

Exposition of Exodus Chapter 1

1. The Twelve Sons of Jacob – Ex. 1:1-6

1. *Now these are the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt; every man and his household came with Jacob.*

2. *Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah,*

3. *Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin,*

4. *Dan, and Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.*

5. *And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls: for Joseph was in Egypt already. 6. And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.*

- Genesis 35:23-36 – first listing of the 12
- Genesis 46:8-28 – exact listing of sons and daughters, 70 in all
- Genesis 49:1-28 Jacob blesses and prophesied over them - Epitaphs

2. The Numbers Multiplied – Ex. 1:7

7. *And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.*

- Began with 70 in all arriving in Egypt
- 430 years of multiplication
- Do the math – If one male had 3 children only and each generation similarly each male had 3 children for 14 generations, how many people would that represent?
- Questions are raised as to the 2 million leaving Egypt.
- Discuss some of the logistical difficulties of that number.

3. A “New King” Over Egypt – Ex. 1:8-10

8. *Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.*

9. *And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we:*

10. *Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also*

unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.

- Joseph and Pharaoh Djoser ruled in Egypt 80 years. We may assume that the knowledge of Joseph didn't disappear overnight, after all, there are statues and stones that hail his innovations
- In about ____ BC there was an invasion of Egypt by the better equipped and stronger Semites known as HYKSOS. They ruled over Egypt's northern borders while the Pharaohs still weakly ruled in the south from Thebes. This lasted about 180 years. This is the NEW KING.
- Egyptian Pharaohs after Joseph's era ...
 - Hyksos – 180 years – Ex. 1:8
 - Ahmose I – 25 years – Ex. 1:12
 - Amenhotep I – 21 years – Ex. 1:15
 - Thutmose I – 13 years – Ex. 1:22
 - Thutmose II – 14 years – Ex. 2:1
 - Hatshepsut – 21 years – Ex. 2:5-10
 - Thutmose III – 32 years after Hatsheput – Ex. 2:15

4. Slaves Built Pithom and Rameses – Ex. 1:11-14

11. Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.

12. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

13. And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:

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.

- The Israelites did not build the pyramids.
- They built store cities in Pithom and Rameses.
- Genesis 46-47 makes it clear they were shepherd and tended livestock in the best part of the land in Goshen, where there was much grass.
- It was only later that they were subjected to servitude under the Hyksos and after that the subsequent Pharaohs.
- They worked in brick and mortar and in the fields, not shepherding flocks but in rigorous cultivation.

5. Pharaoh's Plan with Shiphrah and Puah – Ex. 1:15-21

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:*

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.*

17. *But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.*

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?*

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.*

20. *Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.*

21. *And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.*

- Pharaoh's plan is just like the plan of Satan to destroy Israel out of which would come the Messiah, Jesus, the Savior.
- He chose two Hebrew women Shiphrah and Puah. We know they are not Egyptian names. Shiphrah appears in the Papyrus in the Brooklyn Museum along with a list of other notable Jewish slaves. Puah's name is listed in Genesis 46:13 as a daughter of Issachar.
- The birth stool referred to here has been found in Egypt. It is two block of stone for a woman to stand on, then squat while giving birth to a baby.
- Hebrew women like Cambodian women who work the fields gave birth in the field without the need of a midwife. In Cambodia women give birth in the field, clean the baby, and go right on working. Labor was generally short and easy and often did not need the care of a midwife.
- The midwives told a half-truth to Pharaoh because they were God-fearing women and would not kill male babies.

6. The Final Solution - Infanticide of All Males – Ex. 1:22

22. And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.

- When Pharaoh realized his efforts were being thwarted he takes an extreme measure calling on all Egyptians to be vigilantes to kill every Hebrew boy by drowning him in the Nile.
- This was justified because it was a sacrifice to the Nile god, Hapi.
- Satan is always opposing the people of God and seeking to devour and destroy them. He opposes all who are called by God's name.
- Thus throughout history nations have sought to annihilate the Jewish race with THE FINAL SOLUTION. Can you think of some?
- ABORTION: Every nation that has practiced infanticide and abortion have come to an abrupt and violent end. What does this mean to our nation.

7. Application to our Lives

- The situation for Israel was impossible and overwhelming. But we learn in chapter two that God heard their cries. God loves to do the unexpected and miraculous for his children who call on Him in their need. What difficult or impossible situation are you facing that needs a miracle from God? Share your burden together and pray for each other that God would intervene with a miracle.
- Jacob blessed his children giving them a prophetic word and for some a visual word picture of their life struggle. Can you think of any tombstones that tell of a person's life or faith? What epitaph would you put on your parent's tombstone?
- Shiphrah and Puah were heroines in this story. They refused to obey the king's command. They refused to allow infanticide and/or abortion to be practiced. What can we do to stand tall in our generation of infanticide?