



Re-narrating Scripture:
*Exodus in the Gospel of
Matthew*

Exodus as Paradigm



1. Hamilton: “We roll like Moses, claiming our promised land.”
2. Thomas Hardy: study of Greek and Latin is “a labour like that of Israel in Egypt.”
3. Exodus in Israel’s Scriptures

Exodus as Paradigm



When the LORD has brought you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your ancestors, and has given it to you, ¹² you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your livestock that are males shall be the LORD's. ¹³ But every firstborn donkey you shall redeem with a sheep; if you do not redeem it, you must break its neck. Every firstborn male among your children you shall redeem. ¹⁴ When in the future your child asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall answer, 'By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵ When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human firstborn to the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD every male that first opens the womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem.' ¹⁶ It shall serve as a sign on your hand and as an emblem on your forehead that by strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt. (Exodus 13:11-16, NRSV)

Exodus Themes in Matthew



1. Moses and Israel
2. Redemption
3. Wilderness and Torah
4. Tabernacle / Temple

Moses and Israel: Matthew 2



1. “Those who sought the child’s life are dead” (Matt 2:20; Exod 4:19)
2. “Out of Egypt I’ve called my son” (Matt 2:15; Hos 11:1)

Moses and Israel: Matthew 4



1. “Fasting for forty days and nights”
(Matt 4:2; LXX Exod 34:28)
2. Moses as a representative figure for
Israel

Redemption: Matthew 1 and 26



1. Two references to the “exile” or “deportation” in the genealogy (Matt 1:11-12)
2. The “blood of the covenant” (Matt 26:28; Exod 24:8)

Wilderness Safety and Provision: Matthew 14 and 15



1. “The Lord drove back the sea” (Matt 14:22-33; Exod 14:21)
2. Feeding the crowds (Matt 14:15-21; 15:32-39; Exod 16:1-18)

Wilderness Safety and Provision: Matthew 14 and 15

5000 Fed (Mt. 14.15-21)	4000 Fed (Mt. 15.32-39)	Echoing of Exodus
In a 'deserted' (ἔρημος) place (14.15)	In a 'deserted' (ἐρημία) place (15.33)	In the 'desert' of Sin (ἔρημος) Exod. 16.1, 3; LXX)
People have no food (14.15)	People have no food (15.32)	People have no food (Exod. 16.3)
Five loaves and two fish (14.17)	Seven loaves and a few fish (15.34)	Manna and quail (Exod. 16.13-14)
All ate and were full (14.20)	All ate and were full (15.37)	All had what they needed (Exod. 16.18)

Torah: Matthew 5–7 and 15



1. “You have heard it said ... but I say to you.” (Matt 5–7)
2. The Decalogue (e.g., Matt 15:4; Exod 20:12; 21:16)

Tabernacle / Temple: Matthew 17, 23, 27



1. The Temple Tax (Matt 17:24-27; Exod 30:13-16)
2. Swearing by the temple and gold (Matt 23:16; Exod 25–39) and the altar (Matt 23:18-19)
3. The veil (Matt 27:50-51; Exod 26:33)

Presence: Matthew 1 and 28



1. “God with us” (Matt 1:23)
2. “I am with you always” (Matt 28:20)

Conclusion



Matthew portrays Jesus as Israel's representative who comes out of Egypt into (the land of) restoration, highlighting the new exodus that brings restoration from exile and covenant renewal through Jesus' missional death. *Matthew* characterizes Jesus as the authentic interpreter of Torah, who presses toward a higher ethic implicit in it (clarifying it via the prophets) and teaches his followers to live out covenant loyalty fully. Jesus also mirrors Yahweh's role of rescue and provision and, ultimately, fulfills the divine promise of presence: 'I am with you always, even to the end of the age' (28.20b).

