

The Exodus and the Advent

Lesson #2

Exodus chapter 1: “Enslavement” (PP 241-242)

Exodus 1.1-7...Covenant - emphasizes phenomenal growth

1. Direct fulfillment of the covenant promise
2. Major factor leading to Israel’s enslavement

Differences often create ignorance AND prejudice which often leads to fear and oppression:

- The Hebrews worshiped one God; the Egyptians worshiped many
- The Hebrews were wanderers, the Egyptians had deep roots
- The Hebrews were shepherds, the Egyptians were builders/farmers
- The Hebrews were physically separated from the Egyptians: they lived in Goshen, north of the great Egyptian cultural centers

1.8-10...Change...a new king who knew not Joseph

Their world was thrown into turmoil – through no fault of their own - they had no choice in the matter – or did they?

Israel became victims of their own success. What they really needed was for God to tell them what to do – BUT He couldn’t tell them until they were ready to listen to His complete plan Joseph, when sold by his brothers turned faithful – no matter what!

1.11-14...Conflict...Pharaoh was afraid of the Israelites so he made them slaves and oppressed them to kill their spirit and stop their growth.

➔ Why didn’t this work?

1.15-22...Compromise...two midwives are disobedient – to save lives

➔ **Is it ever right to cover up, deceive, or tell a lie?**

These were death and life choices...

God blessed these ladies NOT because they lied, but because they saved lives

Questions From 4 Perspectives:

Historical...

- ➔ Why would the Pharaoh be afraid of the Israelites?
- ➔ How could enslavement prepare Israel for deliverance?
- ➔ Does slavery develop compassion, resentment, or bitterness?

Prophetical...

- ➔ During the “Dark Ages” the Christian church had become enslaved in ignorance – they knew almost nothing about God’s truth. Those who chose to remain faithful to Scripture were persecuted and often killed. What was God’s purpose in allowing this to happen?

Theological...

- ➔ Where is God in this process? Why does He allow it to happen? What is He up to?
- ➔ Why is God “kind” to the midwives and not to anyone else?
- ➔ There is no mention of the Devil in this story. Why? In fact in all of the Old Testament there is only veiled references of the Devil. Why? (Superstitious nature of the times, emphasis is on personal responsibility – with a focus on God).

Personal...

- ➔ How do you feel when someone else turns your world upside down?
- ➔ Have you ever felt like a slave to something: drugs, debt, a relationship, an addiction, or just plain stuck in a job or in a real life situation?
- ➔ How do you respond to tough circumstances: worry, fear, dread, resentment, anger, bitterness, rage – or faith?
- ➔ Has God ever seemed distant in your struggles?
- ➔ How should we relate to God’s silence? (Even when we pray, He does not always respond the way we want Him to – see 2 Corinthians 12.7-10).