



Sin, Slavery, & What Salvation Looks Like

Exodus 1

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Exodus 1

1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family:

2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; 3 Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; 4 Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. 5 The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt. 6 Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, 7 but the Israelites were exceedingly

fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

8 Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. 9 “Look,” he said to his people, “The Israelites have become far too numerous for us. 10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.” 11 So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites 13 and worked them ruthlessly. 14 They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, 16 “When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.”

17 The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

18 Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?”

19 The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.” 20 So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

Genesis 1:26-28 (The Vision of Humanity)

26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Genesis 18:18-19 (The Vision of Renewed Humanity)

18 “Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.

19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”

Exodus 1:8-10

8 Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. 9 “Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. 10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”

Exodus 1:11

So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh.

The question is:

What will God do about it?

The answer is:

Deliverance, Salvation, Redemption.

The scope of Egypt's oppression demonstrates the scope of Yahweh's redemption.

The Hebrews Are Enslaved Politically (1:8-10)

“Exodus 1 portrays how vulnerable the Hebrews were to being made the target of irrational fear, political cunning, and unjust discrimination. They had no political freedom or voice within the Egyptian state, even though they had grown in numbers... This is a story with modern echoes.”

- Christopher J.H. Wright, *The Mission of God*

The Hebrews Are Enslaved Economically (1:11-14)

“An ethnic minority does the dirty and heavy work for the king of Egypt. The modern echoes continue.”

- Christopher J.H. Wright, *The Mission of God*

The Hebrews Are Enslaved Socially (1:15-22)

“Israelite families are made to live in constant fear—nine months of fear as every pregnant mother waited for the news that should normally have brought great joy (‘It’s a boy!’), but would now bring terror and grief.”

- Christopher J.H. Wright, *The Mission of God*

The Hebrews Are Enslaved Spiritually (2:23-25 & 4:21-23)

Hebrew *'abad* (עבד) = to serve, to work for another, work as a slave, worship.

- Exodus 2:23: The Israelites cried out to God because of their slavery (*'abad*).
- Exodus 4:22: “Moses said to Pharaoh, ‘Israel is my son, let my son go that he may worship me’” (*'abad*).

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

- Jesus in Matthew 6:24

Romans 6:6-7

6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

“Sin is not just a thing, however, but a particular kind of thing. When one sins, something concrete happens: one’s hands may become stained, one’s back may become burdened, or one may fall into debt. And the verbal expressions that render the idea of forgiveness follow suit:

stained hands are cleansed, burdens are lifted, and debts are paid off. It is as though a stain, weight, or bond of indebtedness is created ex nihilo when one offends against God. And that thing that sin has created will continue to haunt the offenders until it has been engaged and dealt with.”

- Gary Anderson, *Sin: A History*

Exodus 6:6

“Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.’”

John 8:10-11

10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

11 “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”