

# EXODUS FOR ATHEISTS

The Israelite Exodus from Egypt and Conquest of Canaan

Presented by: Norm Cohen

Three Tuesdays: October 4, 11, and 18, 2022

9:30 a.m. – noon

Montecito Covenant Church, 671 Cold Spring Road, Santa Barbara



Moses (Michelangelo, 1513–15)

The bible has been one of the foundational documents of western civilization for two millennia. We still take civil oaths with bible under hand. In the last century, new discoveries in archeology, languages, and anthropology of the ancient middle east have forced a reevaluation of the bible and its meanings.

The Old Testament account of the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, their wanderings through the wilderness, and their conquest of Canaan includes numerous details—theological, political, historical, and social—that are difficult to reconcile with what we can infer from other written sources. Who wrote that account and when? Is the narrative historically reliable? When did it happen—if ever? What people and how many were involved? How was Canaan “conquered”? Is Moses a historical figure? What was the purpose of the original author(s), and who was the intended audience?

CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE →

PLEASE REVIEW THE STATEMENT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS FLYER REGARDING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS.

----- Preferred registration deadline\*: September 27, 2022 -----

\*Early enrollment helps us with our planning; also, those who register by the preferred deadline will be given priority in case of over-enrollment.

## Enrollment form: Exodus for Atheists

Tuesdays, October 4, 11, and 18, 2022

VISTAS members \$40; non-members \$60

- **EITHER pay online** on our website by secure credit card through PayPal:  
<https://www.vistaslifelonglearning.org/current-courses>
- **OR mail this form** and your check to: VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc.  
P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara CA 93121

Number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*It is understood that attendance is limited to those who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19.*

This presentation will explore these and related issues. The orientation will be a treatment of the biblical text in the same way scholars might treat any complex work of historical literature that is the product of several authors who lived at different times and wrote with differing purposes.

The seminar is not intended to challenge anyone's religious beliefs, nor to proselytize.

*Norm Cohen received a B.A. in chemistry at Reed College followed by an M.A. in mathematics and a Ph.D. in chemistry at UC Berkeley. From 1963 to 1996 he worked as a research chemist at Aerospace Corp. in El Segundo. After he and his family relocated to Portland, he taught general freshman chemistry and environmental science at several different local colleges and universities. Concurrently his growing interest in traditional music, mainly American, led to half a dozen books, more than 50 book chapters and journal articles, and the editing of some two dozen albums of various genres of American traditional music. During the past 15 years he has been exploring different topics in biblical literature, which has led to over a dozen different seminars on various aspects of both the Old and New Testaments, mostly in Green Valley, AZ, but also for OLLI at CSU-CI.*



### IMPORTANT COVID-19 POLICY

The health and safety of our attendees and their families are of utmost importance to us. **Accordingly, we are limiting attendance to those who are fully vaccinated.** Proof of vaccinations and boosters (digital Covid-19 Vaccination Card or a photo of your printed card) must be sent to our business manager via email ([vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org](mailto:vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org)) or text (805-967-6030). All participants may also be asked to show vaccination status on the first day of each course in case our records are incomplete. This needs to be done only once—your proof of vaccination will remain valid for all VISTAS events. Please note that applicable local mask mandates may apply to VISTAS in-person, indoor gatherings.

## VISTAS Calendar

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE; for up-to-date information, visit our website ([VistasLifelongLearning.org](http://VistasLifelongLearning.org)) frequently!**

Course / Event	Date(s)	Time	Venue
Annual Fall Picnic	Sunday, September 18	12:30 pm	Tucker's Grove
New Fiction Book Club / Diane Wolf	3rd Thursday monthly	10:00 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Monday Nonfiction Book Club / Dawn McGrew	4th Monday monthly	1:30 pm	Via Zoom
Vanishing Homelands / Jim Hemmer	Wed. Sept. 14, 21, 28	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Puccini's <i>Tosca</i> / Bob Weinman	Tues. Sep. 20	9:30 am	Via Zoom
Propositions on Nov. Ballot / Ted Anagnoson	Thurs. Sep. 22, 29	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Ch. + Zoom
<b>Exodus for Atheists / Norm Cohen</b>	<b>Tues. Oct. 4, 11, 18</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Montecito Covenant Church</b>
Poliomyelitis Vaccinations / Bruce Phillips	Tues. Oct. 25	9:30 am	Montecito Covenant Ch. + Zoom
Casa del Herrero / David DeSelm & Pat Sheppard	Thurs. Oct. 27	1:00 pm	Bethany Congreg. Church
Food in History / Larry Canepa	Wed. Nov. 2	10:00 am	Via Zoom
Our Moon / Peter Beuret	Mon. Nov. 7	9:30 am	Montecito Covenant Church
Beyond Impressionism / Lori Windsor Mohr	Fri. Nov. 11	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Pirates! / Peter Beuret	Wed. Nov. 16	9:30 am	Montecito Covenant Church
Post-Election Analysis / Ted Anagnoson	Fri. Nov. 18	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Ch. + Zoom
Fellini Films / Mort Weisman	Wed. Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28	9:30 am	Maravilla Theater
Journey to Jordan / David DeSelm	Thurs. Dec. 1, 8	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Ch. + Zoom
Future Perfect / Douglas W. Stowell	Tues. Dec. 6	10:00 am	Via Zoom