

A PEOPLE WHO REFUSED TO GIVE UP *(Exodus 1:1-22)*

God's faithfulness and man's faith are a precious combination. Chapter one reveals for us the special relationship of these two principles. God's people never have to give up despite considerable opposition.

I. DON'T GIVE UP BECAUSE GOD HAS MADE A SALVATION COMMITMENT (vv. 1-7)

1. A critical word in the Hebrew text is the very first word.
 - It is intended to tie this story immediately to the last book where it left off—the book of Genesis.
2. It is the continuing story of a faithful God who keeps His covenants.
 - It began with God's covenant promise to Abraham:
3. This first passage points out God kept his promise-- they multiplied.
 - God never intended for them to stay permanently in Egypt—it was not the promise land.
4. If you are saved, God has made a covenant with you.
 - You are sealed with the blood of Jesus
 - He will never leave you
 - He has forgiven you
 - He will provide for you.
 - He will come and take you home.

II. DON'T GIVE UP BECAUSE OF A SITUATIONAL CHANGE (v. 8-10)

1. "New king" doesn't mean he didn't know Joseph personally.
 - Idea is more than that-- he was ignorant of Joseph's contribution to saving the nation.
2. But change is inevitable—this change is going to shake up the children of Israel
3. We don't give up because God is committed to us.
 - God may or may not have made the change to occur, but it has not escaped His notice.
 - He can use it to draw us closer to Him and deepen in our faith.
 - The answer to dealing with change is trust-- faith

III. DON'T GIVE UP BECAUSE OF SATANIC CONFLICT (vv. 10-14)

A. APPLICATION

1. "Conflict is inevitable because Satan opposes God and His children."
 - But conflict gives us new perspective-- it is like change in that it gets us out of our comfort zones.
 - As long as we are content where we are, we will never grow.
 - Conflict reminds us of where our true strength lies-- the Lord Jesus.
2. The Egyptians were fearful of God's people, so they treated them harshly.
 - Pharaoh's name is not listed in this book and that appears intentional.
 - Egypt and Pharaoh represented Satan's war against God and His people.

IV. DON'T GIVE UP BECAUSE OF SPIRITUAL COMMITMENT (vv. 15-22)

1. Pharaoh has another plan—he initiated a state sponsored genocide.

- The midwives were ordered to kill babies if they were boys.
- 2. It is unknown if these were Hebrew or Egyptian midwives.
 - These two are named: Shiphrah means “beautiful one” and Puah means “splendid one”
 - They were probably the head of a larger group of them.
- 3. Women gave birth sitting up those days.
 - The midwives were told to kill the male babies, but they refused to do so because they were committed to God
 - They disobeyed to follow the greater good
 - Pharaoh could have killed the midwives, but God blessed them.
- 4. No matter what obstacles we face, we can remain committed.
 - God will rush in and bless those commitments.
 - We need to realize who we fear the most

We are faced with pressures all the time: change, conflict, culture. We don't have to give in or give up. God will honor our commitment because He has made us a covenant.