

A simple structure for understanding Exodus:

The book has three clear divisions as shown below with chapter numbers.

Each division shows us something different about the nature of God, the nation of Israel, and philosophies or concepts of life.

Each division can also be structured into a further three parts.

Book	The Exodus (1-18)	The Law (19-24)	The Tabernacle (25-40)
God	Power	Holiness	Wisdom
Israel	Condition	Constitution	Conception
Concepts	Liberty	Responsibility	Privilege
	Projected through Moses (1-4)	Commandments governing moral life (19-20)	Designed (25-31)
	Obstructed by Pharaoh (5-11)	Judgements governing social life (21-23)	Delayed (32-34)
	Effected by Jehovah (12-18)	Ordinances governing religious life (24)	Completed (35-40)

Key Lesson from Exodus:

In the book of Exodus we see the birth of God's people, the Law is born and with it the Bible, and the presence of God amongst his people and the response to that presence.

Exodus becomes a standard of God's power to deliver his people.

New Testament commentaries on Exodus:

1 Cor 10:1-13, Hebrews 12:18-24, 1 Peter 2:9-10

Compare –

1. The Exodus brought a mighty emancipation for Israel. The Gospel brings deliverance from the guilt, penalty and bondage of sin.
2. The Exodus centred in the Passover and the slain lamb. The Gospel centres in the great Passover of Calvary and 'the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.'
3. The Exodus became forever afterwards commemorated in the Passover Feast. So, 'Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast.' 1 Cor 5:7

Contrast –

1. The sheltering blood in the Exodus was merely that of an animal. In the Gospel it is the precious blood of Christ. In the one case many lambs are slain; in the other, One for all.

2. The Exodus was national and therefore limited. The Gospel is universal, its characteristic word of address being, 'whosoever'.
3. The one was deliverance from physical bondage; the other is from spiritual. The one deliverance was temporal; the other eternal. The one opened up the way to an earthly Canaan; the other to a heavenly.

The Furniture of the Tabernacle:

No	The furniture	Symbolic meaning	Typical meaning (type)
1	Bronze altar	Atonement through sacrifice	The atonement of Christ
2	Bronze laver	Spiritual renewal	Regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit
3	Table of Shewbread	Spiritual sustenance	Christ the Bread of Life, the Holy Spirit the Water of Life
4	Candlestick	Spiritual illumination	Christ the Light of the World, and especially of his own people
5	Altar of Incense	Acceptable supplication	Prayer in the Name of Jesus
6	The Ark	Access through covenant relationship	Christ the covenant ground of our access to God
7	Mercy Seat and Shekinah	The very presence and life of God	Christ as Mercy Seat (Rom 3:25) and Holy Spirit as Shekinah imparted life of God

Adapted from *Explore the Book* by J. Sidlow Baxter

A. Westerman January 2009