

Exodus 1:1-2:15

Day 1

Historical Background: Read Genesis 15:1-7

FYI: The first 11 chapters of Genesis, the first book of the Bible, cover the ancient history of the human race. It includes four main events: creation, the fall of mankind, a world-wide flood, and the scattering of nations at Babel. Chapters 12-50 covers the *Patriarchal* history which follows the line of Abraham and his family (the nation of Israel) through Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. The book of Exodus picks up with the history of Joseph and the nation in Egypt.

"Genesis tells of humanity's failure under every test and in every condition; Exodus is the thrilling epic of God hastening to the rescue."
- Henrietta Mears (What the Bible is All About)

"The book of Exodus describes in detail the real beginnings of Israel as a nation, under the leadership of Moses... These and other events in Exodus are frequently referred to in later parts of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, and all references clearly note Moses as author."
- Henry Morris

1. What promises did God make to Abraham in:

- Genesis 12:2
- Genesis 12:3
- Genesis 15:5
- Genesis 15:7

"I am your shield, your very great reward"

2. What question did Abraham have for God? Genesis 15:8

3. In answer to Abraham's question, what did God tell Abraham would happen:

- to his descendants? Genesis 15:13
- to the "nation they would serve?" Genesis 15:14
- to him personally? Genesis 15:15
- Why didn't God settle the nation in the land of Canaan right away? Genesis 15:16

4. What *covenant* did God make with Abraham? Genesis 15:18-21

5. Why was Joseph, one of Abraham's great grandsons, the first to come to Egypt?
Genesis 37:3-4; 23-28
6. How powerful a position did Joseph eventually attain in Egypt? Genesis 41:38-44, 55
7. Why did the rest of Joseph's family come to Egypt? 41:57; 42:1-5
- Why were they able to settle there? 45:5-11; 16-18
8. What prejudice did the Egyptians have toward the Israelites? 46:31-34
- Where did the Israelites settle and what was their occupation? 47:5-6
9. When Joseph was dying, what future promise did he remind his family about?
(What did his dying request say about the hope he had? See Hebrews 11:22)

Acts 7:1-20
gives a summary
of the history of
Israel from
Abraham
to Moses.

Applying the Word: *What do God's plans and promises throughout Genesis tell you about the kind of care, concern and involvement God has in the lives of man?*

Day 2

Israel in Egypt: Read Exodus 1:1-22

10. Who came to Egypt? 1:1 How many? Exodus 1:5 (see Genesis 35:23-26 for a list of Jacob's wives and their sons.)

FYI: Israel (1:1) God renamed Jacob "Israel" (Genesis 32:28, 35:10). The descendants of Jacob/Israel came to be called by his name."
- Life Change Series: Exodus (19)

11. Number or list the words or phrases in 1:7 that describe how the Israelites prospered in Egypt. ((You might like to mark these in scripture. See a sample sheet in the back of your homework. Also mark the contrast word "but/however" in 1:7,12,15.)

- What was God's mandate for mankind in Genesis 1:28? (Also compare God's promises to the nation of Israel in Genesis 17:2)

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: "**Increased greatly** OT:8317 *sharats* "A verb meaning to swarm; to breed abundantly; to multiply. It means to teem, to swarm in numbers and rate of birth and multiplications."
- The Complete Word Study Dictionary Old Testament (1202)

12. What reason is given for a change in the relationship between the Egyptians and Israelites? 1:8

Digging Deeper
What had the Egyptians forgotten about their indebtedness to Joseph?
Genesis 41:47-49, 54-56; 47:14,20

13. List the fears the king had about the sons of Israel? 1:9,10. (Is there any basis given for his fears?)

14. How did they attempt to "deal wisely" (1:10) with the people of Israel? 1:11

- What was the result? 1:12 (What do you think was the reason for this?)

FYI: "The more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew (1:12) Egypt served as a mother's womb for Israel, a place where they rapidly grew from a large clan to a mighty nation. The nation could not grow this way in Canaan, because it was practically impossible to avoid intermarriage with the pagan and wicked inhabitants of Canaan. Egypt was so racially biased and had such an entrenched system of racial separation that Israel could grow there over several centuries without being assimilated." - David Guzik

15. From 1:11-14, list the phrases that describe the actions that the Egyptians took against the Israelites. What word would you use to describe their attitude?

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: "**Rigorously/ruthlessly** OT:6531 *perek*; to break apart; fracture, i.e. severity: KJV - cruelty, rigour."
- Strong's Concordance

"A wall painting in the tomb of an Egyptian prime minister, dated in the mid fifteenth century B.C., shows slaves from Syro-Palestine forming bricks from mud, supervised by weapon-wielding Egyptian taskmasters."
- Henry Morris

16. What was Pharaoh's next plan? 1:15,16 (Why would he want just the sons eliminated? See 1:10b)

17. How did the midwives respond? 1:17 (Also 1:21)

- What excuse did the midwives give Pharaoh when questioned? 1:19

18. How did God respond to their actions? 1:20

Food for Thought: "The midwives had both disobeyed their rulers and lied to them, both of which actions are normally sinful in God's sight (e.g., I Peter 2:13; Ephesians 4:25), and yet God rewarded them. When situations arise in which the commands of rulers conflict with explicit commandments of God (in this case, the murder of innocent children)... then God's word must be obeyed (Acts 5:29) rather than the unlawful orders of men. The midwives protected the infants at the risk of their own lives. What may seem superficially to have been a "false witness" was not "against their neighbor" (Exodus 20:16), but in hazardous protection of their neighbor, just as was the case with those Christians who hid their Jewish neighbors during Hitler's pogroms." - Henry Morris

