

# A Culture in Chaos and a Baby is Born

## Exodus 1

**OPENING ILLUSTRATION:** Let's take a moment and get our cultural bearings.

- A great plague has swept across the entire world killing over 151 Million humans and in nations like India that rate continues to increase.
- Our southern boarder has been labeled a crisis by President Biden.
- Issues of Gender fluidity have effected everything from the definition of marriage to little league baseball.
- Racial and Ethnic controversies lead the news now more than they did in the 60's
- With the shifting of the balance of the Supreme Court - the issue of Abortion once again rages.

One might wonder why we would turn our attention to The book of Exodus chronicles events that took place well over 3000 years ago in the year 1446BC, considering the cultural chaos of the modern age.

The late Physicist **Stephen Hawking** is known for describing the Bible and stories like those found in Exodus as a series Adult ***Fairy Tales***.

You will see in this study that we are not one paragraph into the book, till the similarities with our own culture is eerily familiar.

*Notice first of all...*

## 1. A Failed Remembrance

### Exodus 1:1–22 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: <sup>2</sup> Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, <sup>3</sup> Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, <sup>4</sup> Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. <sup>5</sup> All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt.

In Hebrew, the book begins with the word, “AND”...And these are the names...It is highly unorthodox to begin a piece of literature with the conjunction, “and”, but Moses under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit did just that. Why would he do such a thing? Very simply to emphasize the fact that, it is virtually impossible to correctly understand Exodus without first grasping the book of Genesis.

**The story of Genesis we associate with Creation, those long debated first three chapters.**

- God Creates the world in absolute perfection.
- Sin and Rebellion is introduced through the original sin.

- The subsequent chapters illustrate the curse of sin, and mankind absolute inability to deal with it on the human plane, we see that long, never ending parade of death, from Able onward.
- We see God destroying the Earth with a flood, and one seemingly righteous man spared along with his family - Noah. Perhaps Noah will set right all that has gone wrong, but then what do we see? He's hardly on dry land until he is drunk - humiliating himself in front of his perverted son.

***The force and primary purpose of Genesis comes later in chapter 12*** with the **call of Abram**. Abram, minding his own business in Ur of Chaldeans is visited by God with a command and a grand and glorious promise:

### **Genesis 12:1–3 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

***In a sense, the rest of the Bible is written to explain how God kept that promise, ultimately in the seed of Abram, the Lord Jesus Christ.***

The Call and Covenant with Abram, later called Abraham is a KEY turning point in the biblical narrative.

- In his old age God gives Abraham a son in Issac.
- Then he blesses Issac with Jacob.
- Then things get really interesting when Jacob has 12 sons who would become the 12 tribes of Israel.

The book of Genesis concludes with an amazing story of God's Providence as Joseph is sold into slavery, but rises to become Prime Minister in the land of Egypt and saves, not only Egypt, but also Israel from a world wide famine.

GENESIS ends with a verse reminding us, this story is not over:

### **Genesis 50:24–26 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> 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."

Notice the through back to the promise to Abraham. That cannot be fulfilled in Egypt.

<sup>25</sup> Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." <sup>26</sup> So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Incidentally, the fact that Joseph was embalmed and buried in the custom of the Egyptians was significant. He was buried in a way that his body would be preserved for millennia.

**But notice what happens in verse 8 of Exodus 1...**

**Exodus 1:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

400 years had passed from the time Joseph entered the land, to the arising of this New King who did not know that story. 400 years, almost twice as long as our nation has existed.

Throughout this book one of the oft repeated commands is the command to **REMEMBER**. As a matter of fact, the command to remember is found throughout scripture. When we take **communion** we are told to do this in **REMEMBRANCE** of Him.

Mankind has always recognized the remarkable value of HISTORY. Early man developed a extremely accurate form of **Oral Tradition** and **Storytelling** that captured a story at times better than the written word. But then came the advent of **written language** and history was speared with the point of a pen.

Writing, Guarding, and Studying History has been the practice of great civilizations from the Early Egyptians to the British Empire. That is, until recently...

**According to the New York Times**, *"Fewer than half of American teenagers who were asked basic history questions knew when the Civil War was fought, and one in four said Columbus sailed to the New World some time after 1750. About a quarter of the teenagers were unable to correctly identify Hitler as Germany's chancellor in World War II, instead identifying him as a munitions maker, an Austrian premier."*

Add to that - a desire to **rewrite** or even **erase** some history all together.

**Joseph** was a National hero in Egyptian history - but he was completely forgotten in 400 years.

The new Pharaoh didn't see the descendants of Joseph as Egyptian friends and allies, he saw a potential slave labor force, and if not properly controlled a potential threat to national security.

*Not only was there a FAILED REMEMBRANCE...*

## **2. A Forced Reality**

Where history is erased - **social experimentation** is essential. When we don't have history to learn from so we must create little segments of history to quickly and often

inaccurately draw conclusions from. In other words we must perform social experiments.

What we will see in the following verses in the Governments attempt to Force or shape reality - Progressively Pharaoh will try to control the number of hebrews in Egypt, treating them more like an animal that can be domesticated rather than people made in the image of God.

