

"Slavery in Egypt"

Part 2

Exodus 1

Introduction: Last week in our study of the Life of Moses we started to build a foundation using Exodus 1. We looked at how Israel came to Egypt and we looked at how their presence there was a fulfillment of God's promise to Abram and to Jacob. We see God's Words to Abram in Genesis 15.

Genesis 15:13

¹³ *And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;*

We see God's Words to Jacob in Genesis 46.

Genesis 46:1-3

And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac.

² *And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I.*

³ *And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation:*

It took four hundred years for the promise to come to pass. Within that four hundred years Israel had relaxed their character. When this happened, Israel fell into spiritual pollution. They had adopted the idolatry of the Egyptians. They were given the land of Goshen which was very fertile and was under a very warm climate. F. B. Meyer helps us to understand what happened to them.

"Beneath the seductive influences of the Egyptian climate their character became greatly relaxed."

Ezekiel records for us how much the spiritual climate impacted their lives.

Ezekiel 20:6-8

⁶ *In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands:*

⁷ Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

⁸ But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

Israel not only needed to be taken out of Egypt, but Egypt also needed to be taken out of Israel. God had to turn up the heat of the iron furnace so that Israel would be willing to leave. Sin had a grip on their lives, and they needed to be set free. The stage was being set for Moses to step up. But there is more foundation to build before we get to the Life of Moses.

I. The New King

Notice Exodus 1:8

There is much to be learned from this ruler of Egypt and we will get to that in a moment but first I want you to see what is recorded about this man in Acts.

Acts 7:15-18

¹⁵ So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers,

¹⁶ And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem.

¹⁷ But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,

¹⁸ Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph.

The word "another" here is very interesting. In the Bible there are two words which are translated "another". One means, "another of the same kind" and the other one means, "another of a different kind". The word in Acts 7:18 means, "another of a different kind". Some believe this man was a foreigner who conquered the land but there is no evidence to support this. He was a new Pharaoh who came on the scene to replace the Pharaoh before him. I want us to look at some details of this New King.

1. The New King's Inadequacy

Notice Exodus 1:8 again.

The inadequacy of this Pharaoh was that he did not know Joseph. Joseph was a great man who God used in a mighty way to save his family and to save the Egyptians from starvation. But now he was now forgotten. This brings to mind the words of Solomon.

Ecclesiastes 9:14-15

¹⁴ There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:

*¹⁵ Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; **yet no man remembered that same poor man.***

Mankind often forgets the best and the greatest of men. But we can be sure that as we serve our God, He never forgets our works and our labor of love.

Hebrews 6:10

*¹⁰ **For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love**, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

The inadequacy of this Pharaoh would prove to be very costly to him and the nation of Egypt. The king knew many things I am sure. He knew how to rule a nation, he knew all about leadership skills, he knew how to run a government, he knew what to do with political power, and I am sure he knew thousands of other things. Let us remember that at this time Egypt was very sophisticated and well educated. So, this king was probably at the top of his game. But his lack of knowing about Joseph and Joseph's God would be a curse to him and his nation. All of this illustrates how important it is to be educated in spiritual matters. Israel lacked spiritual knowledge in Hosea's day, and it brought ruin.

Hosea 4:6a

*⁶ **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:***

Their lack of knowledge eventually caused them to go into captivity.

Application:

It is no different today. The most important knowledge which we can possess is spiritual knowledge. To be more specific we need to know Jesus Christ. Just as Pharaoh's lack of knowledge would bring ruin upon him so it is also true of those who do not know Jesus Christ today. People can be well learned in many things. They can be educated and sophisticated but if they do not know Jesus Christ they will die in their sins and experience eternal damnation. We live in a society today which mocks and dishonors spiritual knowledge. But we must know that the greatest thing we can give to our children and our grand children is an education in the Bible. It matters not what they learn in

school and in college if they have no spiritual knowledge, namely if they do not know Jesus Christ.

2. The New King's Wrong Analysis

Notice Exodus 1:9-10

There is much to be said about how the king viewed the people of Israel. First of all, his statement in verse 9 is no doubt an exaggeration. Notice the words of Rawlinson on the king's statement:

"The expression is no doubt an exaggerated one... the sort of exaggeration in which unprincipled persons indulge when they would justify themselves for taking an extreme and unusual course."

Because this king knew not Joseph or Joseph's God, he was not able to gain the proper perspective of Israel. He viewed them as a liability instead of an asset.

Application:

This helps us to see how important it is for our children and our grand children to be taught the Truth of Scripture. When someone has no knowledge of God and His Word, they are then unable to make wise decisions. Without that knowledge they will not have the proper view of God's people. Without the knowledge of God and His Word they will not have the wisdom which they need. Notice the words of Butler on this thought:

"Those who do not know Jesus Christ as the king did not know Joseph, will have difficulty in discerning situation correctly and making proper evaluations of them. What God calls good they will call evil. What God condemns, they will commend and justify. What God forbids they will require. And what God requires they will forbid."

