

*Out of Egypt*

*The first part of Exodus is the exit narrative, the story of the escape from slavery in Egypt. Notable is the continual complaining of the people as they cross the desert, perhaps to show the people as always disobedient to Yahweh, a theme also emphasized in several other texts.*

(16) Moses and Aaron. Moses is first shown as the leader of the Exodus; later, he is esteemed as the great lawgiver. His origin may be much humbler. The same is true of Aaron, supposedly his brother, who makes the people a calf image to worship, the moment Moses' back is turned. So much for Yahweh.

(17) The Plagues have a real-world geological explanation. All but the last (the death of the firstborn) are based on memories of the disorders caused by the eruption of Santorini in c01625.

(18) The last miracle, the supposed origin of the later Passover observance, has deeper roots than its role in the Exodus story can account for.

(19) Pharaoh's Chariots. Someone was inspired to add yet another miracle. They invented a dramatic battle with the suddenly pursuing Egyptian chariots. They invented it twice, first with Moses, and then with Yahweh, as victor.

(20) Into the Wilderness. The escapees begin their journey, which will take them to a second volcanic voice: that of Mount Sinai, where an understanding with Yahweh is first created – it is dictated by Yahweh himself.

---

*Next will come the second part of Exodus, containing the earliest Biblical law texts. In them, secular law is beginning to grow out of sacred covenant.*