

**Study #2: A Greenhouse of Growth<sup>1</sup>**  
**Exodus 1:1-7**

- I. Introduction
  - A. Exodus means: exit, departure, or the way out
  - B. Descriptions
  - C. The main goal for tonight is to answer two questions:
    - 1. How and why was Israel in Egypt in the first place?
    - 2. As a Christian, how and why am I where I am today?
- II. The Bridge from Genesis to Exodus (Beginnings to The Way Out).
  - A. Why and how did we get here? Israel was in Egypt by, “divine command, under divine provision, awaiting divine intervention (Motyer, 27-28).”
  - B. Genesis Revisited (v. 1-5).
    - 1. verse 1
      - a) The book begins with the word “and” connecting it back to Genesis (one letter in Hebrew- conjunctive waw).
      - b) “...are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt...”
      - c) We can already see the theme of God as the Father of his covenant people who would become a nation
    - 2. verses 2-5
      - a) The order of the list is not the order of birth but the order according to the one who gave birth. Leah, the first six. Rachel, Benjamin (her 2nd son). Handmaidens/servants, the next four. Last in verse 5 is Joseph Rachel's first born
      - b) 70 persons- “Thus the full offspring from the loins of Jacob”
    - 3. What specific background from Genesis do we need to know? (divine command, under divine provision, awaiting divine intervention)
      - a) Genesis 3:15
      - b) Genesis 12:1-3
      - c) Genesis 15:12-16

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<sup>1</sup> See Michael P. V. Barrett, *The Gospel of Exodus: Misery, Deliverance, Gratitude*. 34.

- d) Genesis 17:1-2
- e) Genesis 46:1-4
- f) Genesis 50:19-21

C. Between Genesis and Exodus (v. 6-7). Now what happened over the next 400 years?

1. Egypt was a “greenhouse for growth (Barrett, 34)
2. One conservative population estimate is 600,000
3. Look at the adjectives and verbs of verse 7. Where in Genesis have you heard language like this?
4. What kind of mental picture do you get when you read, “the land was filled with them”...

### III. Discuss & Apply

#### A. Questions

- How would you summarize or paraphrase Exodus 1:1-7? Why is it here and what does it tell us about God's purpose for Israel?
- Why is real history so important to God's people? (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 11)
- Why is your history important? How is Exodus a part of your history as a Christian?
- How does this passage help us to view the current chaos around us? (Psalm 33)
- What does this passage tell us about the character of God? (covenant faithfulness, Hebrews 13:8)
- The world views the trials and events of life as, “experience without explanation, adversity without purpose, hostility without protection (Motyer, 28).” For the people of God, how does the beginning of Exodus speak to this?

#### B. Prep for next study (10/4)

- Read Exodus 1
- Read Heidelberg Catechism Q. 2. <https://www.urchna.org/threeforms>

### Prayer Requests