

Bible Study by Books.

EXODUS.

The name Exodus suggests the leading topic of the book. Exodus means, "going out." The Hebrew name is, briefly, "Shemoth"—names—from the clause with which the book begins—"Now these are the names." The Latin, Exodus, is from the Greek Exodos, and means a going forth or departure; specifically, the departure of the Israelites' from Egypt under Moses. It is the second book of the Old Testament, and the events narrated cover a period of 215 years, that is from Israel's settlement, in Egypt to their exodus and encampment at Mount Sinai.

The book was written in the Hebrew language, and belongs to that class of the Old Testament writings known as the Law.

As to the authorship, this book for ages has been accredited to Moses. He testifies himself that he wrote the book. Ex. 24:4. He says, in speaking of a certain occasion, that he wrote all the words of the Lord. The words spoken of are those contained in the book of Exodus. Christ in citing a passage from Exodus, calls it the "Book of Moses," Mark 12:46. And again in Luke 20:37, He says, "Even as Moses showed at the bush." The New Testament writers in speaking of the Old Testament books ascribe the Law, as having been written by Moses. John 1:17 expressly says, "For the law was given by Moses." Exodus is one of the five books known as the "Five fifths of the Torah," or Law.

It was written between B. C. 1491 and 1451; that is between Israel's exodus from Egypt and the death of Moses. I think we may place the date at 1491, while Israel was encamped at Sinai.

The book opens with the preparation for and the departure of Israel from Egypt. It describes the giving of the divine law and the establishment of Jehovah's dwelling place in the tabernacle. It gives the history of the change, under the divine guidance, of Israel from slaves to a free nation, and in it God was fulfilling His promises made to the patriarchs. The book is an unfolding of God's plan of redemption.

The general scope is to preserve the great facts of Israel's national history in its beginning and the early period following: that is their deliverance, God's love and kindness to them, His preservation of them in the wilderness, the giving of the law, and the establishment of the Hebrew worship of God. It is an outline of man's redemption.

The series of miracles recorded in this book are very illustrious, interesting and instructive. Perhaps no one book in the Bible records such an illustrious series in connection with one man.

The main divisions of Exodus are two: Historical, Chapters 1-18; and Legislative, Chapters 19-38. The first part tells about Israel's deliverance from Egypt, and their journey to Mount Sinai. In this part we read of Israel in Egypt, their oppression, the birth, education and flight of Moses, God's call and commission to Moses, the plagues, the exodus, cross the Red Sea, overthrow of Pharaoh's host, the supply of manna and of water, the battle of Amalek, and Jethro's visit.

In the second part—that is the Legislative—the Lord announces His covenant and the people sanctify themselves, the Mosaic economy is established, directions given for the building of the tabernacle, and instructions concerning the priests.

Here we have given, God's covenant with Israel as a nation, the ten commandments promulgated, directions concerning the tabernacle, its erection, its furniture, the establishment of the Levitical priesthood, with instructions regarding priestly garments and the mode of priestly inauguration. The legislative narrative is broken into by the peoples' sin, and the incidents connected therewith, in the erection and worship of the golden calf. In Exodus the tabernacle is completed, but the consecration of the priests does not take place in the record as made in Exodus, but in Leviticus. Exodus closes with the completion of the tabernacle, and the glory of the Lord filling it. "So Moses finished the work. Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." P. H. FLEMING.

Interstate Y. M. C. A. Convention.

The first Interstate Y. M. C. A. Convention was held in Spartanburg, S. C., Feb. 20-23, 1904. Delegates from Colleges, cities, armies and railroad associations arrived from all parts of each state on the 20th and the kind and hospitable students of Wofford College met us with a hearty handshake and we immediately went to the nice and attractive new Y. M. C. A. building to register and to receive our entertainment cards.

At 8:00 p. m. we assembled in the Sunday school room of the first Presbyterian church and the convention was called to order by Mr. J. W. Simpson, president of last South Carolina convention.

On Sunday, 9:30 a. m. "The Delegates Quiet Hour" in association building was conducted by the able and efficient speaker, Rev. J. A. B. Schearer, Charleston.

The pulpits of the different churches were filled by Y. M. C. A. men at the usual hour for preaching.

