

Exodus 1-2

May 15, 2011

Introduction:

In Genesis God created man, put him out of the Garden because of his sin, destroyed almost the entire race by the flood, and then called Abraham to make him a great nation. Most of Genesis is about Abraham, his son Isaac, his grandson Jacob, and his great grandson Joseph. Joseph, who had been sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, 13 years later became the Prime Minister of Egypt. The rest of Jacob's family eventually joined Joseph in Egypt because of a widespread famine.

1:8-14: Who can tell us what takes place in chapter 1 verses 8 to 14?

- Joseph apparently died and another Pharaoh comes into power who forgets what Joseph had done for Egypt. He began to fear the growth and prosperity of the Jews so he makes slaves of the Jews. The more he persecuted them, the more they multiplied, so the new Pharaoh made their work even more difficult.

1:8: What do we learn from verse 8?

- Things change. Joseph, who had been an appreciated hero, was now forgotten. Circumstances change in our lives. Industries change; bosses change; workplaces change. The Jews were living in a land of plenty and then came a major famine. God fed Elijah with ravens and a brook, and then the ravens quit coming and the brook dried up. Change (of some sort) is inevitable; we must be ready to adapt to the changes. Some people formerly made good money building and repairing typewriters.
- Some of you are high achievers and considered to be very important in your workplace. The day will come, though, when your company will go on without you and they'll forget that you were a "Joseph" there.

1:15-22: What happens in verses 15 to 22?

- The Pharaoh orders the Jewish midwives to put to death any boys who are born to the Jews. The midwives refuse to do this and tell the Pharaoh that the children are being born quickly without their help. Pharaoh tells them to drown the boys in the Nile River.

1:17: What do we learn from verse 17 and how does it apply to our lives today?

- The midwives feared God's displeasure more than Pharaohs. There are people who will do what they know to be wrong in order to fit in and be accepted by some person or group of people. They fear the rejection of the person or group more than they fear displeasing God. *See John 5:44. 44 No wonder you can't believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don't care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God. NLT*

What does the Bible teach about submission to authority in this life?

- Wives are to submit to husbands ó *Ephesians 5:22. 22 For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. NLT*
- Children to parents ó *Colossians 3:20. 20 Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.*
- Employees to bosses ó *Colossians 3:22-25. 22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. 23 Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. 24 Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ. 25 But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites. NLT*

- “Everyone” to God ó **Ephesians 6:9**. *9 Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Don’t threaten them; remember, you both have the same Master in heaven, and he has no favorites. NLT*
- Citizens to rulers ó **Romans 13:1-2**. *1 Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in God has placed positions of authority there. 2 So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.*
- Church members to pastors ó **Hebrews 13:17**. *17 Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit. NLT*

When are we *not* to submit to these authorities?

- We are in submission to a higher authorityí God. If any earthly authority asks us to disobey God, we must then disobey men. **See Acts 4:19**. It is our assignment to share Christ, so we can’t stop trying to help people say “yes” to God. It is not God’s will to kill babies, so the midwives obeyed God rather than men.

1:20-21: What do we learn in verses 20 to 21?

- God was good to the midwives **BECAUSE** they obeyed Him and not the Pharaoh.
- He blessed their lives for doing the right thing.
- The “consequence” (blessing) was a result of the choice (obedience).

Have you heard the expression “God is a debtor to no man”? What does that mean?

- God always keeps His promisesí always! He rewards obedienceí always! **See Matthew 10:42**. *42 And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.”*
- He rewards us in this life but our biggest rewards are in heaven. **See Malachi 3:8-12; 8** *“Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! “But you ask, ‘What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?’ “You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. 9 You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! 11 Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. 12 “Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.*
- **Matthew 6:33; 33** *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. Luke: 6:38; 16:11; & 18:29-30. 38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” 11 And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? 29 “Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, 30 will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come.”*

2:1-1-10: What takes place in chapter 2 in verses 1 to 10?

- Moses is born and hidden by his mother for **3 months**. She then put the baby Moses in a wicker “boat” and placed him in the Nile River hoping that an Egyptian would find him and want to keep him. The current Pharaoh’s daughter found him. The sister of Moses was watching and asked if she could find someone to nurse the child. The mother of Moses was able to nurse him until he was weaned with the Pharaoh’s daughter paying her wages to nurse her own child. Moses was then given to her and he became the “grandchild” of the Pharaoh.

