

Out of Bondage onto Promise

Exodus 1:1-22

- The Book of Exodus is the record of Israel's birth as a nation, and like any nation its going to go through some sever birth pains. The Word Exodus literally means "**the road out**" as "**Ex**" means "**out of**" and "**Hodus**" means "**road or way**". Since Egypt is a type of the world we see how God will make a way for His people to get out from under the vice grip that the world has upon us.

V1-22

- **V1-6** the first six verses reach back some four hundred and thirty years since Joseph has breathed his last, and since a generation was between **20yrs– 30yrs** depending on the cultures determination when a child has become a man capable of fighting and dying for his nation. So between **14-19** generations have passed since Jacob first traveled into Egypt with his sons and daughter and their families, a whole lot has changed and now things are about to get worse.
- The first words of the book "**Now these are the names**" are the title of "**Exodus**" in the Hebrew tradition, it shows how personal God is. Not numbers, or notches in a computer card, but names, Jesus said in **Jn 10:3-** "**He calls His own sheep by their names and leads them out**", this is fitting here as the Israelites came down to Egypt as "**Shepherds**" only to end up as slaves. But God, "**The Good Shepherd**" has plans to lead them out into a future that He has promised.
- Both Jacob and Joseph asked not to be buried in Egypt, Jacob's children complied immediately taking him to Canaan to be buried, Joseph's children would do the same but not until they've all left Egypt together, for that to happen its going to take some supernatural acts from God in order to first get the attention of Israel, certain individuals, and finally the Pharoah himself.
- Finally before we get too deep in our study, remember **Genesis was all about man > his creation, his sin, his near destruction-** by the flood, and **his need for God. Exodus is all about God, His character, His attributes, and His Redemptive plan.** In Genesis it **revealed man's need**, now in Exodus **we see God's answer to that need**, as we observe God moving and intervening, removing and raising up people to put in strategic places in order to accomplish His will.
- **V7** it is a fulfillment of **Gen 22:17-** where God spoke this to Abraham, and repeated in **Gen 32:12** by Jacob- showing that this promise had been handed down from Grandfather to Grandson. So it has been at least six hundred years from the time Abraham first heard this promise until the nation of Israel are actually seeing it come to fruition, as God's timing is not our timing. It reminds me of **2Pet 3:3-9** where were warned not to give in to the thinking that since a promise of God seems to be taking a long time to happen that it means scripture has misspoken.

- Israel started out with 5 people “Jacob” “Leah”, “Rachel”, “Bilhah”, “Zilpah”, then according to **Gen 46:27** when they entered into Egypt they had 70 people. By the time they will be numbered in the book of Numbers after they come out of Egypt they have **600,000** men of fighting age, meaning if you add the women, children and elderly, they have roughly **2.4 million** people. No wonder when Egypt looked at them they didn’t see a blessing and a fulfilment of God’s promise they saw a threat, so a scheme is hatched to control put them in bondage unbeknownst to them
- **V8-11** this is always Satan’s way “**to deal shrewdly**” with us, that means to outsmart, History tells us that many dynasties had come and gone after Joseph died, and during the **15th** dynasty the “Hyksos” dynasty took over and their ancestry was like Israel foreigners-strangers, so they had sympathy upon them and allowed them to prosper, but after them the **17th** dynasty was Egyptian and their rulers expelled foreigners from the land, but when they saw Israel and their numbers instead of expelling them they enslaved them in an attempt to prosper from them.
- Israel should have expected this at some point because God told Abraham that this would happen > **Gen 15:13**- but in the midst of prosperity its easy to forget what God has promised. So what does God use to get His people to prepare to do His will “affliction” this is never meant to “**destroy us**” people, but it is used to “**grow us**”. **V12** notice the more they “**afflicted them**” the more that God “**grew them**” as the more Satan attacks the closer we should come To God.
- Let me describe what “**Affliction**” is, they simply are “**troubles**” challenging circumstances, unpleasant situations, difficult people in your life, physical or emotional abuse. Troubles are a fact of life that we all experience, sometimes we are called to endure them, and other times we are allowed to take action to resolve them, but were never to try and do whatever we can to either avoid them or get out from under them, because then we’ll never grow from them.
- **V13-14** their fear of them caused them to oppress them even more, so they used the threat of national security to get everyone on board as to why they needed to be treated this way. Hitler did the same thing throughout Europe, he sold people on the idea that the Jews were a national security threat and therefore they needed to first monitor them and eventually enslave them. This allowed the Egyptians to have a free workforce as the enslaved Jews became an economic asset, as they helped build the supply cities of Pithom and Ramamses, Germany did the same thing, as they used the Jews to help build their war effort up by becoming a free labor force.
- **V15-16** when that didn’t work the next thing was “genocide” lets just kill them off, this is the first time we see Satan tell his followers to kill off the male children of Israel why? This is an effort to stop the Messiah from ever entering the world, Satan knew Jesus was coming, and he couldn’t do anything about it except try and disrupt How God said He’d arrive. Since Jesus was coming through the Jews Satan thought maybe he could kill off enough to stop Him. In **2 Kings 11** Athaliah was used to try and Kill off the male heirs as Satan knew Jesus would come from the line of David, and in the NT he tried to kill him off as a baby before He started His public ministry

- **V17-21** the midwives feared the Lord and didn't do what the Egyptians asked, and they were brought before Pharaoh, and they said "the children were being born before they could arrive". This is the first instance of "civil disobedience" refusal to obey an evil law as it opposes God Word, if you are asked to follow anything that goes against or will misrepresent the Lord then our responsibility is to God and not man. If this plan worked then Pharaoh would have been used to wipe out the Hebrew People and that was not going to happen on God's watch.
- So he raised up some people who put God before themselves, as what they were doing could cause them and their families to lose their lives. God bless the "**Shiphrah** and **Puah**", people we don't necessary see as heroes of the faith but God uses as examples that we even under the most difficult of circumstances should always do the will of God for the purposes of God. **V22** Pharaoh reiterates that he expects all male Hebrew children to die even sacrificed to the Crocs.