

Exodus 1 - Thursday, July 10th, 2008

- Genesis started with creation but ends with a coffin, as Exodus begins with slavery but ends with salvation.
- There is believed to be a time gap of many years between Genesis and Exodus, as Israel's descendents are growing rapidly.
- The name "Exodus" (Exit) means "going out," which is the redemptive theme of the book in that God brings his people out of Egypt.
- The author of the book is Moses. This cannot be disputed because Jesus quote's passages in Exodus and attributes them to Moses.

1 Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; 3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; 4 Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. 5 All those who were descendants of Jacob were seventy persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already). 6 And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. 7 But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

- Again, everything is going according to God's schedule in the sense that Israel is growing from a family to a nation in Egypt's womb.
- Notice how their growth is described: "they were fruitful ...increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty."
- This seems to indicate that this growth was not just natural but perhaps even supernatural in that God blessed the fruit of their womb.

"Thus the ancient covenant that Abraham's seed should be many, received its first fulfillment. God is not unmindful of his promises."

Charles Spurgeon

8 Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; 10 come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land."

- So now there's a new king in town, so to speak, and he doesn't know about Joseph, nor does he care what Joseph did for Egypt.
- He's concerned that the Israelites are growing too large and too fast and becoming a threat to the Egyptians should they go to war.
- He decides to deal harshly with them so they don't overtake them in the event their enemies to the north, the Hittites, were to attack.

11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses. 12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. 13 So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. 14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage -- in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.

- The Israelites are afflicted with harsh slavery and built many monuments in Egypt during what some believe was as many as 284 years.
- Notice that the more they're afflicted, the more they grew. As bitter and hard as this is, everything is still going according to God's plan.
- This harsh treatment may have seemed to work in its attempt to keep the Israelites down, as it were, but it won't succeed in the end.

"This was with the view of degrading them, crushing their spirit, and lessening their vigor, but the cruel device succeeded not. No weapon can prosper against the Lord's chosen. Hard labor is after all less injurious than pampered indolence. Better slave in a brick-kiln than canker in laziness."

Charles Spurgeon

15 Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; 16 and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live."

- Since "Plan A" failed, he now implements "Plan B"; kill all the newborn boys, the newborn girls can live, but not the newborn boys.
- Again, Pharaoh is trying to destroy the Israelites by eliminating all the males. By doing this he could succeed within one generation.

"Murder was thus called in to make an end of the elect people, but it was in vain. The Lord of Israel was greater than the King of Egypt, and proved more than a match for all his plots and plans."

Charles Spurgeon

17 But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive.

- The midwives feared God more than they did Pharaoh and did not do as they had been commanded to, but saved the male children.
- We don't know how they saved the babies, but as we'll see shortly, God seemingly intervenes on their behalf honoring their obedience.
- This brings up an interesting question, does there ever come a time when we should disobey the law of the land? What about Romans?

Romans 13:1-5 1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. 4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. NIV

Acts 4:18-20 18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. 20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." NIV

Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! NIV

- So, let's try to answer this question of; "does there ever come a time when we should disobey the law of the land?" Yes, sometimes!
- Let me explain; if there ever comes a time when the government tells us to do something that goes against God, we obey God not man.
- We should never put the laws of the land over God's Word. If obeying the laws of the land means disobeying God, I have to obey God.

18 So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?" 19 And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them."

- They are not lying here. They're likely telling the truth in that they were probably unable to get to them in time before they were born.
- Perhaps there was something supernatural in God's timing of the births that thwarted the evil plan of man against God Himself.

20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. 21 And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.

- This seems to further indicate that they didn't lie because God blesses them for the bold stand against Pharaoh and their integrity.
- Midwives were midwives because they were barren and childless, but God now opens their womb and gifts them with children.
- He did this because they feared God. The Proverbs tell us what the fear of the Lord is, and the midwives certainly demonstrated it.

Proverbs 8:13a To fear the LORD is to hate evil; NIV

22 So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

- Seeing as how Plan A and Plan B failed, he now has to go to Plan C; have all the boys cast into the Nile river to their certain death.
- It's interesting that the water of the Nile River won't end up killing the Israelites, but the water of the Red Sea will kill the Egyptians.

- Pharaoh is Satanically inspired and even demon possessed in his attempt to wipe out all the Israelites, and the Devil hasn't given up.
- Satan knows that the Messiah, (the Seed of the Woman, Genesis 3:15) will come from the children of Israel and "crush his head."

1. Satan demonically possessed this Pharaoh to kill all the new born males by having them thrown into the alligator infested Nile.
2. Satan demonically possessed Haman to get the King to issue an edict so as to destroy all the Jews in the book of Esther.
3. Satan demonically possessed King Herod to have all the boys killed so as to wipe out Jesus who had just been born.
4. Satan demonically possessed Adolph Hitler to mercilessly murder over six million Jews in the Holocaust of the last century.
5. Satan demonically possessed Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who is currently planning to destroy Israel and wipe her off the map.

Things I've learned from just the first chapter of Exodus:

1. God will always provide and keep His Word in His promise to us as He does when He blesses, prospers and multiplies the Israelites.
2. Like Pharaoh and Egypt, a picture of the world, man will forget the goodness of God, even rewriting history so as to eliminate God.
3. The powers of darkness are more afraid of, and threatened by us than we should ever be of them, as we are "mightier" than they are.
4. Like the Israelites; the more we are afflicted, the more we multiply and grow, which creates more "dread," to the kingdom of darkness.
5. Sometimes God has to allow us to go through unspeakably difficult trials, tribulations, and afflictions so we'll want to leave this Egypt.
6. No plan "A, B, or C" will ever prevail over us. We win in the end, because God can take what is against us, and work it for us.
7. Like the midwives, sometimes I will have to choose between obeying God rather than men, fearing and pleasing God instead of man.
8. God will bless us when we obey Him, especially when we put our lives on the line, like the midwives did risking their lives, fearing God.
9. When we choose to obey God like the midwives, He may intervene, even providing a protective environment conducive to obedience.
10. The persecution of God's people; is a validation that they are God's people. The world hates us, because it first hated Jesus.