

• Exodus picks up where Genesis left off. Joseph as National Hero.

¹These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: ²Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, ³Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, ⁴Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. ⁵The total number of people born to Jacob was seventy. (Joseph was already in Egypt.)

- Both Jacob and Israel used here. Jacob (deceiver) Israel (wrestle with God)
- These aren't good guys. Judah slept with his own daughter-in-law who he thought was a prostitute. Simeon and Levi were violent vengeful murderers. Reuben slept with his dad's concubine.

1: God takes sinful people, offers them grace so they can walk with Him.

If your sin is great, God's grace is bigger and he has a plan for you.

- In Gen. 12:1-2, God calls Abram to make him a great nation. *Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.* 70 Jews isn't a great nation. This is a medium sized dysfunctional family when they enter Egypt. By the time they leave they will be a nation estimated at 2 million people. How do you go from 70 to 2 million?

2: God's plan is to make Israel into a nation that will bless all the other nations through the offspring of Eve who will crush the devil's head.

- If we go back to Gen. 15, when God made a covenant with Abram it says, Vs. 13-14 ¹³Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years, ¹⁴but I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

• So, this sojourn into Egypt is God's original plan. God has a purpose in Egypt.

• It is to grow Israel from a small family to a nation of about 2 million.

• Why Egypt? It was basically impossible for the Jews to avoid intermarriage with the other inhabitants of Canaan.

• But in Egypt, the Egyptians were racistly adamant against intermarriage which allowed Jacobs family to grow into a nation without assimilating into Egypt's families and basically becoming Egyptians with all their pagan gods and ideas.

⁶Then Joseph died, and all his brothers, and that whole generation.

- It doesn't matter who you are, what you accomplish, what legacy you build, you and everyone you know will die. Not a single person here will be left. You can save the world like Joseph did and in vs 8 it says . ⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph.

3: Your earthly legacy will be forgotten. Your eternal legacy is all that matters.

⁷But the Israelites were fruitful and prolific; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

• The word here for prolific (describing fruitfulness) in original is "sharats" – means "Swarming". It's a word-play. In Exodus 8 that same word is used to describe frogs. *"The Nile will swarm (sharats) with frogs, which will come up and go into your house."*

• It's describing the population explosion of Jews with terms used later for an infestation. Something you have to deal with.

• This is interesting. In Genesis our problem was infertility (Sarah, Rebecca). Now the Jews are so fertile it's gonna trigger the government to act.

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph.

• How is that possible? US President not knowing who Abe Lincoln was.

• This is obviously a new Dynasty. New family. Don't know Joseph.

• Could mean, "No longer know or recognize his work and contribution"
○ This would make more sense if the new Pharaoh is from a long line of Egyptians with deep roots in Egypt.

• Could mean, "Didn't know who Joseph was. Never heard of the guy."

○ New Era- forget the past. We see this in America today.

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."

• Some scholars make the case that there was a dynasty from about 1550 BC to 1700 BC called the Hyksos and they were from Asia with actual blood relation to the Hebrews. They migrated into Egypt and gained power.

• If this is true and a small minority that came in from another country gained power, it wouldn't be surprising if they didn't know who Joseph was.

• If this were the case, it changes the way we look at vs 10 here in a minute. Commentator Davis sees it reading like this. ¹⁰Come, let us (Hyksos) deal shrewdly with them (Israelites), or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies (Egyptians) and fight against us (Hyksos) and escape from the land."

• So, from an earthly perspective, the problem is this New Dynasty is concerned about a particular, rapidly growing ethnic population and is afraid they may have too much influence and change the established power.

○ Is this a fear people have in America? Is this something that Democrats and Republicans try to use to their advantage? Rising populations of Hispanics, Asians, Middle Easterners?

○ We want more immigrants because we think they will vote this way!

- We want less immigrants because we think they'll vote that way!
- We don't want to lose our power. BUT THIS ISN'T AMERICA. WATCH!

- From a spiritual perspective, Satan has to destroy the offspring of the woman because God says He will crush Satan's head.

- Satan is going to work through Pharaoh, but Pharaoh doesn't know that
- Satan's enemy is God and these are God's people.

¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

Last Sunday we talked about Bondage. Bondage is about CONTROL.

- Notice Pharaoh doesn't just kill them all or do a mass deportation.
- He wants to isolate them, keep them, control them and use them.
- What's worse than death? Slavery, its cruel
- The strategy of Pharaoh points us to Satan's strategy toward us!
- We can say that Pharaoh represents Satan here. Satan is the enemy of God and His people. Satan is in a cosmic battle with God and we are stuck in the middle of it.
- Satan wants you to be his slave. Why? Let me show you this.

Hebrews 1:14 *Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?*

- What Satan does as the dark twisted evil being in rebellion against God is he says, "I'm not going to do what God says and serve God's people, but I'm going to make them slaves to me."
- That's why Satan wants you and me to be in bondage. Bondage for these Israelites. Bondage for each one of you. Satan's slave. Controlling you.
- Satan can't kill you or steal your salvation, but he can cause you to live in bondage.
- When a Christian is in bondage he or she is no longer blessing the nations. No longer effective for God.
- If he can't kill you, he'll just keep you in ineffective and powerless bondage until you die of old age.
- So, I think the devil smiles when he sees Christians in bondage to addictions and bondage to evil desires and bondage to fear and bondage to bitterness from relationship or toward the church. Are You a slave? How?