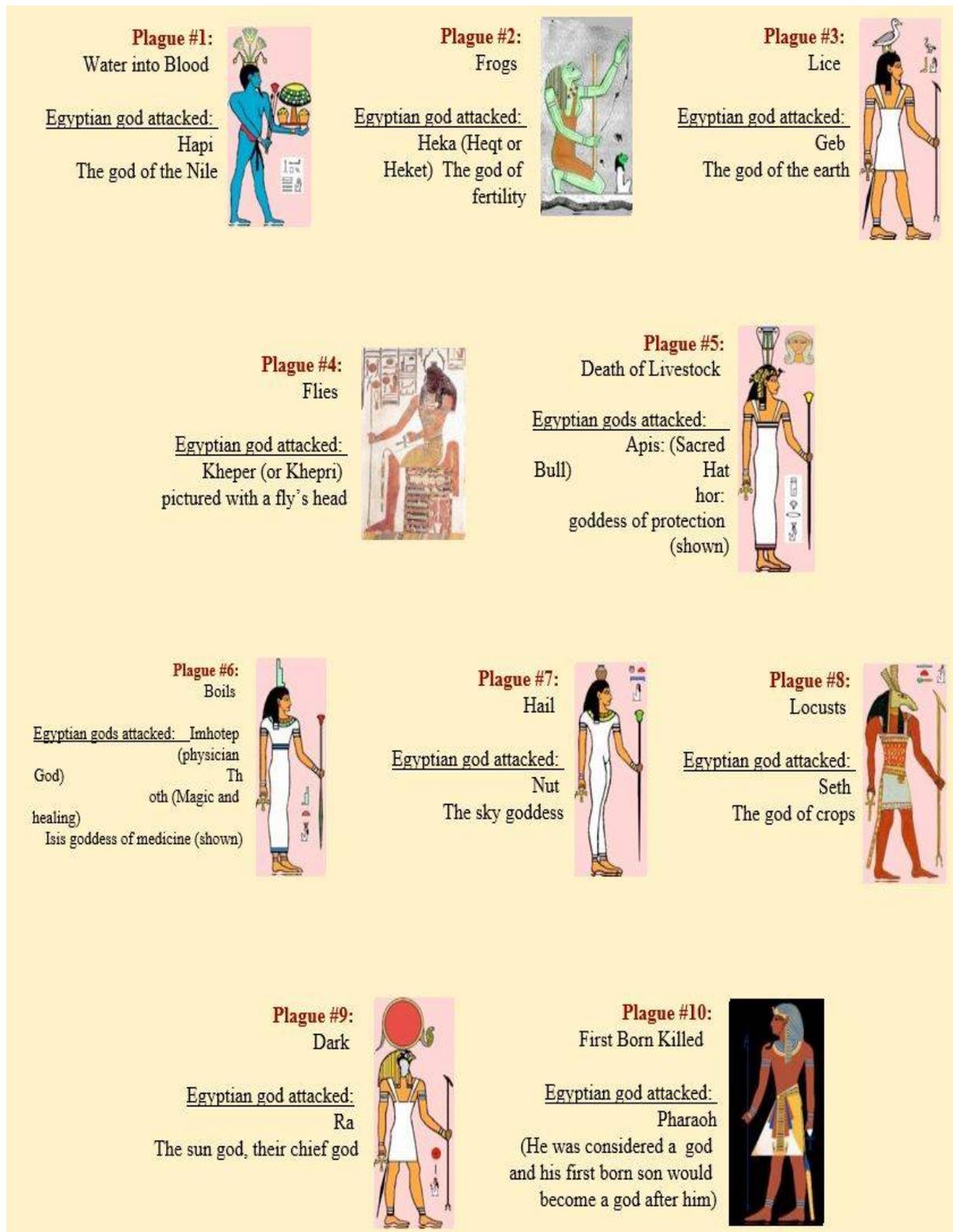
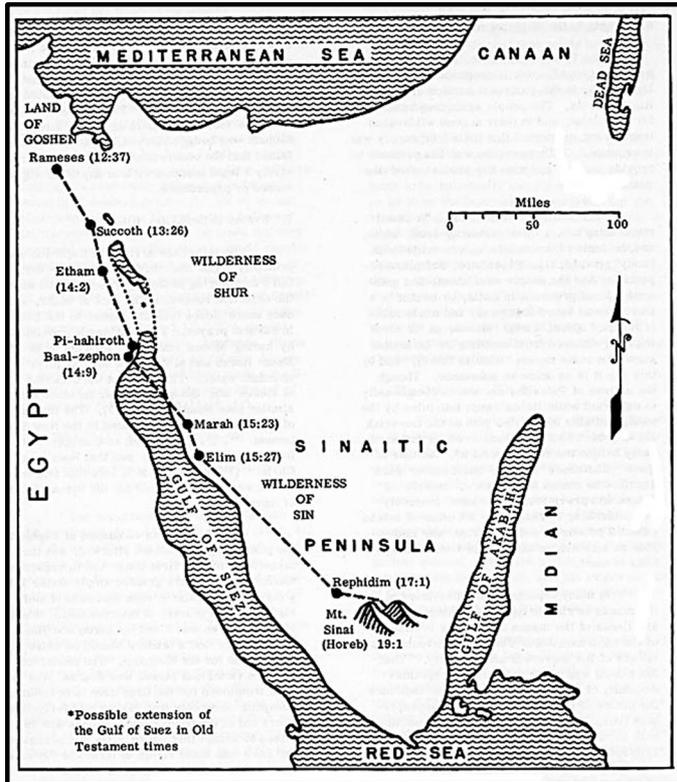


