

from chapter 11:27 to the end of Genesis. Isaac overlaps with both of them.

Joseph's life runs from Genesis 37 to 50. We do not have a single chapter which deals only with the life of Joseph, but there is a great deal about Joseph in the course of these fourteen chapters, and he is one of the outstanding characters of the book.

These four men from four successive generations are the ones around which the history can be clustered for character study. For understanding God's dealings with humanity and for useful lessons for practical life there is no more interesting part of the Bible than this. There are also many interesting problems connected with it. In a course on Old Testament history one is always tempted to spend a whole year on this section, but we should restrict ourselves so as to cover other sections also.

C. The Deliverance from Egypt (Exodus 1-18)

I suggest dividing this section into three parts: 1) *Preparation for Deliverance*, chapters 1-4. This tells of the condition of the Israelites needing deliverance and of the preparation of Moses to be the deliverer. 2) *The Contest with Pharaoh*, chapters 5-12:36. This is the account of Moses' call to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt and the contest with Pharaoh. It includes nearly eight chapters, finally reaching its climax in the Passover, where God kills Pharaoh's first-born son and Pharaoh orders the people to get out of his sight and to leave Egypt as they had been urging him to permit them to do. Though the contest with Pharaoh ends here, it has an aftermath in chapter 14 where Pharaoh pursues them into the wilderness, which we will include in section 3. 3) *The Journey to Sinai*, 12:37-19:2. This is part of the deliverance from Egypt. They were not entirely delivered from Egypt until they had gone a sizable distance. They were in its shadow until they reached Sinai, where they were at last out of the area of Egyptian influence. The account of the journey from Egypt to Sinai is proof, of course, of the deliverance from Pharaoh when he pursued them, including the deliverance at the Red Sea.