What do we learn from how this all worked out?

- God is able to accomplish His purpose. We now know that God had selected Moses to eventually deliver Israel from slavery, so the boy could not die. God not only saves the life of Moses, he uses the man who ordered his death (the Pharaoh) to pay Moses' mother wages to nurse her child. Moses is then raised as the Pharaoh's grandson and reaps all of the privileges of that status.

2:11-15: What takes place in verses 11 to 15?

- Moses grows up aware of the fact that he is a Jew and resentful of how the Egyptians mistreat the Israelites. One day he sees an Egyptian beating a Jew. Moses thinks no one is watching, so he kills the Egyptian and buries the body. The next day he attempts to break up a fight between two Jews. They don't realize who he is (‘Who made you our judge?’), but one of them tells Moses that he knows that Moses killed the Egyptian. Pharaoh hears about what Moses did and seeks to have him killed. Moses flees to the land of Midian.

Do we have any idea how old Moses was at this time?

See Acts 7:17-29. *17 “As the time drew near when God would fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt greatly increased. 18 But then a new king came to the throne of Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph. 19 This king exploited our people and oppressed them, forcing parents to abandon their newborn babies so they would die. 20 “At that time Moses was born—a beautiful child in God’s eyes. His parents cared for him at home for three months. 21 When they had to abandon him, Pharaoh’s daughter adopted him and raised him as her own son. 22 Moses was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in both speech and action. 23 “One day when Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his relatives, the people of Israel. 24 He saw an Egyptian mistreating an Israelite. So Moses came to the man’s defense and avenged him, killing the Egyptian. 25 Moses assumed his fellow Israelites would realize that God had sent him to rescue them, but they didn’t. 26 “The next day he visited them again and saw two men of Israel fighting. He tried to be a peacemaker. ‘Men,’ he said, ‘you are brothers. Why are you fighting each other?’ 27 “But the man in the wrong pushed Moses aside. ‘Who made you a ruler and judge over us?’ he asked. 28 ‘Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?’ 29 When Moses heard that, he fled the country and lived as a foreigner in the land of Midian. There his two sons were born. NLT*

2:15: Why do you think that the Pharaoh was so quick to want to have Moses killed?

- We do not know the identity of this Pharaoh. It could have still been his grandfather or it might have been his Egyptian father or an uncle. It does appear, though, that this Pharaoh probably knew that Moses was Jewish and resented him being raised in the royal family. Otherwise, he would have looked into the matter and probably verbally rebuked Moses instead.

Turn with me and read Hebrews 11:23-26. *23 It was by faith that Moses’ parents hid him for three months when he was born. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid to disobey the king’s command. 24 It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. 25 He chose to share the oppression of God’s people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward. NLT*

2:16-22: What happens in verses 16-22?

- Moses ends up at a well in the land of Midian. Seven daughters of a certain priest there arrived at the well to water their camels. Some shepherds tried to run them off but Moses intervened so that the women could water their camels. The priest told them to bring Moses to their home and Moses began to live with and work for the priest. The priest later eventually gives his daughter **Zipporah** (*zih-POOR-uh*) to Moses in marriage. They soon thereafter have a son.

2:23-25: What takes place in verse 23 to 25?

- The Pharaoh who chased Moses out of Egypt dies. The Jews cry out to God about their condition as slaves in Egypt.

What do we learn about God's awareness of our lives from verses 24 and 25?

- God hears our cries and our groaning. We should never wonder if God knows about what we are going through (**Proverbs 15:3**) or if he hears our cries! He does! And He *does* notice.

In 1 Kings 9:3 Solomon has just dedicated the original Temple in Jerusalem. God speaks to him and tells Him that three things will always be there:

- God's "eyes",
- God's "heart",
- And God's "name".
- God's "eyes" symbolizes the fact that *God always knows*.
- God's "heart" symbolizes the fact that *God always cares*.
- God's "name" symbolizes the fact that *God always can...He is able*.
- So as we face the problems of a cursed world, we always know that God is aware, that He cares, and that He is able to sustain us and to see us through.