

EXODUS 1:7-22

LESSON: A LONG HARD OPPRESSION —September 1, 2019

INTRODUCTION:

¹In the **first Chapter of the Book of Exodus**, we learned of the cruel oppression of the Israelites by the Egyptians. Joseph had brought his family to Egypt and protected them there. But after his death and they multiplied into a nation, they were forced into slavery. God's blessings of the Israelites caused the Egyptians to fear them and this began with enslavement and harsh treatment. When this failed, Pharaoh ordered the Hebrew midwives to kill all the Israelite boy babies at birth. This also failed to accomplish the goal of annihilating the Israelites as a race because the midwives feared God and didn't obey the king. The first chapter ends with the order of Pharaoh to the entire Egyptian population that they must throw the Hebrew boy babies into the Nile.

SYNOPSIS:

1:1-6 The names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt (that is, Jacob), each with their family are listed— Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, Dan, and Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. There were 70 descendants from the loins of Jacob, including Joseph who was already in Egypt. In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation.

LESSON: I. ISRAEL PROSPERS IN EGYPT EXODUS 1:7

1:7 And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them. God's providential blessings were upon Israel. The children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly. They multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land. The seed of Abraham was no longer an extended family, but a nation.

II. ISRAEL SUFFERS IN EGYPT EXODUS 1:8-14

1:8 Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. The term "arose" signifies "rose against," which accords well with a foreign seizure of the Egyptian throne. Therefore, the ruler came from outside Egypt (Acts 7:17-19). A new king arose over Egypt that didn't even know Joseph and felt no obligations to the descendants of Joseph. Some writers have concluded this to be the "Hyksos Dynasty" and the "new king." The Hyksos were a people of mixed Semitic and Asian descent who invaded Egypt and settled in the Nile Delta and ruled as Pharaohs and were listed as legitimate kings until driven out.

1:9 And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we:— The new king realizes and tells his people that the people of the children of Israel were more mightier than they were.

1:10 Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there

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falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. Pharaoh had to deal wisely because of the multiplication of the people of the children of Israel because there might be consequences of a war in which Israel may side with the invaders.

1:11 Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. This meant that they felt that there was need to enslave the Israelites. Therefore taskmasters were set over the Israelites to afflict them with burdens by Pharaoh. He made them slaves to kill their spirit and stop their growth. Slavery was an ancient practice used by almost all nations to employ conquered people and other captives. The name "taskmaster" means "chief of burden" or "oppressor" and their assignment was to keep the slaves working long hours and as fast as possible.

1:11b ...And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. There were levels of slavery in Egypt. Some slaves worked long hours in mud pits while others were skilled carpenters, jewelers, and craftsmen. And they built the treasure cities **Pithom and Raamses** for Pharaoh where he stored his supplies.

1:12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. The more the Egyptians mistreated and oppressed them, the more the Israelites seemed to multiply and the Egyptians became alarmed. Sometimes in our lives burdens make us stronger than what we thought we could handle, because of God's Word and His faith He has placed in us.

1:13 And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:— They were forced by the Egyptians to work harder with unusual strict and stiff hardship (rigour).

1:14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour. And the Egyptians made the Israelites or Hebrews more bitter, forcing them to toil long and hard in the fields and to carry heavy loads of mortar and brick in all manner service in the field serving under strict hardship.

III. ISRAEL SURVIVES IN EGYPT EXODUS 1:15-22

1:15 And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah:— Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah.

1:16 And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. After Pharaoh, the king of Egypt had spoken to the Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah, he gave instructions to them, that when the Hebrew women are on the birthing stools (two stones on which the women sat on) to deliver; to give birth, they were to kill the boy/male babies and let the girls/female babies live.

1:17 But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved

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the men children alive. The boy babies were kept alive by the midwives. They feared God and didn't do as the king of Egypt had commanded them. These women showed great courage and love for God by risking their lives to disobey Pharaoh's command.

1:18 And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?—When the actions of Shiphrah and Puah were discovered by the king of Egypt, he inquired **Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?** It was because they feared God, and that gave them the courage to take a stand for what they knew was right in this situation—the survival of the Israelite babies.

1:19 And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. The midwife's answer to Pharaoh was that the Hebrew women were not like the Egyptian women, for they were quick in their delivery before the midwives could get to the babies. They were not slow like the Egyptian women.

1:20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. God blessed the midwives because they were God-fearing women; they took a stand, and the people (Israelites) increased and became very strong.

1:21 And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses. And because the midwives feared God, He made them houses, i. e. gave them children, families, and descendants. God's Word for us in Genesis 12:3 is: And I will bless them that bless thee (Israel), and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth are blessed.

1:22 And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive. Then Pharaoh called all his people together and commanded them to throw into the river every (Hebrew) boy/male son born into the river, but save the girl/female daughter alive.

SUMMARY:

⁷The children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly. They multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land making them a nation (1:7).

⁸Now, there arose a new king over Egypt that didn't even know Joseph and felt no obligations to the descendants of Joseph. ⁹The new king realizes that the people of the children of Israel were more mightier than they were. ¹⁰Pharaoh had to deal wisely because of the multiplication of the Israelites because there might be consequences of a war in which Israel may side with the invaders. ¹¹This meant that there was a need to enslave the Israelites. Therefore taskmasters were set over the Israelites to afflict them with burdens by Pharaoh. The slaves built the treasure cities **Pithom and Raamses** for Pharaoh where he



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stored his supplies. ¹² The more the Egyptians mistreated and oppressed them, the more the Israelites seemed to multiply and the Egyptians became alarmed. ¹³ They were forced by the Egyptians to with unusual strict and stiff hardship. ¹⁴ This made the Israelites or Hebrews more bitter, forcing them to toil long and hard in the fields and to carry heavy loads of mortar and brick (1:8-14).

¹⁵ Then Pharaoh spoke to the Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶ and gave them instructions, that when the Hebrew women are on the birthing stools to deliver, kill the boy/male babies and let the girls/female babies live. ¹⁷ However, the midwives feared God and didn't do as the king of Egypt commanded them. Instead, they saved the boy/ male children and kept them alive showing great courage and love for God by risking their lives to disobey Pharaoh's command. ¹⁸ When their actions were discovered by the king of Egypt, he inquired **Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?** ¹⁹ The midwife's answer to Pharaoh was that the Hebrew women were not like the Egyptian women, for they were quick in their delivery before the midwives could get to the babies. ²⁰ God blessed the midwives because they were God-fearing women and the people (Israelites) increased and became very strong. ²¹ And because of this, God *"made them houses:"* i. e. gave them children, families, and descendants. ²² And Pharaoh called all his people together and commanded them to throw every (Hebrew) boy/male son born, into the river, but save the girl/female daughter alive (1:15-22).

