

The background is a dark blue gradient with a starry, nebula-like texture. On the left side, there are several overlapping circular elements. A prominent one is a large white arc with a scale from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. Other circles include dashed lines, solid lines, and arrows, some pointing inward and some outward, creating a sense of motion and complexity.

# “OUT OF SLAVERY”

THE BIBLE AND ITS INFLUENCE

AARON TESTANI

ENGL-115 SEC 01

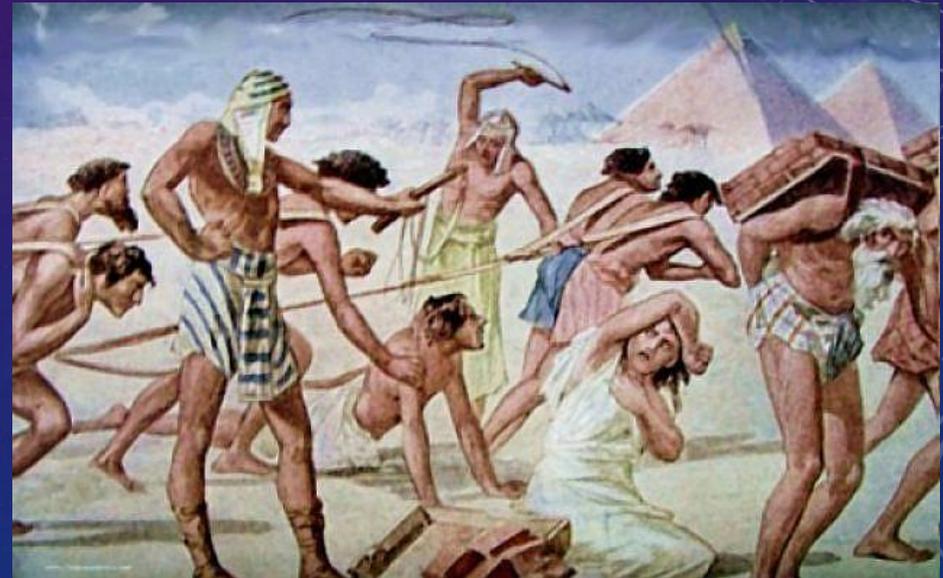
# EXODUS; THE CONTINUING OF GENESIS

- Follows the story of Jacob's descendants in Egypt
- Themes:
  - Oppression
  - Exile
  - Liberation
  - Journey Home
- Described as a classic narrative, with a beginning, middle, and end; problem, struggle, resolution



# FROM BONDAGE, TO PROMISED LAND

- The tale follows the story of the Israelites and their liberation out of Egypt, escaping Pharaoh, into the promised land
  - From Egypt, to Canaan
- The story inspires the hope for freedom or liberation, for all
  - American Revolution; escaping the power of King George (*British Pharaoh*)
  - Mormon migration to Utah
  - Underground Railroad



# MOSES

- One of the greatest leaders and prophets of the scriptures
  - Liberated from persecution as a baby
  - Kills an Egyptian in defense of a Hebrew;
    - Would not stand idly by; heroic
  - Defends his wife (to be) and her sisters from harassment, and continues to water their flock
- Goes from a Prince to Shepherd
  - An odd transformation in which he ends up having more power than Pharaoh



# BURNING BUSH

- Moses responds to God's call, which is coming from Mt. Horeb
- God is in the form of a burning bush
  - Representation of God's ability to take any form; defies reality

"I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." (Ex. 3:6)

- God promotes Moses as his representative and prophet, and will be sent to Pharaoh to demand the release of the Hebrews
  - Claims to hear the suffering of the Hebrews, and will fulfill his promise of the promise land
- To make up for Moses's poor speech, God appoints Aaron to be Moses's spokesperson



# GOD REVEALS HIS IDENTITY

- “God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you’” (Ex. 3:14)
  - One of the most puzzling quotes of the Bible
  - What does it mean?
  - Purposely ambiguous?



# PHARAOHS HARDENED HEART

- Because God would not hear Moses's plea, and because God would harden his heart – Egypt would suffer 10 plagues
  - The final plague was the death of the first born son
  - Magicians would attempt to reproduce the plagues, but ultimately determined the plagues to be the work of God
  - Plagues deliberately contradicted the powers of Egyptian gods
    - Darkening of the Sun – Ra the Sun God



# PASSOVER

- A tradition that has been carried on to remember the last plague which made Pharaoh finally drive the Israelites out of Egypt
- The Israelites must sacrifice their most perfect lamb, and use the blood to mark their homes
  - God's plague (death of the first born son) would PASSOVER the marked homes, and only target those which were unmarked



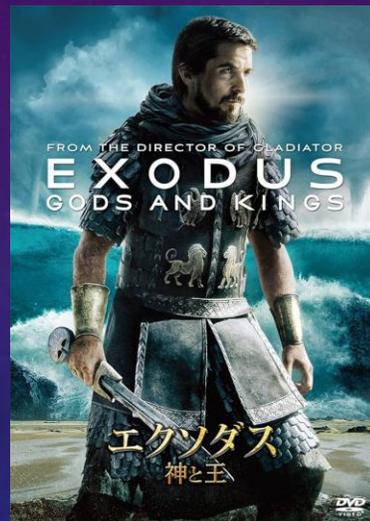
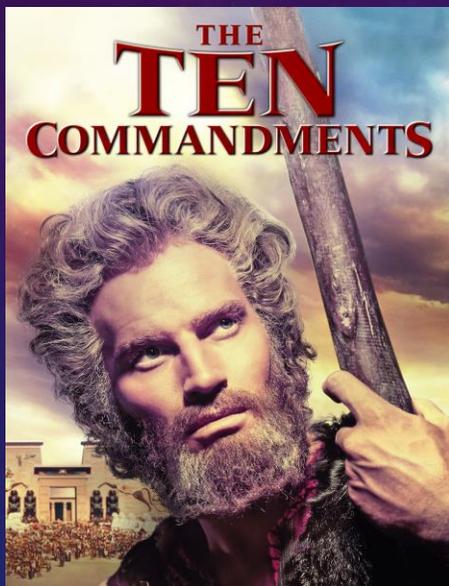
# PARTING THE RED SEA

- God followed the Israelites out of Egypt as a cloud (day), and as a pillar of fire (night)
  - Important symbolism: protecting the Israelites in the wilderness from the rays of the sun, and lights their way to move through the night
- Israelites become trapped between the Red Sea, and their pursuers
- Reminding the Israelites to have faith, Moses reached out with his hand, and God divided the waters for safe passage
  - The water closed on the Egyptians
- The state of having once been captive under the Egyptians, is the basis of compassion for strangers



# RETELLING

The Ten Commandments (1956)  
Starring Charlton Heston



Exodus: Gods and Kings  
(2014)  
Starring Christian Bale

The Prince of Egypt (1998)  
Starring Val Kilmer

