

## "Slavery in Egypt"

### Part 4

#### Exodus 1

**Introduction:** In the past three weeks we have been looking at Israel in Egypt under the government of the new king. This new king was greatly influenced by Satan to afflict the people of Israel. The king carefully planned his persecution of Israel by making it look as if they were a threat to the Egyptians.

#### **Notice Exodus 1:8-10**

This new king had no knowledge of Joseph or Joseph's God and for that reason he was not able to make an accurate analysis of the people of Israel. He should have seen them as an ally but instead he saw them as a threat. The people of Egypt believed his distorted analysis of Israel and they then became the instruments of the affliction. The Egyptians placed the Israelites under very hard labor.

#### **Notice Exodus 1:11, 13-14**

The word "rigour" had the idea of crushing something into pieces. The Egyptians worked them from sun up until sun down in the hot Egyptian sun. They made their lives bitter with the different kinds of labor they were given to do. They were used to build two cities which would be used by Egypt to store military supplies. No matter how much the Israelites were able to do it was never enough. They had taskmasters that stood over them as they worked to be sure they did not slack off. The work was brutal, and Israel was helpless.

Now it must also be noted that all of this was permitted by God. Israel had become very complacent in Egypt. They had allowed themselves to get rooted in and they were content to stay in Goshen and just drift through life. But God had another plan. He planned to take them to the land of Canaan where they would serve as His representatives to all the world.

#### **Genesis 15:13-14**

*<sup>13</sup> 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;*

*<sup>14</sup> And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.*

It was God's will that Israel was to come out of Egypt, but because they were rooted in God permitted the affliction to uproot them.

The affliction upon Israel however did not keep them from growing.

**Notice Exodus 1:12**

The more they were afflicted the more they grew. Many died under the affliction, but the birth rate was greater than the death rate.

Now, because the hard labor and the affliction failed to keep them from growing in number, the king had to find a way to stop this population explosion. This then brings us to where we are tonight.

**I. The Plan of the King  
Part 3  
The Slaying in Egypt**

As we now move on in this chapter, we shall see that the king is going to try his best to kill all the baby boys born to Israel. If the king had his way, there would not be any people of Israel left for Moses to lead. This king did not realize at this time that he was fighting against God and he would not win. There are people groups which could possibly be eliminated but it can never happen to the Jews.

**Jeremiah 30:11**

<sup>11</sup> *For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet I will not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.*

**Jeremiah 31:35-36**

<sup>35</sup> *Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:*

<sup>36</sup> *If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.*

The only way the king of Egypt could possibly get rid of the Jews would be to first get rid of the universe. In other words, it would be impossible for the king to destroy Israel!

**A. The Orders for the Slaying.**

**Notice Exodus 1:15-16**

The king commanded the midwives to betray those who were giving birth. They were to examine the sex of the child that was born and if it were a girl then she could live but if the baby was a boy then they were to kill it. This was infanticide. This was not abortion.

The midwives were to pretend as if they were help with the birth and if the baby was a boy they were to kill. It could have been through suffocation or by a quick sharp blow to the head. However, they could do it they were to put the child to death. How terrible these orders were, and they were issued by the government.

**Application:**

In our society today abortion takes place every day and it is just as terrible as what happened in Egypt. Abortion is advertised today as "healthcare", but it is far from healthcare. Abortion is murder. Regardless of what our society states about the unborn, the Bible is very clear that the fetus in its momma's womb is a baby.

**Luke 1:39-41**

<sup>39</sup> *And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;*

<sup>40</sup> *And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.*

<sup>41</sup> *And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:*

When Mary announced her pregnancy to Elisabeth the BABY in Elisabeth leaped in her womb. God calls the unborn BABIES. In the Old Testament under the law the pregnant mom and her baby were protected.

**Exodus 21:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> *If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.*

<sup>23</sup> *And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life.*

<sup>24</sup> *Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,*

<sup>25</sup> *Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.*

If a man would hurt a pregnant woman and cause her to deliver early and the baby survived the man would be punished as determined by the judges. If a man hurt her and the baby died then the man was to be put to death. His punishment was to match his crime.

The cost of abortion in our nation is beyond what we can begin to imagine. It certainly causes a great deal of emotional harm to the mother. Regardless of what people say, women who have had abortions carry the wounds and the scars with them the rest of their

lives. There are many who attempt to suppress this very truth. Let me give you an example of this suppression:

Hollywood actress Alyssa Milano recently stated these words:

*"My life would lack its 'Great Joys' if I hadn't aborted two children."*

I can assure you that those who have had abortions find themselves looking at children who are the age of what their aborted child would be, and they wonder what their child would be like if they would have lived. The heartache must be extremely deep. Praise God there is forgiveness and healing for those ladies who have taken that very path.

Another cost to our nation is considering who has been aborted.

### **Jeremiah 1:4-5**

*<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

*<sup>5</sup> Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

God had a [plan for Jeremiah before he was ever born. The same is true for all of us and if that be the case then we must consider how many pastors, teachers, missionaries, doctors, presidents, nurses and caregivers we have killed that could have made a difference in this world. Someone has said if those people would have lived and paid into Social Security there would be an abundance in the fund. There have been over 61.5 million since 1973. As of 12 noon on Wednesday when I was typing this up there were 615,000 this year alone to date.

