

"Living for God in the Midst of Difficult Times"

Part 11

Exodus 1-2

Introduction: This morning we are coming back to our study in the series "Living for God in the Midst of Difficult Times", and as we do, we are going to step into the book of Exodus. We are in this study currently because of the direction in which our society and our world is moving. We are fast approaching a Presidential election in November, and many people believe that after the election things are going to get much better if their candidate gets into office.

Let me help you to get a clear view about what is happening. Our nation is in the condition it is in because God and His Word have been suppressed.

Romans 1:18

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

As we looked at Romans 1 on several occasions it is very clear that God has lifted His moral restraints from our nation and has abandoned our nation. Proof of this is what Paul records in Romans 1. What we are seeing in our nation today is the lifting of God's restraints and the manifestation of the depravity of man. This has all come about because we have suppressed God and His Word.

Now you need to grasp what I am about to tell you. In the last 10 years we have NOT moved closer to God but instead as a nation we are moving rapidly away from God. We are much deeper into sin today than we were 10 years ago. So if you believe that things are going to turn around after the 1st of the year, I believe you are deceived.

Now I will say that if the President of the United States would call our nation to repentance and God would once again have His proper place in our nation then we would see things turn around. But there seems to be no sign of that. So this is exactly why we are in this very study because we need to know how to live for God as the situations in our nation become worse. Let me show you what we are seeing much of today.

Romans 1:28-32

²⁸ *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate [depraved] mind, to do those things which are not convenient [improper and repulsive];*

²⁹ *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*

³⁰ *Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*

³¹ *Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:*

Let us now get to our text for this day. We are going to look at a family who was living in the midst of some very difficult times here in Exodus 1-2.

I. The Background

Notice Exodus 1:1-7

Let me give you a quick history lesson concerning Joseph. Joseph was used of God to preserve the lives of his father and his brothers, as well as the lives of those who lived in Egypt. Pharaoh had a dream, and Joseph interpreted the dream. In the dream God revealed there would be 7 years of plenty and then 7 years of famine. When Joseph interpreted the dream, Pharaoh promoted Joseph to Prime Minister. Joseph developed a plan in which the grain of the 7 years of plenty would be stored and then that stored grain would keep everyone alive during the 7 year famine. So Joseph was used of God in a mighty way to preserve the nation of Egypt. During this famine Jacob brought his entire family down to Egypt, and they lived there. Over the years they began to increase in number and they became mighty.

Notice Exodus 1:8

Now here in this verse is where the problems started. In this verse we can see that there has now come on the scene another Pharaoh who knew not Joseph. In other words there is now a leader in Egypt who does not know the history of Egypt. He does not understand the role that Joseph played in Egypt neither does he understand how God used Joseph to preserve the Egyptians. Someone along the line failed in this man's life, for they did not teach him the history of his nation, and this failure will lead to great tragedy in Egypt when God brings the 10 plagues upon them.

Application:

This is exactly what has happened in our nation today. There is a generation and many leaders who refuse to acknowledge that God blessed this nation in the beginning because it was founded upon the principles of His Word. They refuse to see that the USA was founded upon Christian values and so the leaders are taking us down a path directly opposed to God's Word. The end result will be devastating when it comes.

Notice Exodus 1:9-14

The Pharaoh began to feel threatened because of the growing number of Hebrews, so he made them choose to oppress them with very difficult work.

Archeologists have found hieroglyphics in Egypt from that very time and one of them is a drawing of Hebrew slave with two Egyptians standing over him with whips and there is an inscription that says, "Work without fainting!" That could actually read, "If you collapse we will beat you to death!"

Notice Exodus 1:15-16

Now to stop the Hebrews, Pharaoh gave the command to kill the baby boys that were born to the Hebrews.

Application:

There is something here that we need to see that will help us in the days in which we live in. This was a manifestation of a spiritual battle that was taking place in Egypt. Let me explain. God had made a promise in Genesis 3.

Genesis 3:14-15

¹⁴ And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Here God announced to Satan that there was coming a MAN from the WOMAN/ISRAEL who would crush his head. Satan did not know when this MAN Jesus Christ would be born, so in Exodus 1 when Pharaoh commanded that all baby boys be killed, this is an attempt by Satan to destroy God's promise of the coming Redeemer. So in Exodus 1 this is a spiritual battle.

Now I want you to grasp what I am about to say in this application. What we are seeing in our society today is also a spiritual battle. Satan knows the influence which the church has upon the world, and so with the increase in immorality and the increase in political correctness which says we cannot call sin what it really is, then we must understand that this is an attempt by Satan to corrupt you and me who are believers and at the same time he is trying to silence us. You see Satan knows the power of God's Word, and if he can silence us, then he can silence the Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Let me show you what Paul said about the battle we are in.

Ephesians 6:10-12

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Our battle is not against our fellow man but it is against the satanic forces who are working through our fellow man.

Notice Exodus 1:22

These then were the conditions which the Hebrews were subjected to.

II. **The Family**

Notice Exodus 2:1-2

Here we are introduced to a new family who lived under this oppression. Then in verse 2 we read that the woman became pregnant. Many would ask, "Why would they allow this to happen? These are terrible conditions to bring a baby into!"

This looks to be a mistake on their part. But it is not a mistake.

Let me show you what the writer of Hebrews says about this family.

Hebrews 11:23

²³ *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.*

This was not arrogance, but this was faith! This family was not afraid of the king's commandment, which means they knew that their God was far greater than Pharaoh. I believe there was something in their minds which God had said to Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

² *And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing;*

³ *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

I believe that this family was holding tightly to this promise which God had made to Abraham which pertained to the entire nation of Israel. I believe they also held tightly to a command which God had given to Noah when he stepped from the ark.

Genesis 9:7

⁷ *And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.*

So here is a family that is like Daniel, and his 3 friends and Noah for they all were controlled by the Word of God and not by the pressures of society. Moses' parents were not intimidated by Pharaoh's command, but instead they were emboldened by the Word of God.

III. **The Plan**

Notice Exodus 2:2-9

When Moses' parents could no hide him, his mother formulated a plan. She would place him in a basket in the Nile, and she would have Moses' sister watch from a distance. She knew when Pharaoh's daughter came to the river, so this was all timed out.

Don't miss verse 6 for here we see what God used to soften the heart of Pharaoh's daughter, it was just one tear, which melted her heart. God can use the smallest of things to change a heart.

Now through this plan Moses' mother received him back and was paid by Pharaoh's daughter to raise him.

Conclusion:

What does this have to do with us living for God in the midst of our days? Let me give you several lessons from all of this:

1. **Don't allow society or circumstances to control your life. Let the Word of God be your guide.**

The bottom line is that circumstances do not determine the will of God. God's Word determines the will of God.

2. **Let us remember that the attacks against us are spiritual.**

When society attempts to silence us, let us remember it is Satan who is attacking the Word of God. He knows that God's Word can change lives, so let us refuse to be silenced when we have an opportunity to speak the Truth.

3. **We must live by faith, but we must also do our part.**

Moses' parents trusted God, but they also were required to do their part.

God will not do for His people what they can do for themselves.

Moses' parents were permitted to see the hand of God because they did all they could. As we move deeper into difficult times, let us remember that we must do all we can and when we do we can expect to see the hand of God in our lives.