

# Structure and Message in the Book of Exodus

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The book of Exodus is  
predominantly narrative.

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## *Narrative Arc*

the overall direction and message  
of the book as it unfolds through  
the sequence of events, dialogue,  
and summary statements that  
comprise the narrative.

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## Narrative as Literature

- Understanding the narrative arc
  - Character role & development
  - Conflict and resolution
  - Event, dialogue, & summary
  - Relating the individual units to the broader narrative framework

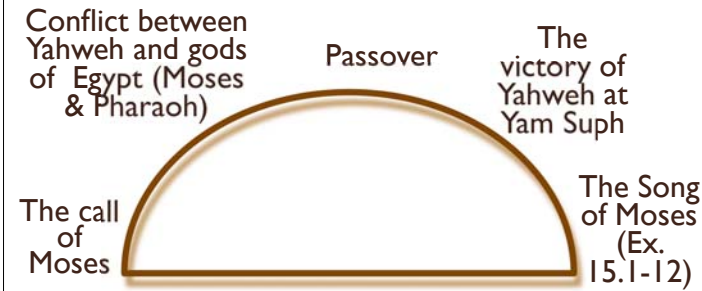
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## Narrative as Theology

- Meaning communicated through:
  - Revelation of character
  - Defining events (character/crisis)
  - Direct expression (dialogue & summary)
  - Organization & juxtaposition of elements

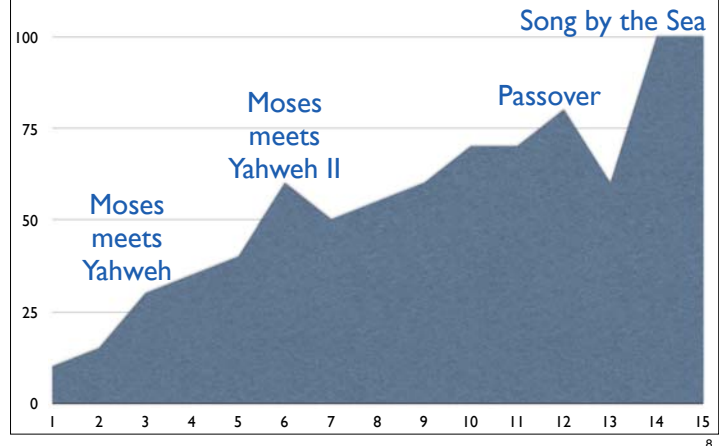
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## Chs. 1-15: Narrative Arc



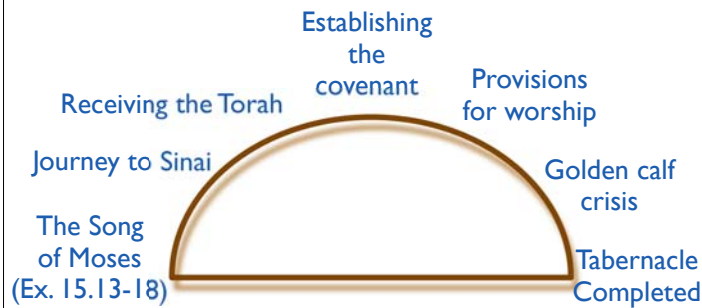
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## Chs. 1-15: Dramatic Tension



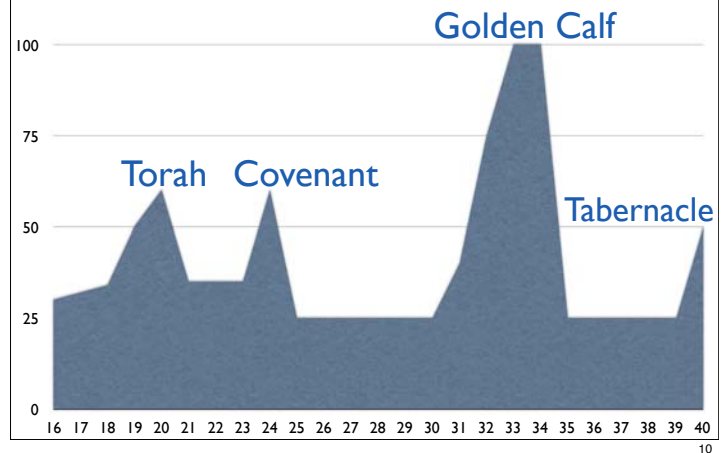
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## Chs. 16-40: Narrative Arc



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## Chs. 16-40: Dramatic Tension



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## Dramatic Tension

It is crucial not to confuse dramatic tension with theological importance.

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