

"The New King"
Exodus 1:8-14
(Preached at Trinity, June 25, 2006)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we've seen, with the passing of years all knowledge of Joseph and Jacob faded from the memories of the Egyptians.
 - A. While Joseph was alive they were people of privilege – look at the example of Jacob's funeral
 - B. Their prosperity had long faded away and had turned to persecution and oppression.
They were in Egypt for 430 years
Exodus 12:40-41 – "Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. ⁴¹ And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt."
2. Now in **Verse 8** we are told of the rise of a new king.
Exodus 1:8 – "Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph."
 - A. This was a wicked king – sin continues to plague mankind. This king has a heart of stone, a conscience seared as with a hot iron.
 - B. We need to understand that God raised this king up. God is the ruler of this earth. God would use this king for His own glory as He delivered His people from bondage.
 - C. God never intended that Egypt would be the permanent home for Israel.
Genesis 50:24 – "And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."
3. It is possible that this king was actually not an Egyptian at all but a foreign invader.
 - A. This was A.W. Pink's position:
"This new king belonged not merely to a new dynasty, but was of a different nationality: he was by birth an Assyrian, not an Egyptian."
 - B. We find evidence for this in Isaiah
Isaiah 52:4 – "For thus saith the Lord GOD, My people went down aforetime into Egypt to sojourn there; and the Assyrian oppressed them without cause."
 - C. It isn't likely that the Israelites were more numerous than the Egyptians but were more numerous than the foreign occupiers.
 - D. This would explain why this new king knew nothing of Joseph
4. Pharaoh's actions in these early chapters of Exodus are entirely consistent with those of lost men. Tonight I want to look at some of the characteristics of lost men.

- I. They have no knowledge of the covenants and promises of God
Exodus 1:8 – “Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.”
- A. The Egyptians did not know Joseph nor the God of Joseph
Exodus 5:1-2 – “And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. ² And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.”
1. They had forgotten God’s rich deliverance from the famine
 2. They knew nothing of God’s promises to Israel
 3. God had promised to make Israel a great nation. Pharaoh was trying to destroy them.
- B. This is the condition of all lost men
1. They do not know God. They know nothing of His promises. They are without God.
Ephesians 2:12 – “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:”
 2. Lost men have no knowledge of the riches of God’s spiritual blessings
 3. They cannot comprehend spiritual truths
1 Corinthians 2:14 – “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.”
- II. They feel threatened by God and the people of God and try to remove them
- A. Pharaoh was intimidated by the Israelites
1. The text tells us he feared the number of them
Exodus 1:9 – “And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel *are* more and mightier than we:”
 2. The issue was more than just their number.
 - a. The Israelites had lived among the Egyptians for over 400 years but they had never become like the Egyptians.
 - b. They had been oppressed by the Egyptians almost from the beginning. They were different.
 3. The word for “grieved” in **Verse 12** can also be translated “loathed” or “abhorred”
- B. Satan hates God. He hates all that is good. He hates all that is pleasing to God
Satan has always done everything he could to destroy God’s redemptive plan
1. He tried to destroy Christ
 - a. He was behind Herod’s scheme to destroy all the male children
 - b. He tried to derail Christ in the wilderness temptation
 - c. It was Satan who stirred up the people
John 19:15 – “But they cried out, Away with *him*, away with *him*, crucify him.”
 2. Satan has tried to destroy Christianity
The Romans tried to destroy Christianity through persecution but the church only got stronger

3. Multitudes have sought to destroy Christianity by sowing in lies and heresy
2 Peter 2:1-2 – “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”
4. Today they are still trying to destroy the church
 Cults and false religions, Hollywood and the media’s misrepresentation of true Christianity. (The Da Vinci code)

III. They are plagued by carnal wisdom

Exodus 1:10 – “Come on, let us deal wisely with them”

- A. Pharaoh thought he was dealing wisely – it all made perfect sense to him
 1. His words were reminiscent of the foolish wisdom of the Tower of Babel
Genesis 11:4 – “And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.”
 2. First he tried to weaken them, ruin their health, and shorten their days through cruel bondage
Exodus 1:11 – “Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens.”
 3. Then he tried to destroy them through the murder of their male babies
Exodus 1:16 – “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.
 4. The wisdom of Pharaoh was actually foolishness
- B. All wisdom apart from God is foolishness
1 Corinthians 1:19-20 – “For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. ²⁰ Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?”
1 Corinthians 1:27-29 – “But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸ And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: ²⁹ That no flesh should glory in his presence.”
- C. All who oppose God are fools
 1. Those who deny God are fools
Psalm 14:1 – “The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God*. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is none that doeth good*.”
 2. God mocks their foolishness
Psalm 2:4 – “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.”

IV. Their deeds are contrary to the Law of God

A. Pharaoh's actions were all wicked

1. All of Pharaohs' actions were contrary to the Law of God
2. He was filled with enmity, hatred, murder

Verse 11 - He afflicted them

Verse 13 - He made them serve with rigor (the word means cruelty)

Verse 14 – He made their lives bitter

Verse 16 – Finally he resorted to murder

B. Pharaoh's actions were consistent with all men

1. We are born with a heart problem – we are filled with wickedness
Romans 1:28-32 – “And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; 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: ³² Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”
2. This is all a testimony to how badly we all need God's mercy

IV. Their plans and purposes will fail

Exodus 1:12 – “But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.”

A. The very way they sought to destroy Israel caused them to increase

1. The oppression only made them stronger
2. Left to themselves Israel might have easily melted into the Egyptian culture. The Egyptian oppression served to maintain their identity – for over 400 years.
3. Pharaoh did not consider that God was protecting Israel
Exodus 1:17 – “But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.”
4. Pharaoh would find out the folly of fighting against God

B. The puny plans of men will never thwart the purposes of God

1. God ordains the steps of men
Proverbs 16:9 – “A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.”
2. When God is for you all things work in your favor.
 When God is against you all is doomed to ultimate failure
 Each of the Canaanite cities fell one by one

3. The 146th Psalm which we often sing under the title, “Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah.” speaks of the futility of living apart from God
Psalm 146:4 – “His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.”
Psalm 146:9 – “The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.”
From the Psalter:
“He shall die, to dust returning, And his purposes shall end.”

Conclusion:

1. As I’ve said, this will be a recurring theme throughout the book of Exodus – the reality of sin in the human heart. Exodus is the continued revelation of God’s redemptive purpose – His plan for dealing with man’s sin problem.
2. Pharaoh’s attacks upon Israel was actually an attack upon God. But it is always foolish to wage war against God.
3. This is precisely what every lost person is doing. They are foolish fighting with God and hoping that somehow they will prevail in the end.
4. God commands all men everywhere to lay down their weapons and repent. It is folly to oppose God.