### Exodus 1:9–11 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> 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.” <sup>11</sup> Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses.

Evangelicals tend to miss what is happening here. The **OPPRESSION** of Israel was an attempt to **SUPPRESS** their fertility. Control the numbers.

We know that because of the next verse- -

But Kings change and Laws follow -

<sup>12</sup> ***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. <sup>13</sup> So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves <sup>14</sup> 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.

So Egypt is literally turning up the heat on the Jews. Making the work absolutely unbearable. It says, “their lives were bitter”.

Has anyone ever hated you, or feared you to such a degree that they seek to make your life **bitter**? There have been a few close calls, but I can't imagine anything to this degree of hatred. But while you might could handle it - suppose someone were treating your father this way, or your mother? That is the world into which Moses will be born.

<sup>15</sup> Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew **midwives**, one of whom was named Shiprah and the other Puah, <sup>16</sup> “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.”

**Government controlled healthcare** - Pharaoh Care as it were. What an innovation. But it seems that these midwives reported not to some Doctor sworn to uphold a Hippocratic oath - they reported to the King.

What was his motivation - population control for the national security of Egypt...now that's what you want your Dr. Thinking about right?

**ILLUSTRATION:** Population control. I am told this week that 750 Million Mosquitoes were released in Key West, intentionally by the Government in order to fight the Mosquito population. Sounds like a government plan doesn't it? But here is the deal - these Mosquitoes were Sterile, if they have offspring they do not survive. So ultimately, it should reduce the population.

Now folks, to be honest, I'm not even comfortable with Government Scientists messing with the Mosquito population. It just sounds like the beginning of a very scary movie.

But how much more, do I fear the Government getting it's clumsy hands into the **prenatal consultation** rooms with young mothers?

Yet, 12 states of our Union are currently using tax payer dollars to fund abortions and abortion providers.

Abortions rates are nearly 3 times higher among BLACK Americans than WHITE Americans. The racist fantasy of **Margaret Sanger** has come true.

The book of Exodus is far more relevant than anything you read on twitter.

*Well what should we do in the midst of a land that has **Failed to Remember**, and sought to **Force a new Reality** upon us? May I suggest that we join the ranks of...*

### 3. Faithful Rebels

<sup>17</sup> But the midwives **feared God** and **did not do as the king of Egypt commanded** them, but let the male children live.

This may be the first clear instance of **political civil disobedience** in scripture.

You see these Midwives knew there was a God in Heaven. They saw obedience to him as a greater duty to that of Pharaoh.

Where did they get this knowledge? We don't know for sure, perhaps it was a conversation with a faithful Hebrew friend. Perhaps their mother taught them. But rest assured it wasn't at the **University of Cairo**.

Friend - never underestimate the grass roots efforts of ordinary people having honest conversations about truth. Reaching out to people who don't look like them, who don't vote like them, who don't pray like them... and having a good conversation.

Someone had reached the right ladies at the right time...

<sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and let the male children live?” <sup>19</sup> 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.”

Pharaoh, these **Hebrew Women are tough**. But the way in the land of Israel, 18 year old girls are carrying sub machine guys.

Gal Gadot, the lady they cast to play wonder woman is a descendant of these ladies... hebrews women are tough.

Notice a few Observations:

- a. **Subtle Change Preceded Open Changes** -At first Egypt simply increased the work load in hopes of snuffing out the hebrews... then Pharaoh conspired with the Midwives in a covert operation... Make the deaths of the boys look accidental and unintentional.

But before Pharaoh changed the law to sanction the murder of male babies. He tried to do it subtly. Don't call it killing, don't call it murder, call it a medical procedure. Kill children in a way people don't recognize they are killing children.

- b. **Race and Gender have always been a battleground of truth** - The murder was limited to Hebrew Boys. The lines were drawn by ethnicity and gender. Do no be surprised that the most important conversations taking place in our county today are related to Ethnicity and Gender.

Just this passed week a Pastor in London was arrested for simply reading a bible verse related to sexuality and gender. Arrested for hate speech.

- c. **God Rewards Civil Disobedience** -

<sup>20</sup> So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. <sup>22</sup> 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.”

- d. **God is Preparing His Solution in the Midst of Man's Problem**

### **Exodus 2:1–2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup> The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.

**CONCLUSION/INVITATION:**

At one of the darkest moments in all of history for God's people - God was preparing a redeemer in the person of Moses.

We are told in Deuteronomy 18:15, that one day another like Moses would come. — the Son of God, Jesus Christ, the final decisive Rescuer, Savior, Deliverer—was born, and barely escaped the slaughter of the babies in Bethlehem.

He lived a perfect life and died for sinners and rose again.

And here's one of the great differences between him and Moses. Moses delivered the people who were being oppressed. Jesus delivers **oppressed** and **oppressor**.

Moses delivered the hated race. Jesus delivers the **hated** and the **hater**.

Moses couldn't deliver the strangled babies or babies thrown into the Nile, but Jesus delivers the babies, the mothers, the abortion providers, the irresponsible boyfriends. He loves and saves every sinner who trusts in him.

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