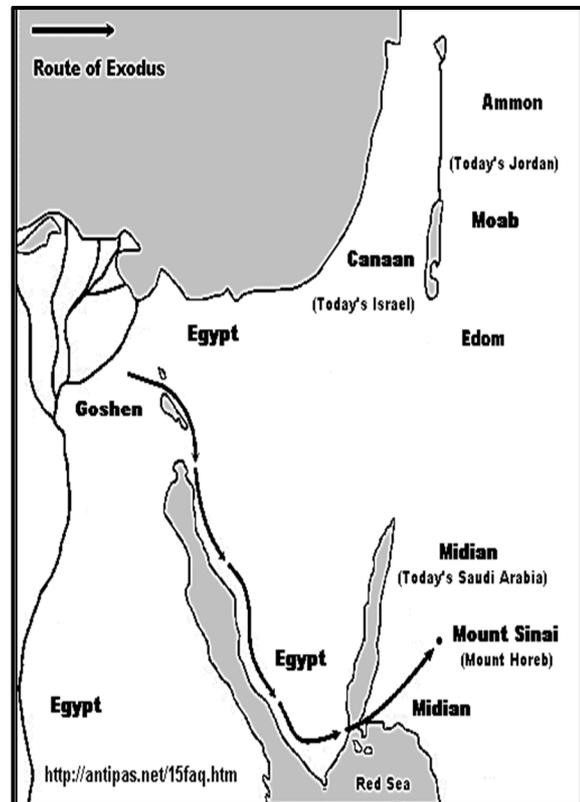
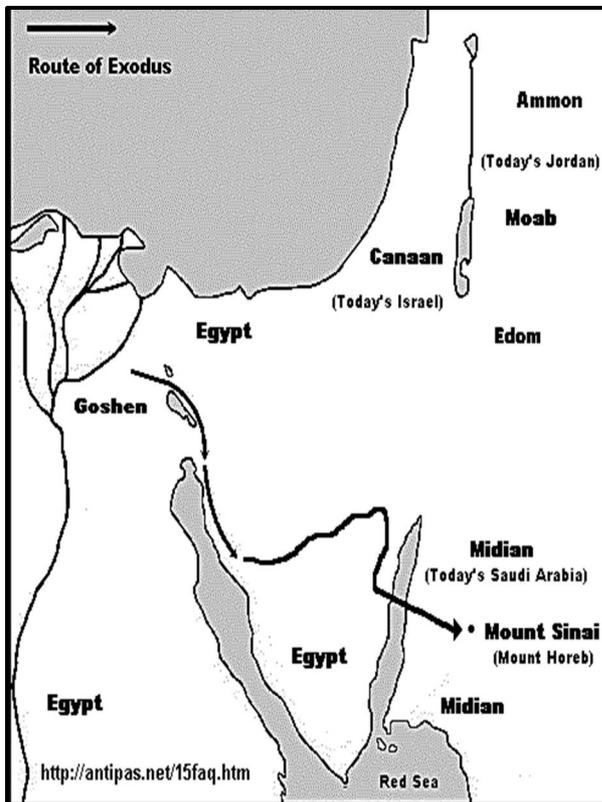
Diagram by Dave Lyman. Permission granted to copy and distribute for non-profit educational purposes. (Apologies for the typographical errors on this diagram!)

