

## Goals for Today

- The Significance of the Exodus for the Israelites and for Christians
- The Formation of the Book
- The Divisions of the Book
- Finding Meaning in the Story

## The significance of an event in the life of a person or a people

- The events get told over and over and passed on to our children
- They are part of our common consciousness
- The past is reinterpreted and the future is formed by the event

### American History

- The American Revolution and Independence Day - Freedom
- Signing of the Constitution and the intentions of the founding Fathers
- Gun Control
- Shooting of John F. Kennedy
- 9/11

### Church History

- The sisters in Waterville
- Vatican II
- The sexual abuse crisis

### Personal History

- A divorce
- An accident

Book of Exodus Class 1 Slides 9 & 10 Transcript

The Significance of the Exodus for the Israelites and for us.

The Significance of an Event in the Life of a Person or a People.

The events get told. When something happens in our family. By the way, this is the Introduction. This is going to set you up for reading the book.

What's important is that though we are going to study the Book of Exodus, we are studying a significant event in the life of the Israelite people. And when you have significant events that happens in your family, they are repeated over and over again. You pass these stories on to your children. They are part of the common consciousness of our experience. The past is reinterpreted and the future is formed by this event.

We call this the "middle time." What I mean by that is when something happens in our life, we then re-interpret the past based on that significant event, and then it forms us in the future. In a negative way, something could be like a terrible divorce. When someone goes through such a terrible experience, all of a sudden, now how they interpret the past gets changed. That's because now this love of his/her life of 10 years ago now is a dirty scoundrel right. And every good thing he/she did didn't matter anymore. And every bad thing he/she did is really big. And that's the way we interpret that and that's just human experience. I am not saying anything that is good or bad about it. It's the way we do all things and then that's how you begins to form us in the future. So you can see where I am going with this. Because that Exodus event was that significant event.

For us as Christians it's going to be the \_\_\_\_\_. What is the big event?! The suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Passion of Jesus changed everything. We reinterpreted the past, the Old Testament gets reinterpreted, reloked at in light of Jesus. And now we have this whole new event and the forward now is based on the suffering, death

and resurrection of Jesus. We call that kind of the middle time. So you do the past, and then it affects your future. And so we keep going back to that past and we keep repeating the stories and we keep reinterpreting the stories over and over and over again about what they mean or us today that happened in my life or in the life of Christians.

So this Exodus was their Israelite event. That's why when you read the rest of the bible, it's like why would Saint Paul talk about Exodus because he is now reading Exodus in light of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. So it's changing the way he sees things. We do that all the time. I think that sometimes when people talk about their faith. They may have had a wonderful, beautiful faith growing up, something happens to them and then now their faith is terrible and we interpret everything as if it was all bad. And now in the future that is what they think. And it's just the way we work as human beings.

The thing we think of is in American history and I gave you some examples (see slide above). The American Revolution and Independence Day. Freedom is what we think about with that. The signing of the Constitution and the intentions of the Founding Fathers, right change the way we see. We keep going back to the Constitution. Gun Control, the shooting of John F. Kennedy which changed everything and people tell the story "where were you when that happened?" 9/11 is of course the most recent one that we reinterpret everything now in the past and the future is all changed because of that event.

I just threw some things in the Church history. The Sisters in Waterville, for those who might have experienced, maybe you remember when they had that man who killed a number of Sisters and paralyzed one. I mean, when I went to go visit with them and we were having dinner

maybe about a year later, that changed the way they lived. I mean it was all they could talk about. And they would even say things “Well, since that event happened and then say something like that because it changed everything for them.

Vatican II, the sexual abuse crisis in the Church.

In our personal history I have a divorce or an accident. The reason why I am focusing on this is because we are not just talking about something that happened in the Israelite life. We are talking about THE thing that happened in the Israelite life. This is equivalent to the suffering, death and the Passover of Jesus Christ for us.