One of the most attractive and inspiring meetings was the Mass Meeting for men in the Opera house at 4:00 p. m. led by Mr. C. C. Mitchener, New York. An earnest appeal for men to give up drinking, gambling, profanity and vice was made. Afterwards an invitation to accept Christ was given and several decided to take Christ as their leader, protector and Savior.

On Sunday evening it was our great privilege and pleasure to hear Dr. Henry Van Dyke, of Princeton, N. J. in Converse Female College auditorium.

Monday 9:30 a. m. the convention proper opened in first Presbyterian church, and several able speeches and discussions on most important topics were made.

One of the most important and instructive features of the convention was the four talks on Fundamentals of the Christian life by Dr. Schearer.

The faculty and students of Converse College gave the delegates a very cordial invitation to a reception Monday from 5:30-7:30 p. m. which was accepted with pleasure. After receiving refreshments, we went to the auditorium and heard Dr. Peters perform in beautiful and masterly fashion, on the large pipe organ. The delegates returned thanks by giving the Chatauqua salute.

The platform meeting Monday night, subject "Work among Industrial classes" was conducted by Messrs. H. Q. Williams, Richmond,

and W. D. Weatherford, New York, after which a general offering for the work of the Carolinas was taken, to which we are thankful to the Spartanburg people for their liberal contributions. On Tuesday the association in both states pledged liberally and individual pledges were, also, taken and a motion was made to raise six thousand dollars for the Interstate work.

The closing session was held at 8 p. m. on the 23rd at which Rev. M. D. Hardin, Charlotte, preached the convention sermon and closing exercises were conducted by our faithful, persevering and consecrated general secretary for the Carolinas, Mr. A. G. Knobel.

The convention was a success and I am sure great good will come out of it and that the Spartanburg association will feel a stimulus in its work and that the people will feel it was good to have such a band of Christian workers meet in their city. We are thankful for the warm receptions, so cordially given to us, by the good people of Spartanburg.

F. T. BANKS,
Pres. Elon College Y. M. C. A.

Newport News Letter.

The New York Herald says: "Four steele, double decked ferry-boats, which it is said will mark a distinct advantage over anything before attempted in the ferry service of New York, have been ordered from Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company by the Lackawanna railroad for use in connection with its new Twenty-third street ferry. Each will have a length of 231 feet and steam will be supplied by two Scotch boilers, the horse power being 1,400, and the speed fourteen miles an hour. It is expected that the ferry-boats will be in service within a year."

"The four ferry-boats will be constructed at the same time, being placed tandem on the ways and all four closed together. The boats will cost something like \$200,000 each." So says the "Times-Herald."

A company to engage in the manufacture and sale of Naptha launches and other small crafts is in process of formation here and a plant for the purpose designated will probably be established shortly.

\$20,000 will be set aside for the use of our fire department for next year.

We understand that the Council favor a new City Hall, one step towards ornamenting our city for the Ter-Centenary Exposition in 1907.

By this time, I have no doubt, some think I am becoming worldly-minded. Not so, dear friends. All this and more is good news to 25,000 souls. Ships to build and buildings to erect mean a demand for labor. The demand for labor, means the opening up of a hundred if not more, of now dark and shut-up houses. More labor, more people, and this means fewer empty pews in our churches, more money for the support of the Gospel, and last but not least, your missionaries here will have greater opportunities to break the Bread of Life to hungry and starving souls.

Well what has the fire department to do with the Missionary Association? Much. Our churches, our homes, our own lives, often depend for safety upon the firemen of our city. Scarcely a day or night, but what the alarm is turned in. In sixty seconds, thirteen horses are in their harness, drivers in their seats. In five or ten minutes one of the departments (we have three one in

East end, one down town, one in North end,) is at the fire, with sixty or one hundred pounds of steam.

One glance of the quick eye of the Chief, takes in the situation. If needed the other departments are called. At the first tap of the second alarm, the waiting and trembling horses and firemen are rushing to the scene of destruction. Brave men are these fellows. Magnificent and intelligent are these steeds. In these eager and brave rushes to save life and property, thousands of these brave boys are taken to the hospital or to their homes, from the fire. Many never return to the old engine house. They have sacrificed their lives.