### Three possible exodus routes



← The traditional and most commonly accepted route of the exodus.

Below are two alternative exodus routes that have been proposed.



## Enhancing your reading:

*Attempt one or more of the following tasks for a better appreciation of the subjects covered by the main readings for this study.*



- Jot down any questions arising from this study's readings. Ask someone else for help, or conduct your own research to try and answer these questions.

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- Note any passages, verses, themes or lessons that have stood out to you from this study's readings. Write down or verbalise your reasons.

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- Read 3:14 in different Bible translations. Make a note of the various ways "I AM WHO I AM" is translated.

- Conduct a search for "Amalek" and "Amalekites" in Scripture. What conclusions about them may be drawn from what you find?

- Read or listen to these other Bible passages that relate to the content of this week's readings (continued on next page):

Exodus 1 to 18 (general):

Numbers 33:1-15  
 1 Chronicles 6:1-3  
 1 Chronicles 23:12-15  
 Nehemiah 9:9-12  
 Psalm 77:20  
 Psalm 105:23-43  
 Psalm 106:6-12  
 Isaiah 63:7-14

Micah 6:1-4  
 Mark 12:18-27  
 John 6:28-58  
 Acts 7:17-36  
 Romans 5:12-18  
 1 Corinthians 10:1-4  
 Hebrews 11:23-29  
 Revelation 15:1-4

Passover / Unleavened Bread:

Exodus 23:14,15

Exodus 34:18

Leviticus 23:4-8

Numbers 9:1-14

Numbers 28:16-25

Deut.16:1-8,16

Joshua 5:10-12

2 Chronicles 8:12,13

2 Chronicles 30

2 Chronicles 35:1-19

2 Kings 23:21-23

Ezra 6:19-22

Ezekiel 45:21-24

Matthew 26:17-30

Mark 14:12-26

Luke 2:41-50

Luke 22:1,2

Luke 22:1,2, 7-29

John 2:23-25

John 11:55-12:1

John 13:1-30

John 18:28, 39, 40

John 19:14,15

Acts 12:1-19

Acts 20:6

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

**For much deeper study:**



- Read or refer to the following books, articles, etc. Some are available on [www.systematicbiblestudy.com](http://www.systematicbiblestudy.com), and most are available in hard copy or electronic formats, online and offline:
  - Berean Expositor Redemption Series - Charles Welch:
    - No.9 The meaning of redemption
    - No.10 The way out and the way in
- Listen to these audio messages:
  - S073 "Exodus" - Ernest Streets
  - W75, W76 - Exodus studies from the Pleroma series - C.H.Welch

**Consider and discuss  
the following questions:**



References such as "3:16" in this section refer to the book of Exodus, except where noted.

- (1) What does the term "exodus" mean?
- (2) Compare 1:1 with 3:10. What is meant by the term "the children of Israel"?
- (3) Ex 1:9-12; 20,21 - Was the rapid growth of number of Israelites in Egypt a natural circumstance, or did God have a hand in this? Give reasons for your answer.
- (4) Approximately how many years passed between the death of Joseph (Genesis 50:26) and the birth of Moses (Exodus 2:2)?
- (5) What place, if any, do the promises of Gen 12:1-3 play in the exodus story?
- (6) Moses was placed in an "ark" as a baby (2:3). Comparing this with the very different ark described in Genesis 7, what do they have in common?
- (7) There are at least two different sites most commonly thought to be the location of Mt. Sinai, also known as Mt. Horeb (see maps on page 4). Which one, if either, do you think is correct and why?
- (8) Similarly, there are at least three very different routes of the exodus journey suggested by commentators (see maps on page 4). Which one, if any of them, do you think is correct and why?
- (9) Does it make any difference to our understanding of the Bible text which exodus route or Mt. Sinai location is correct? Give reasons for your answer.
- (10) Why was Mt. Horeb called the mountain of God (3:1)?
- (11) What is meant by the term the priest of Midian (3:1)?

(12) Moses was told to take off his sandals because he was standing on holy ground (3:5). (a) Why was the ground deemed to be holy? (b) Why would this necessitate the removal of his footwear?

(13) What is meant by God's name "I AM"? (3:14)

(14) In John 8:58, Christ refers to this name "I AM". What did He mean by it?