They will lack the proper wisdom. There are two kinds of wisdom. There is worldly wisdom and Godly wisdom.

James 3:13-17

¹³ Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

¹⁴ But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

¹⁵ This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

¹⁶ For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

This is exactly what we see happening in our society today. The things which God has said are forbidden such as homosexuality and abortion and proclaimed as personal rights. Our nation goes above and beyond to protect the eggs of certain birds but promotes the killing of unborn babies. They claim to be wise, but they are fools. Let us also not miss a very important warning in these verses.

Notice Exodus 1:9-10 again.

The focus here is on the king and his wrong evaluation. But for a moment I want us to consider the people of Israel and what happened in their lives.

Life seemed to be going along fine as they lived in Goshen. They were raising their families in a very pleasant climate they grew their own food in the fertile soil, and they were tending their flocks and herds. They were well satisfied. Then word came one day that Pharaoh had died and now there was a new Pharaoh. They had possibly heard of him before he stepped into the position of king. He was a hard man who really did not like the people of Israel, but he seemed to be no threat until he came into power. Now the word on the street is that he is going to begin to afflict the people of Israel. He has come into power and now he has the people behind him and so he begins to push his agenda. Life changed overnight. With one change of power life would never again be the same.

Application:

Let me just remind you that we are living in a nation in which many of the rulers do not know Jesus Christ and they have no fear of God. Because of what we [believers] stand for, anti-abortion, anti-homosexuality etc. we are viewed as a hinderance by many. Many see us and our stand for the Truth as something that is holding back progress. Some have referred to us as the "deplorables". Now, Israel had no choice in the matter, but God has placed us in a nation where we can vote for or against certain people. I would never tell you who to vote for, but I will suggest that you vote. The hatred for the Truth today is like flood waters behind a wooden dam. Looking at Exodus 1 we can clearly see that it only takes one change of power to bring devastation upon God's people. Let me also add that the new king in Egypt was serving Satan. It was Satan who wanted to exterminate the nation of Israel because of the promise of Jesus Christ coming from the nation. So, what is recorded here in Exodus 1 is a spiritual battle. The same can be said in our day also. The hatred for the Truth and the church is coming directly from hell. Satan hated Jesus Christ and now we are His body and so his hatred is toward us. That which is recorded here is for our learning. Please don't think that what happened in Egypt cannot happen

here. Liberals speak of conservative Christianity as being "dangerous" and "harmful". Notice the words of Matthew Henry:

"It has been the policy of persecutors to represent God's Israel [God's people in general] as a dangerous people, hurtful to kings and provinces, not fit to be trusted, nay, not fit to be tolerated."

1 Corinthians 10:11

¹¹ Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Edmund Burke said:

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Let me give you one more thought from what we see in these two verses. What we see here from the king is anti-Semitism. When anti-Semitism is adopted by the leaders of a nation it is a recipe for disaster.

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.

Let me show you the words of Butler on this thought:

"Beware of talk and national policy that is anti-Jew. It will destroy a nation. This does not mean, of course, that all that the Jews and the Nation of Israel do is right. Rather, it exhorts an attitude towards the Jews that in national relationship is that of an ally, not an enemy; and in personal relationship is that of respect and honor, not ridicule and persecution. This attitude is mandated by God's Word."

One thing we can learn from this king and his hatred for Israel is that the sins of a national leader can bring destruction and heartache upon an entire nation. As we work our way through the plagues, we will see that all ten plagues came upon all of the Egyptians. They did not just come upon Pharaoh and his family. Let us notice one more point before we stop.

II. The King's Plan

Notice Exodus 1:10 again.

I want to point your attention to the phrase "let us deal WISELY with them." This sounds so sophisticated but what the king saw as a wise move God saw as "subtilly" which means "crafty".

Acts 7:17-19

¹⁷ But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,

¹⁸ Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph.

¹⁹ The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.

The new king's actions were far from wise. He should have viewed Israel as an ally but instead [because of his lack of spiritual knowledge] he saw them as dangerous.

Application:

This supports what we just talked about. Without spiritual knowledge man cannot make wise decisions. He may think he is exercising wisdom, but his wisdom is nothing but folly and eventually it will turn on them and bring heartache and ruin. Paul tells us what goes on in the minds of those who do not know Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

The new king was under the influence of Satan and the flesh.

Conclusion:

Let us learn from all of this the importance of knowing the Word of God and continuously walking in the light of God's Word. You see, even believers can fall under the same influences.