God devastated Egypt for what they did, and I can assure you that God will judge the US for all the innocent lives that have been taken.

Last week we talked about the slavery in Egypt was a picture of sin and we noted that SIN EXTRACTS. It will take the very best from you and leave you empty. I just want to add that the sin of abortion certainly magnifies this truth. Those who perform the abortions have been truly infected by what they do. Sin has extracted their compassion, and it has extracted their sensitivity. They have no problem pulling pieces of a baby from the womb of a woman. To look at and hold the tiny hands, fingers and feet of the aborted without any remorse shows us how sin hardens and extracts. It also takes away the ability to discern. I say this because if a gunman shoots and kills an abortionist all those who are in the practice are very quick to feel compassion and complain about a brutal death! They are completely blind to what they are doing. Sin has hardened them so much they cannot begin to see their own hypocrisy. The gunman killed a murderer, but they kill the innocent!

**B. The Obstacles to the Slaying**

**Notice Exodus 1:17**

The orders of the king collided with a steadfast obstacle. It was the Hebrew midwives. They feared God more than they feared the king. They feared the One who could kill the soul and not just the body.

**Luke 12:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> *And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.*

<sup>5</sup> *But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.*

**Notice Exodus 1:18-19**

Most everyone wants to believe that the midwives lied to the king, but it could be that the Hebrew women did deliver their babies before they could get to them. If they did lie to the king that is not what God commended, but it was their reverence for Him which He took notice to.

**Application:**

The fear of the Lord needs to be found in every one of God's people. Let me show you the words of Butler concerning the fear of the Lord:

*"The fear of God will give men character, but the fear of man will corrupt man. A big problem in the world today is that we have great fear of man but little fear of God. We are so concerned about what man thinks of us and what man will do to us that we adjust our conduct to try to please man even though that conduct may be grossly wicked. Those who fear God will adjust their conduct to please Him regardless of whether or not it pleases man."*

When we have a fear/reverence for God instead of man it will change the way we conduct our lives.

**Proverbs 9:10**

<sup>10</sup> *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*

**Proverbs 10:27**

<sup>27</sup> *The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.*

**Proverbs 14:26**

<sup>26</sup> In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

<sup>27</sup> The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

**Proverbs 16:6**

<sup>6</sup> By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

**Proverbs 19:23**

<sup>23</sup> The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

There are many other verses pertaining to the fear of the Lord but from these we can see how the fear of the Lord changes our lives. It is the beginning of wisdom. It gives us the courage to speak the Word of God. It keeps us from getting involved in sinful practices. It gives us great confidence in the mighty hand of God.

**Notice Exodus 1:20-21**

Here is the blessing from God because the midwives had a fear of God. We are told that God dealt well with them and He gave them houses. The idea here is that God gave them families and children of their own. These midwives were probably young women who were not married or who were married but had no children. So, because of their reverence for God He blessed them and gave them their own families.

**Galatians 6:7**

<sup>7</sup> Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

These women sowed loved and preserved families and so God blessed them in return by giving to them families of their own.

**Application:**

This principle of reaping and sowing can be seen all around us. But often we do not understand the impact we can have as we live in the fear of the Lord and we serve Him. This story which I came upon might help us to see what I mean:

"A young man lay on a hospital cot, recovering from an operation which had been a most serious one. His surgeon—a renowned and skillful operator—was paying his daily visit. He had been making some inquiries about the young man's family, for certain points in the case greatly interested him, and he had wished to know of the inheritance that lay back of

*this young man. In answer to a question, the patient said, "Oh, yes, my folks are all religious—all the family way back—" adding carelessly, "I don't take much stock in that sort of thing myself."*

*"You have inherited stock in it, young man, and very valuable stock," answered the Christian physician, "Do you know why you are recovering so rapidly from your accident—why the bones knit and the wounds heal so rapidly? It is because those ancestors of yours have bequeathed to you good clean blood and a sound constitution—the physical makeup of those who have kept God's laws. He is a God of justice, and the heritage of those that fear His Name is a precious and priceless one in many ways. I wouldn't speak lightly of such a birthright. The responsibility is upon you to pass on an equally desirable one to your children."*

**Conclusion:**

**Notice Exodus 1:22**

In his frustration the king turns the screw a little tighter. Now he gives a command to cast all the baby boys into the Nile River. Now instead of killing the babies at birth they were commanded to toss them into the river when they were discovered. So, if someone had a child today and it was discovered several days later it could be taken and tossed into the river.

The river here was to be used as a grave yard. Casting the babies in the river eliminated the earthly graves which were reminders. In the river they would be consumed by crocodiles and as far as the king was concerned, they were gone forever. He thought he was burying his sin. Just as the abortion clinics do today when they throw the bodies of the babies in the dumpsters and they are hauled to the landfill. But the king was deceived and so are the murdering abortionists.

**Numbers 32:23**

<sup>23</sup> *But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and **be sure your sin will find you out.***

God was fully aware of what was happening, and He is about to step into the scene. It will be in the midst of this darkness that Moses will come forth.