This needs no comment. Strange is it not, how we learn to admire, to love people out side of our own calling, strange, how we become interested in other enterprises. At a glance backward we have but little to do with the out side busy world. But consider. We are a part of all about us, unless it is the brethren who are "separate from them" or who believe in—"Be ye separate and come out from among them." I believe a drop of rain falling from the cloud shakes the earth. I believe that the blast of a whistle disturbs the atmosphere on Mars. I believe a kind word spoken will add to the number of saved souls, while a bad word will add to the number in the bottomless pit. Do you?

Our Sunday school is growing. Notwithstanding the mud the attendance Sunday was good. Church collection \$9.54. Sunday school collection \$2.02. Since my last letter to the Sun I have found five members or have located them, before unknown to me. March 1st the ladies will pay \$50 on our debt. My visiting list is growing all the while. Much sickness. Hardest winter here experienced in twenty years. B. F. BLACK.

Feb. 24, 1904.

Portsmouth Letter.

The severe weather this winter has somewhat broken into our congregations. However the attendance has been fairly good. The interest has been normal and the spiritual tone good. The offerings have been regular and liberal. All financial obligations for the first quarter were duly met. Our people are nobly doing their part by the work here. They are willing to make any necessary sacrifice to carry the work forward. We are trying to help ourselves and will greatly appreciate any encouragement or help that our brethren may find it in their power to give. We are curtailing our lot debt as rapidly as possible. Who finds it in their power to help?

The Ladies Aid Society has purchased a handsome new organ for the church and is working hard to pay for it. The society has been a great help to the church. We greatly appreciate the noble aid they are rendering in the work. I am led to ask how would the churches of the land run without the work of the Ladies? They are always in the majority at the services and ready to give a helping hand in every good work. In this age why do such few men take an active part in the work of the church and in the cause of Christianity? Do they not need the benefits and blessings of the Christian religion as much so as the women?

The Christian religion is designed to help us in this life, as well as to prepare us for the life which is to

come. We need the benefits and blessings of the Christian religion in this present world. This is a world in which mighty force operates against our best interests and highest good and the Christian religion is the only thing that will prepare us to wage a successful warfare against these evil forces. To successfully combat the evil forces of this world, with which we are constantly brought into contact, we need an abundance of the religion of Jesus Christ. The more genuine religion a person has the better it will be for him, the easier it will be for him to overcome the evil. We need never be afraid of getting too much of the religion of Jesus Christ, for His religion is a religion of love and you never knew anybody to love too much. We may take extreme positions on ordinances, beliefs and doctrines, but never on pure, simple Christian love. This religion of love is undoubtedly the most useful and profitable thing that we can possess in this life as well as in the future life. It is profitable to the business man, the professional man, the man of letters, the philosopher, even the politician, the farmer, the house-keeper and to those in all the walks of life. The burdens of many would be so much lighter if they only had in their hearts the religion of Jesus Christ. It helps us to bear the burdens of life and makes us strong for its battles. It is not something that we have to carry, as a load, but something that carries us. It helps us along the way. It is the coming of the divine love into our hearts and lifting us up above sin and inspiring us for the common duties of life. Let us open our hearts and pray that God will flood our lives with the religion of Jesus Christ. Don't be afraid to open your heart to God. J. W. HARRELL.

From the Field.

Since Conference I have filled all my appointments. Communion service was held at Union, Va., the 3rd, Sunday, January, 17th.; at Hank's Chapel the 4th, Sunday, January, 24th, at Bethel and Concord the 1st, Sunday, February, 7th. I am expecting to preach at Ebenezer the 2nd, Sunday, February the 14th. I am pleased with my work and am anxious that much good may be accomplished in all these churches; and that many souls may be saved. May God use both pastor and people to advance his cause, and glorify his name. T. W. STROUD.

Chapel Hill, N. C.

Acknowledgement.

To aid in building a Christian church in Porto Rico. Received of Rev. P. T. Klapp \$5.00. Received of New Hope church (Rev. P. T. Klapp, pastor,) \$2.10. I shall send this seven dollars and ten cents with what was received at Conference for this purpose to the proper officers of the church. I would be glad to give receipts to any who are expecting, or wish to aid in building this church. I wish to send about March 10th. T. W. STROUD.

Chapel Hill, N. C.

The Senate has ratified the American Panama treaty, the same has been signed by Secretary Hay and President Roosevelt. This means, as we understand it, that there can be no further doubt but that the canal will be by the Panama route and that the work will begin at an early date, every obstacle now being removed.