(15) What did God mean by the phrase "I AM WHO I AM" (or the equivalent in other Bible translations) See 3:16, and refer to any footnotes your Bible has attached to this verse.

(16) Did God really appear to Moses (3:16)? Is this compatible with statements made in Exodus 33:20 and 1 John 4:12?

(17) Was God telling Moses to lie to Pharaoh in 3:18b; 8:25-28; 10:9?

(18) Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart (4:21)? Was it unjust for God to do so?

(19) What is meant by the term "firstborn" in 4:22,23?

(20) Why did God instruct Moses to carry out a great task and then almost immediately seek to kill him? (4:22-24)

(21) Why did Zipporah say to Moses, "You are a husband / bridegroom of blood to me"? (4:25)

(22) Why did Pharaoh say, "Who is the LORD?" (5:2)

(23) Why does the word Lord often appear written as LORD? (e.g. 5:2)

(24) Compare 6:3 with Genesis 15:7; 26:25; 28:13. Did Abraham, Isaac and Jacob really not know the name Jehovah (the LORD)?

(25) What did Moses mean when he said, "I am of uncircumcised lips"? (6:12,30)

(26) Why is the genealogy in 6.14-25 included in the text? How is this genealogy "incomplete"?

(27) How was Moses like God to Pharaoh? (7.1,2)

(28) How was Aaron a prophet? (7:1,2)

(29) How old was Moses when he first spoke to Pharaoh? (7:7; compare with Deuteronomy 34.7)

(30) How were the Egyptian magicians able to replicate Aaron's miracles? (7.8-11,22)

(31) Why couldn't the Egyptian magicians reproduce this miracle? (8.18,19)

(32) The pleadings with Pharaoh, the subsequent ten plagues and the eventual departure from Egypt described in chapters 7 to 12 probably took several weeks or months to carry out. Why do you think that God didn't just bring the Israelites out sooner? Cp. Ex 9.13-16

(33) What does the term "Passover" mean? (12.11-13)

(34) Why was Passover to be observed?

(35) Why is the sacrifice called "a lamb" in 12:3, "the lamb" in 12:4, and "your lamb" in 12:5?

(36) Why would no foreigner be allowed to eat the Passover? (12.43)

(37) Compare the Passover laws of Exodus 12 with those of Deuteronomy 16:5-7. (a) What are the differences? (b) Why are there differences?

(38) What was the significance of eating unleavened bread? (12.15-20; 13.6-10)

(39) What is meant by the phrase "Christ our Passover"? (1 Corinthians 5.7)

(40) How many people left Egypt at that time? (12.37)

(41) What is meant by "all their armies / divisions"? (12.51)

(42) What is meant by the command in 3.2? Cp 13.11-16.

(43) What is meant by the reference to "no graves in Egypt"? (14.11)

(44) The precise route of the exodus (Numbers 33:3-15) is a matter of great debate. What are some of the difficulties faced when trying to map the exact exodus route from Egypt to Mt. Sinai?

(45) Does it matter whether the exact route can be determined? Give reasons for your answer.

(46) The poetic section in 15.1-19 is usually called The Song of Moses, and retells the events detailed in the previous chapter (14). Why the duplication?

(47) In what way was Miriam a prophetess? Ex 15.21

(48) Ex 15.20,21 is Miriam's song and echoes 15.1. What is the point of this being included in the text?

(49) 16.23 gives us the first mention of the term "Sabbath" in the Bible. (a) What was its significance? (b) Given its link to the creation story, do you think the Sabbath's day rest was observed prior to Moses' generation?

(50) What is the meaning of the word "manna"? (16.31)

(51) At what point did the Lord cease the provision of manna?

(52) What is an omer equivalent to in modern Western measurements? (16.32) Consult your Bible's list of measurements, if it has one.

(53) Who was Hur? (17.10)

(54) Read the "complaints" of the people in 15:24; 16:2,3; and 17:2-24. Were not these complaints reasonable?

(55) Compare the complaining of Exodus 15, 16 & 17 to what is said in Philippians 4:6, 7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What conclusions may be drawn from this comparison?

(56) Compare chapter 17 verses 14 and 16. Do these two statements about the Amalekites contradict each other?

(57) How was Jethro a priest? (18.1)

(58) What are the Hebrew words for "LORD", "gods" and "God" in 18.11,12?

(59) How were the events of 18.12 like the offerings mentioned in Deuteronomy 27.6,7?

(60) In what way was Jethro's advice to Moses (18.13-26) particularly timely?