

50+ Class – All Saints Presbyterian Church
Winter-Spring 2021
Life of Moses
Week 1 – Foreign Oppression

Introduction

Background

Genesis 15

And [God] brought [Abram] outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your **offspring** be.”⁶ And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as **righteousness**.⁷ And he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this **land** to possess.” ...¹³ Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ...¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the **iniquity of the Amorites** is not yet complete.” ...¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a **covenant** with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”

God of Covenant

Life of Joseph

Genesis 46.31, 33-34

Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, “I will go up and tell Pharaoh and will say to him, ‘My brothers and my father's household, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me.’³² And the men are **shepherds**, for they have been **keepers of livestock**, and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.’³³ When Pharaoh calls you and says, ‘What is your occupation?’³⁴ you shall say, ‘Your servants have been **keepers of livestock** from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,’ in order that you may dwell in the land of Goshen, for every shepherd is an **abomination to the Egyptians**.”

Genesis 47.5-6

⁵ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Your father and your brothers have come to you.⁶ The land of Egypt is before you. Settle your father and your brothers in **the best of the land**. Let them settle in the land of *Goshen*, and if you know any able men among them, put them in charge of my livestock.”

Genesis 50.18-21, 24-26

¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.”¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. ...

²⁴ And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but **God will visit you and bring you up out of this land** to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." ²⁵ Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." ²⁶ So Joseph died, being *110 years old*. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Exodus 1.1-7

These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, ³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, ⁴ Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. ⁵ All the descendants of Jacob were **seventy** persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. ⁶ Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. ⁷ But the people of Israel were **fruitful** and increased greatly; they **multiplied** and grew **exceedingly strong**, so that the land was **filled** with them.

Life of Israel After Joseph

Exodus 1.8-14

⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who **did not know Joseph**. ⁹ And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and **too mighty for us**. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹ Therefore they set **taskmasters** over them to afflict them with **heavy burdens**. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. ¹² But the more they were **oppressed**, the more they **multiplied** and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were **in dread** of the people of Israel. ¹³ So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as **slaves** ¹⁴ and made their lives **bitter with hard service**, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

God's people suffer experiences without explanation. (Isaiah 55.8)

Exodus 1.15-22 – Genocide

¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt said to the **Hebrew midwives**, one of whom was named **Shiphrah** and the other **Puah**, ¹⁶ "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the *birthstool*, **if it is a son**, you shall **kill him**, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?" ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people **multiplied and grew** very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh **commanded all** his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast **into the Nile**, but you shall let every daughter live."

Progression:

Suspicion → Derision/Disdain → Threat → Dread → Prejudice → Persecution → Genocide

What brought this about?

Amnesia

Fear

Arrogance

Assessment of the Midwives

What they did

What Scripture teaches

More Lessons for Today

Exodus 2.23-25

The people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. ²⁴And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

God's promises will last thru any hardship.

Exodus 3.7-8

⁷Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

God sees your trials. His care for you *will* respond in His timing.

To survive inevitable days of darkness, the faith of God's people must mature

Trusting Faith

Expectant Faith

Patient Faith

Q & A / Discussion

Next Week: *Born, Hidden & Found* – Exodus 2