

God Working in the Lives of His People

Exodus 1:1 Now these *are* the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt; every man and his household came with Jacob. 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, 3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, 4 Dan, and Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. 5 And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were **seventy souls**: for Joseph was in Egypt *already*. 6 And **Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.** 7 And the children of Israel were **fruitful**, and **increased abundantly**, and **multiplied**, and **waxed exceeding mighty**; and **the land was filled with them.** 8 Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. 9 And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel *are* **more and mightier than we**: 10 Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. 11 Therefore they did set over them taskmasters **to afflict** them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh **treasure cities**, Pithom

and Raamses. 12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. 13 And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to **serve with rigour:** 14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour. 15 And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: 16 And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see *them* upon the stools; if it *be* a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it *be* a daughter, then she shall live. 17 But the **midwives feared God,** and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. 18 And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? 19 And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women *are* not as the Egyptian women; for they *are* lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. 20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. 21 And it came to pass, because the **midwives feared God,** that he made them

houses. 22 And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive. 2:1 And there went **a man** of the house of Levi, and took *to wife* a daughter of Levi. 2 And **the woman** conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he *was a goodly child*, she hid him three months. 3 And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid *it* in the flags by the river's brink. 4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit **what would be done to him**. 5 And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash *herself* at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. 6 And when she had opened *it*, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This *is one* of the Hebrews' children. 7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? 8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. 9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give *thee* thy wages. And the

woman took the child, and nursed it. 10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water. 11 And it came to pass in those days, when **Moses was grown**, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, **one of his brethren**. 12 And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that *there was* no man, **he slew the Egyptian**, and hid him in the sand. 13 And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow? 14 And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known. 15 Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well. 16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew *water*, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 And **the shepherds** came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. 18 And when they came to

Reuel their father, he said, *How is it that ye are come so soon to day?* 19 And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew *water* enough for us, and watered the flock. 20 And he said unto his daughters, *And where is he? why is it that ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread.* 21 And Moses was **content to dwell** with the man: and he gave Moses **Zipporah** his daughter. 22 And she bare *him* a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land. 23 And **it came to pass** in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the **children of Israel sighed by reason** of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. 24 And **God heard their groaning**, and God **remembered his covenant** with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and **God had respect unto them.**

1. God's people begin to suffer

- a. The family had gone to Egypt because of the famine
- b. Joseph had been sent ahead to get things ready to save the family and the future nation

- c. Only 70 people enter Egypt **5** And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were **seventy souls:** for Joseph was in Egypt *already*.
- d. Eventually everyone dies and things change **6** And **Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.**
- e. The nation grows greatly just like they had been promised **7** And the children of Israel were **fruitful,** and **increased abundantly,** and **multiplied,** and **waxed exceeding mighty;** and **the land was filled with them.**
- f. The new king, political order, was afraid of Israel **8** Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. **9** And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel *are* **more and mightier than we:** **10** Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they **multiply,** and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.

- i. The children of Israel were growing quickly and getting more and more influence
 - ii. The children of Israel were getting mightier or stronger
 - iii. The new king could see problems coming
 - iv. He feared that Israel might join up with their enemies in a war
- g. The new king decided to do all in his power to hurt Israel
- i. Afflict them with burdens **11** Therefore they did set over them taskmasters **to afflict** them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh **treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.**
 - ii. Cause them to serve in extreme conditions **13** And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to **serve with rigour:** **14** And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, *was* with rigour.
 - iii. Kill their male children **15** And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one *was* Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: **16** And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the

Hebrew women, and see *them* upon the stools; if it *be* a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it *be* a daughter, then she shall live.

- h. God took care of His people even in these conditions
 - i. The more they were mistreated the more they increased **12** But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.
 - ii. God touched the hearts of the midwives **17** But the **midwives feared God**, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.
 - iii. The midwives lied as they protected the male children **18** And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? **19** And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women *are* not as the Egyptian women; for they *are* lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them.
 - iv. God was good to the midwives because they feared Him **20** Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. **21** And it

came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses. 22 And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.

i. Applications for us

- i. For 400 years many people certainly looked for God to do something in their lives and get them back to the promised land that they had heard about
- ii. Before many generations passed they got used to living in Egypt and weren't crying out to God to get back to their land
- iii. It is easy to become accustomed to this world and forget the other
- iv. Most people were living ordinary lives in the shadow of great promises
- v. Egypt was getting a great opportunity to see the worship of the God of Israel
- vi. Did the Israelites get comfortable and not express their worship and love of their God? **Genesis 12:2 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**. 18:18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and **all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?**

