

**the main  
character**



**Day 1**

## **Exodus 1**

Exodus is the story of God's deliverance of the Israelites from their time of slavery in Egypt. The close of Genesis left us with the 12 sons of Jacob living in Egypt while Joseph had favor with the Pharaoh. Joseph lived to the age of 110 and was old enough to see three generations born in Egypt. At the opening of Exodus it has been around 64 years since Joseph's death and the Israelites have grown into a large nation within Egypt. As with many changes in government so too did the ideals in Egypt change under a new king and the favor that the Israelites had with the old king was no longer.

- In relating to the king of Egypt at that time, what was his concern concerning the growing numbers of Israelites?
- What happens to a nation's identity when an emigrated group takes over?
- Can you relate these fears to America today and uncontrolled immigration?
- How does this increase in their strength point to God's providence towards Israel?
- Why do you think that God has left them to grow for so long within Egypt? What did Egypt provide for this fledgling nation?

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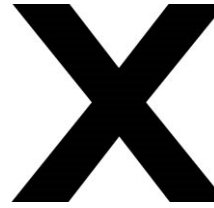
**Day 2**

**Exodus 1:8-14**

The Pharaoh (king) becomes fearful of the Israelites. Their growing numbers indicate in his mind that at some point they would side with an enemy of Egypt and work to overthrow Egypt from within. He devises a scheme to work the Israelites cruelly and oppress them into slavery.

- What is so telling about verse 8 saying that this new King knew nothing of Joseph?
- Why do you think this new king was absent the knowledge of the history of the Israelites and why do you think this absence of knowledge made him act boldly towards them.
- We see the will of the Pharaoh in the treatment of the Israelites and in turning the people against them, in response what is the will of God?
- What do you think the Israelites thought about their lives during this time?
- Do you think that they considered themselves as a nation of sojourners in Egypt or citizens of Egypt by this time?
- What do you think they would have said about God?

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### Day 3

#### Exodus 1:15-17

The Pharaoh's plan concerning the Israelites had a second part. He intended not only to work the Israelites and use them as slaves to build Egypt but to control the number of male offspring to weaken their numbers as well. This again was relating back to the Pharaoh's concern of being taken over by these people. The Pharaoh instructed the Jewish midwives to kill all the male children being born but leave the girls to live.

- If the Israelites were peaceful inhabitants of Egypt for generations, why do you think this king was so stirred to action against them now? Could this also be part of God's plan for the big picture?
- God is in control the entire time, how do we know this by the results of the Pharaoh's plans?
- Why did the Pharaoh go to the Jewish midwives to implement his plan concerning Jewish children? Why didn't he just have the children killed using Egyptian soldiers?
- What is so surprising about the action of the midwives in regards to the commandment of the king? Why was this so risky and how did this also indicate their fear for the Lord in relation to their fear of the king and his commands.

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**Day 4**

**Exodus 1:18-22**

The midwives literally took their lives into their own hands by sparing the male Israelite children in opposition to the commandment of the king. The king, having heard of their refusal, asks them point-blank why they have refused to do what he has commanded. In response, they reply that the women are vigorous and are giving birth on their own without the help of the midwives, so they have not been able to do as he commanded.

- Looking at what we know about these times, what do you think could have been the penalty for the disobedience of these midwives? Besides obviously their own death, what else might have happened?
- The midwives give a rather clumsy excuse about why they have disobeyed, an excuse that kind of makes them seem useless. What about the outcome of their lie indicates the will of God in play again in this situation?
- The midwives were rewarded. What was that reward and how did it also fly in the face of the will of the Pharaoh?
- The Pharaoh, not willing to make the same mistake again, charges the people of Egypt with the destruction of the male Israelite babies. Why do you think he did this and again why did he want the commoners to be the ones to do this rather than military forces?

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**Day 5**

**Psalms 66:10-12**

**Isaiah 48:9-11**

**Daniel 11:35**

**Application: God is the main character in every story in the Bible and our lives.**

Exodus 1 is just one of many examples in the Bible of God's ultimate plan being carried out in spite of human interaction. God's plans have many parts and are complicated beyond human comprehension but that does not mean that God does not use us as important parts, no it only indicates that He is always the most important part and in control of the plan's outcome regardless of what we think. Genesis showed us the forming of a nation but Exodus shows us the trial and refinement of a nation in preparation for God's deliverance of them into His service and into the inheritance He promised Abraham so many years before.

- So how do we relate these story examples into our Christian lives?
- What are some of the parallels of this time of trial for Israel and events in your own life? Reflect on how you felt towards God during these times of refinement.
- Each time the Pharaoh acted in a manner that was contrary to God's plan what was the ultimate result for Israel? Why, what was God showing them? How can we take this principle and apply it to our lives?
- Just because we are not the most important person in the plan, does that make us unimportant? Explain.
- What is the ultimate result of God's use of refinement and trial in our lives? Why does He do this and what should our attitude be?