

08/18/2018

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EXODUS

Chapter 01
GREATLY MULTIPLIED

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Well I am excited to start the book of Exodus.

1. It is simply a continuation of what we have learned in the book of Genesis with a span of about 350 years in between.
 - a) In **Gen 15:13** **God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years"**.
 - b) You may remember that at the end of Genesis, we left Abraham and his family, just beginning their settlement in Egypt.
 - (1) For them it was a good at the time. Of course they had someone "on the inside" with Joseph being the right hand man to Pharaoh.
 - (2) But they were there for a long time and the Pharaohs changed, as well as - did the political climate.
 - (a) As we begin the book of Exodus - we will find life for the Hebrews in Egypt, to be far from what Abraham, Joseph and their families experienced.
 - c) Genesis has told us they would spend 400 years in Egypt.
 - (1) **Exodus** will tell us: **Exo 12:40** **Now the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.**
 - (i) This prophecy pertains to Abraham's descendants, not to him, and because he had no descendants at this time the starting point for the 400 years occurred yet future.
 - (ii) So – it was 430 years from the call of Abraham... meaning - from the time the Lord told Abraham!
 - (iii) And it was 400 years that the Israelites actually enslaved in Egypt.
 - (a) Don't you just love the consistency of God's word?
2. The Word "**Exodus**" means "the way out", or "departure", and we will surely see how the Lord brought the children of Israel out of Egypt.
 - a) And in the book of **Exodus**, we will be studying in depth - what the writer of Hebrews tell us condensed:
 - (1) **Heb 11:23-29** **By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. (24) By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, (25) choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, (26) considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was**

looking to the reward. (27) By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen. (28) By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them. (29) By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though *they were passing* through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned.

- (a) But in **Exodus**, we are going to get to see the “cast of characters”, and hear their dialog, and feel their personalities as we study this story.
- b) The first word in the first verse is “**now**”. Meaning that this book is simply a continuation of what we have already read and been told in **Genesis**.
 - (1) It is a “book between books” because it will likewise lead us into the book of **Leviticus**. We will continue that way ‘til the completion of **Deuteronomy** – thus the first 5 books of the Old Testament are known as the Pentateuch and also - the “book of the Law.”
- 3. According to **Gen 46:27 and the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt were two; all the persons of the house of Jacob, who came to Egypt, were seventy**.
 - a) We see this confirmed in the first few verses of Exodus

II. EXO 1:1-7 NOW THESE ARE THE NAMES OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL WHO CAME TO EGYPT WITH JACOB; THEY CAME EACH ONE WITH HIS HOUSEHOLD: (2) REUBEN, SIMEON, LEVI AND JUDAH; (3) ISSACHAR, ZEBULUN AND BENJAMIN; (4) DAN AND NAPHTALI, GAD AND ASHER. (5) ALL THE PERSONS WHO CAME FROM THE LOINS OF JACOB WERE SEVENTY IN NUMBER, BUT JOSEPH WAS *ALREADY* IN EGYPT. (6) JOSEPH DIED, AND ALL HIS BROTHERS AND ALL THAT GENERATION. (7) BUT THE SONS OF ISRAEL WERE FRUITFUL AND INCREASED GREATLY, AND MULTIPLIED, AND BECAME EXCEEDINGLY MIGHTY, SO THAT THE LAND WAS FILLED WITH THEM.

A. And multiply they surely did!

- 1. It is estimated that when the Lord finally brings the Israelites out of Egypt they are somewhere between 2 & 3 million! Some estimates are even higher than that.
- 2. In our “cast of characters” and as we have seen from the book of Hebrews, a young man by the name of Moses becomes a principle character in Exodus.
 - a) Like we saw in Joseph, Moses is not equipped for the task of becoming the leader of this exodus.
 - (1) But where the Lord guides, He provides, and He will provide the education/experience that Moses needs for the task that is before him.
 - (a) Moses lived 120 years and his life can be divided up into tree parts:
 - (i) 40 years in the court of the Pharaoh
 - (ii) 40 years in backside of the Midian desert
 - (iii) 40 years wondering around in the wilderness, trying to lead people who didn’t want to be led.
 - (a) Most commentators agree that Moses is the writer of not only this book but of the entire

Pentateuch.