1. The promise was repeated many times
2. They knew that they were to be a blessing
3. They worshipped one God while Egypt worshipped many gods.
4. 400 years a witness lived in Egypt
5. Did they share their faith?
6. Did they make a difference?
7. Did they waste an opportunity?

vii. It seems that at least the midwives had learned about God enough to fear Him

viii. As the persecution came the prayers began to go up. It is amazing how little we pray while things are going well

ix. In times of quiet and relative prosperity we must remember to share our faith and not take for granted what God has done in our lives

x. The great majority of us, if not all of us, are just normal people. We are not the great heroes of the Bible. We

are not Moses or even the midwives. We are the unnamed that live and die in the shadows but our lives can make a difference

2. God prepares His man

- a. The great man was born in a normal family, a man and a daughter are mentioned **2:1** *And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. 2 And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.*
- b. A normal family took small steps to protect their family **3** *And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. 4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.*
- c. Very doubtful that this man and woman had any idea that their child was going to be the great man of God, Moses
- d. God protected Moses and provided for him **5** *And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side;*

and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. 6 And when she had opened *it*, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, *This is one* of the Hebrews' children. 7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? 8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. 9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give *thee* thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.

- e. Moses spent 40 years being prepared in Egypt 10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.
 - i. Moses' parents took care of him as long as they could Acts 7:20 In which time **Moses was born**, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months:
 - ii. Then God sent Pharaoh's daughter to take care of Moses Acts 7:21 And when he was **cast out**, Pharaoh's

daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son.

iii. Moses learned and became very accomplished

Acts 4:22 And Moses was **learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.**

iv. At the age of 40 he decided to see His people, Israel

Acts 4:23 And when he was **full forty years old,** it **came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.**

f. Moses wanted to be a hero and protect his people

Exodus 2:11 And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren. **12** And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that *there was* no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand. **13** And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow? **14**

And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known. **15** Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.

- i. Moses thought that the Israelites would know that he was the man sent from God to rescue them **Acts 4:24** *And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and **smote the Egyptian:*** **25** For he supposed **his brethren would have understood** how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not. **26** And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, *Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?*
- ii. The Israelites felt that Moses was trying to lift himself up above them **Acts 4:27** *But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?* **28** *Wilt thou kill me, as thou*

diddest the Egyptian yesterday? **29** Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons.

- g. Moses chose to be with the people of God rather than continue in the good life he was enjoying **Hebrews 11:23** 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.** **24** By faith Moses, when he was come to years, **refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;** **25** Choosing rather to **suffer affliction with the people of God,** than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; **26** Esteeming the **reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt:** for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. **27** By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as **seeing him who is invisible.** **28** Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. **29** By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry *land:* which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

h. God sent Moses to the wilderness to be humbled

Exodus 2:16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew *water*, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. **17** And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. **18** And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, *How is it that ye are come so soon to day?* **19** And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew *water* enough for us, and watered the flock. **20** And he said unto his daughters, And where *is* he? *why is it that ye have left the man?* call him, that he may eat bread. **21** And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter. **22** And she bare *him* a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land. **23** And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. **24** And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. **25** And God looked

upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto *them*. Acts 7:30 And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.

3. Great lessons for us

- a. Most of us will live normal lives but should use our lives to make a difference in those around us
 - i. The midwives learned to fear God maybe in the houses of those giving birth
 - ii. Moses learned about serving God at the hand of his mother and dad
- b. We should seek God in the good and pleasant times as well as the difficult
- c. We should be involved in more than just lifestyle evangelism. We need to be vocal in sharing our faith
- d. It is easy to see God doing great things in your life and to begin to think that you are someone and the hero when it is never about us
- e. God often has to remind us that it is Him and not us at work

- f. We should choose to do right no matter what we have to give up or risk like the midwives did and also Moses
- g. Is it possible that we could love God and live in this society and never make any difference in the lives of those around us
- h. God keeps His Word and accomplishes what He has promised
- i. Though we are ordinary people we make big decisions every day for our lives. What decisions will you make that might affect your Christian walk, your gospel sharing, your testimony to those around you