

The Book of Exodus

Introductory Material

I. Maps

A. Geographical Maps

B. Road map of the book

1. **God's Messenger** - Chapters 1-6

- a. God's Messenger in danger - Chapters 1-2
- b. God's Messenger in doubt - Chapters 3-4
- c. God's Messenger in difficulty - Chapters 5-6
 - (1) difficulties with Pharaoh
 - (2) difficulties with the people

2. **God's Deliverance** - Chapters 7-18

- a. Plagues (7-11)
- b. Passover (12-13)
- c. Protection (14)
- d. Praise (15:1-21)
- e. Provision (15:22-18:27)

3. **God's Covenant** - (Chapters 19-40)

- a. It expounds the priorities of God's people (19-20)
- b. It enforces the purity of God's people (21-23)
- c. It explains the praise (worship) of God's people (24-40)

II. Moses

A. The man -

- 1. Blessed beginnings
- 2. Raised Royal
- 3. Monumental miscalculation
- 4. Royal reject
- 5. Heir to herder for hire
- 6. God's Turf, God's timing, God's terms
- 7. Knowing the Name
- 8. Facing the Fallout

B. The man of God - God does not called the qualified he qualifies the called

III. Miracles

- A. Exodus is a book of miracles
- B. Modern understandings
- C. Limits of theories

Exodus 1
Testing and Triumph

I. Progeny

- A. ***Exodus 1:1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, 3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, 4 Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. 5 All the offspring of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. 6 Then Joseph died, and all his brothers, and all that generation.***
- B. This text links Exodus to Genesis as a bridge text.
- C. It also rings with refrain of Genesis: “And he died” Even the glory of “Camelot” cannot remain forever

II. Proliferation

- A. ***7 But the descendants of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong; so that the land was filled with them.***
- B. The fertility of the descendants of Israel is dramatically underscored by the use of the Hebrew word, *sharats* which almost always refers to animal life, not humans (for example swarming multiplication of frogs fish, insects and the like. More literally the Hebrew is rendered here: “and so they became a teeming swarm.”
- C. Notice how emphatic the text is. They:
 - 1. Were fruitful
 - 2. Increased greatly
 - 3. Multiplied
 - 4. Grew exceedingly
 - 5. Land was filled with them
- D. All of this is perhaps to underscore the promises to Abraham: Gen 26:4 *I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven,*
- E. Later, in the book of Numbers the number of them is set at nearly 2 million. (Numbers 1:19-40) That would seem to support the description here but we will talk later in the course about the fact that the number may not be quite that high.

III. Peril

- A. ***8 Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. 10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war befall us, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."***
- B. To know in Hebrew is to more than an intellectual thing. To know is to be close to or intimate with. It is even used sometimes to refer to the marital act. Here however it obviously does not mean that. But clearly there is no longer the close

relationship of the descendants of Israel with the house of Pharaoh.

- C. Not only is Pharaoh not close to Israel, he fears them. And this, like fear often does leads him to sin greatly.
- D. Notice how Pharaoh is not even named. The Hebrew midwives will be named but this Pharaoh is beneath mention by name.

IV. Plans

A. Slavery

- 1. ***11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens; and they built for Pharaoh store-cities, Pithom and Raamses. 12 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. 13 So they made the people of Israel serve with rigor, 14 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 made them serve with rigor.***
- 2. Pharaoh's plans will not work against God's promise. The more they are persecuted the more they multiply and spread.
- 3. It is often this way with God's people. Persecution strengthens and purifies the Church. The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church.

B. Slaughter

- 1. ***15 Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16 "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, she shall live."***
- 2. It is odd that Pharaoh thinks he can convince Hebrew midwives to kill their own. Perhaps he thought he could intimidate them?

C. Setbacks

- 1. ***17 But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. 18 So the king of Egypt called the midwives, and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?" 19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and are delivered before the midwife comes to them." 20 So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and grew very strong. 21 And because the midwives feared God he gave them families.***
- 2. Nevertheless,
 - a. If I fear the Lord I need fear no man

b. When I kneel before God I can stand before anyone.

3. Note too the power of non-cooperation with evil. At the heart of this civil disobedience is refusal to cooperate with evil. It is not unlike the non-violent civil rights movement of our times. Far from being pacifists, the protesters exhibited a power by non-violently refusing to cooperate with the dictates of an evil system. The women here show courage as well since they faced death for refusing pharaoh's wishes. So too civil rights workers faced the penalties of "the man" as government sanctions came upon them for their non-cooperation with the system.

D. Severity

1. ***22 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."***
2. Now genocide is undertaken but as we shall see, God uses Pharaoh's very plan against him. Through this genocidal atmosphere the savior of Israel will be deposited on Pharaoh's very doorstep and inadvertently raised by him!
3. When God's up to something very good, the devil goes after the babies. What is God up to now?