- B. If you are like me, you have probably asked, “Why did the Lord do the plague thing?” “What were they all about?”
1. It helps to understand that Egypt was full of sorcery, witchcraft, spells, incantations, and many “gods” by this time.
 - a) In fact, you will see Pharaoh’s magicians mimicking what the Lord does to try and prove they have the same power as the Lord.
 - (1) I think it is kind of funny how, in an effort to try and prove their power they only “duplicate” the plagues and create an even greater disaster.
 - (a) But then again satan is not a creator – only a “copy cat.”
 2. Each plague is aimed at a particular “god” that was worshipped at the time! How do I know? **Exo 12:12** **'For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments--I am the LORD.**
 - a) It takes Pharaoh a while to get this message, but he finally bows to the Lord – though not as Lord!

III. **EXO 1:8 NOW A NEW KING AROSE OVER EGYPT, WHO DID NOT KNOW JOSEPH.**

- A. Boy if this isn't a testimony of how important we really are, I don't know what is!
1. Joseph saved Egypt! There was a time when everyone knew who he was.
 - a) Every child in the nation grew up with his father telling him the story of how this young Hebrew saved Egypt, but all of that is gone now.
 - (1) Folks, don't count too much on using this life to make a name for yourselves!
 - (2) Instead spread the name that matters most JESUS!

IV. **EXO 1:9-14 HE SAID TO HIS PEOPLE, "BEHOLD, THE PEOPLE OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL ARE MORE AND MIGHTIER THAN WE. (10) "COME, LET US DEAL WISELY WITH THEM, OR ELSE THEY WILL MULTIPLY AND IN THE EVENT OF WAR, THEY WILL ALSO JOIN THEMSELVES TO THOSE WHO HATE US, AND FIGHT AGAINST US AND DEPART FROM THE LAND." (11) SO THEY APPOINTED TASKMASTERS OVER THEM TO AFFLICT THEM WITH HARD LABOR. AND THEY BUILT FOR PHARAOH STORAGE CITIES, PITHOM AND RAAMSES. (12) BUT THE MORE THEY AFFLICTED THEM, THE MORE THEY MULTIPLIED AND THE MORE THEY SPREAD OUT, SO THAT THEY WERE IN DREAD OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL. (13) THE EGYPTIANS COMPELLED THE SONS OF ISRAEL TO LABOR RIGOROUSLY; (14) AND THEY MADE THEIR LIVES BITTER WITH HARD LABOR IN MORTAR AND BRICKS AND AT ALL *KINDS* OF LABOR IN THE FIELD, ALL THEIR LABORS WHICH THEY RIGOROUSLY IMPOSED ON THEM.**

- A. You can't oppress people and have their allegiance!
1. Pharaoh was very cruel to the Hebrews and as a result was afraid of their power if they united - and rightly so.
 - a) He could have solved the problem with peace, but instead chose violence

and more oppression.

V. **EXO 1:15-16** THEN THE KING OF EGYPT SPOKE TO THE HEBREW MIDWIVES, ONE OF WHOM WAS NAMED SHIPHRAH AND THE OTHER WAS NAMED PUAH; (16) AND HE SAID, "WHEN YOU ARE HELPING THE HEBREW WOMEN TO GIVE BIRTH AND SEE *THEM* UPON THE BIRTHSTOOL, IF IT IS A SON, THEN YOU SHALL PUT HIM TO DEATH; BUT IF IT IS A DAUGHTER, THEN SHE SHALL LIVE."

A. Pharaoh tried to control their increasing numbers by killing the male children.

1. What is it with these pagan kings trying to fight against the Lord by killing the male children?
 - a) Why is murder always the answer? Well it seems even in our society, that there are those who think that murder is the final solution to their problem!
 - (1) But the Lord is there to deal with the crime and the criminal!

VI. CONCLUSION

A. **Exo 1:17-22** But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live. (18) So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and let the boys live?" (19) The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife can get to them." (20) So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and became very mighty. (21) Because the midwives feared God, He established households for them. (22) Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive."

1. I am sure that these midwives "respected" and "feared" Pharaoh, but their respect of the Lord was even greater!
 - a) As a result, they let the boys live instead of killing them as they had been told to do.
 - b) And also as a result of their honoring the Lord: **He established households for them.**
 - (1) This may mean several things, but not the least of which is that the Lord honored them for honoring Him, and gave them families and homes of their own!
 - (2) You simply cannot out give the Lord!