"The [midwives' names] are preserved in this account because they were godly women with a courageous faith...the names of the pharaohs - the 'important' people of the day - are omitted." - Nelson Study Bible (100)

19. In the following, underline why we should fear the LORD..

- Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. NASU
- Proverbs 14:26-27 He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. 27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death. NIV
- Proverbs 16:6 ...through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil. NIV

20. Underline why we should *not* fear man.

- Proverbs 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe. NIV
- Matthew 10:26-28 "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.
- Hebrews 13:5,6 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." 6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" NIV

21. How did Pharaoh increase his efforts to destroy the nation? 1:22 (Note the increasing degree of brutality.)

Applying the Word: What things/people/circumstances are you dealing with that make you fearful or pressure you to compromise your stand?

Day 3

Moses' Birth: Read Exodus 2:1-9

22. What do you learn about Moses' family from the following?

- Exodus 2:1
- Exodus 6:20
- Exodus 7:7
- Exodus 15:20

23. What did Moses' parents find unusual about Moses? (Since almost all parents think their babies are beautiful, what do you think this means?)

24. List the actions of Moses' mother to protect him. 2:1-4 (Consider: What would have been difficult about hiding a newborn for three months? How big a risk were they taking?)

- What irony do you see between and 2:3 and 1:22?

In the box *Questions and Discoveries* at the end of each lesson, write down things from the homework you would like to discuss with your small group.

Digging Deeper
Compare the trials of Moses' parents to Matthew 2:13-16.

FYI: Beautiful "Although the passage does not specify how long Jochebed took care of Moses, we can discern from verse 10 and from the adoption customs in Egypt that she probably raised him until his third or fourth birthday."
- Charles Swindoll (GMC 8,10)

25. What does Hebrews 11:23 add to the story?

26. Who found the baby and what did she recognize about him? 2:6

- What was her response? (Why do you think she was able to defy her father's order?)

FYI: "[Moses' cradle] was coated with bitumen (*tar and pitch*) on the outside, just as Noah's ark had been, another vessel that save a people from disaster (Gen. 6:14)." - Africa Bible Commentary (88)

one of the Hebrews' children "A Hebrew baby would have been circumcised on the eight day. Although circumcision was practiced in Egypt, it was not done to infants." - The Nelson Study Bible (101)

27. What was the outcome of her efforts? 2:9 (Where do you see the hand of God?)

- How long a time do you think the phrase "the child grew/when the child grew older" (2:10) might suggest?

FYI: "The name Moses appears in the Egyptian names Ahmose and Thutmose. It was also appropriate because it sounded like the Hebrew verb *mashah*, 'to draw out.'" - The Woman's Study Bible (99)

28. List the women that have played a part in this story so far (1:15-2:10). What do you think God is trying to show by their actions versus Pharaoh's power and plans?

Applying the Word: What relationship do you see between faith and action in the life of Moses' mother, Jochebed?

Day 4

Moses' early adult years: Read Exodus 2:11-15

29. From Acts 7:22, what education did Moses receive and what kind of man did he become?

FYI: "Moses would have received instruction on Egyptians' theology, astronomy, medicine, mathematics and other subjects, in virtually everything that was part of the intellectual domain of the civilized world of that time." - Charles Swindoll (GMC 12,13)

30. How long a time had lapsed between Moses birth and Exodus 2:11 “*now it came about in those days?*” Acts 7:23

31. What compelled Moses to take action against an Egyptian? 2:11

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: *Looked/watched* (2:11 *ra'ah* OT:7200, "to see, observe, perceive, get acquainted with, gain understanding, examine, look after (see to), choose, discover." - Vine's Expository Dictionary

32. From Exodus 2:13,14:

- How did the Hebrews feel about Moses? (Why might they have resented his help?)
- Why was Moses afraid?

FYI: "Moses had reason to believe that his education, royal background, success, and great sympathy for the people of Israel would give him credibility among them...A prince has the right to rule and expects your loyalty. A judge has the right to tell you what to do, and to punish you if you don't do it. In rejecting Moses they said to him, "We don't want you to rule over us or tell us what to do." - David Guzik

33. Read Acts 7:23-25. What further insight does that give you into Moses' reason for defending the Hebrew man? (How does this relate to God's promise in Gen. 15:13-14?)

34. Read Hebrews 11:24-26:

- What do these verses indicate about Moses' loyalty to his people? (How do you think he learned about God?)
- What did it cost Moses to give up his standing as Pharaoh's daughter?

35. Although Moses' intentions were sincere, what mistakes do you see that he made in trying to be a "deliverer" of the people?

36. How did Pharaoh feel about Moses' action? Exodus 2:15 Why do you think he reacted so strongly?

Applying the Word: Which of the following areas do you see yourself in need of growth: waiting on the Lord versus moving ahead with your own plans; praying before not after; listening first instead of speaking first; or being teachable versus being inflexible?

Questions and Discoveries:

Old Testament Timeline

