

Facing Oppression

Exodus 1

Key themes of Exodus:

1. *Covenant promises* – Lord remembering His promises to the Patriarchs **Exodus 2:24**
2. *Covenant mediator* – Moses mediates between the Lord and His people.
3. *Covenant presence* – God’s presence with His people

I. The Story Continues (vs. 1-7)

To understand these first few verses of Exodus one must be familiar with Genesis

1. The name of Israel is synonymous with Jacob
2. The names of Jacob’s 12 sons
3. Joseph already in Egypt

Genesis 47:27

“The Israelites were exceedingly fruitful”

1. God is fulfilling His promise to Abraham
2. The Israelites were fulfilling the Creation Mandate

Genesis 1:28

II. From Prosperity to Persecution (vs. 8-22)

A. A regime change (vs. 8)

Hyksos pharaohs - outsiders, who had invaded and conquered Egypt. They were sympathetic to Joseph and his family.

B. A problem defined (vs. 9-10)

Fear - All oppressive regimes use the threat of some great danger, real or imagined, to justify violations of human rights

Suspicion – “if war breaks out”

Pharaoh was using the threat of war as a pretext for persecuting foreigners.

C. Strategies Deployed (vs. 11-22)

1. Strategy #1 – slavery (vs. 11-14)

“abad” – Hebrew word for work or service.

With each crack of the whip, Pharaoh was striking another blow against the God of Israel.

2. Strategy #2 – slaughter (vs. 15-21)

Shiphrah (beauty), Puah (splendor)

Pharaoh’s name is not mentioned, but their name is.

Civil disobedience – If government tells us to do something against God’s will, we are to obey God first

Acts 5:28-29

3. Strategy #3 – genocide (vs. 22)