

Exodus Chapters One and Two

Read 1:1-14

v. 7-10 The Israelites lived in Egypt 430 years (Exodus 12:40). From the death of Joseph to the rise of a new king was approximately 200 years. The 70 people of Israel's family had grown in wealth and increased in great number.

Why were the Egyptians unable to stop the increase of Israelites? Because God had promised Abraham and Isaac that He would make of them a great nation, with descendants too great to count. (Genesis 12:2, 13:6, 17:6, 26:4, 28:14) Read Numbers 23:19

v. 12-14 – Egypt served as a “mother’s womb” for Israel, a place where they rapidly grew from a large clan to a mighty nation. The Egyptians’ bias toward them kept them separated, which was according to God’s will. The wickedness of the Egyptians could never defeat God’s plan for them. Look up: Isaiah 54:17 But as the story of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers will show us, they did not escape unaffected. They were as children who needed to be raised up, disciplined, and rededicated to God.

Read 1:14-22

v. 17- The ruling authority commanded something that was clearly inconsistent with the loving nature of God. These women risked their lives to do what they knew was right in the sight of God rather than to obey man. Look up: Hebrews 13:6

v. 22 – Notice how extreme Pharaoh’s actions became. This instruction to kill the Hebrew boys was given *to all his people*.

Generally we are called to obey the government and honor civic authorities. Read Romans 13:1-5. However we are never called to put government in the place of God. If the government tells us to do something against God’s will, we are to obey God first. Look up: Acts 4:19

Read 2:1-10

v.1-2 – From which of the twelve sons of Jacob did Moses descend? The tribe of Levi would later be the priestly clan, Moses’ brother Aaron being the first of the priests. Other notable members of the tribe are the prophet Eli, and John the Baptist.

v.3 – Moses’ mother did exactly what Pharaoh had ordered: she put her son into the river Nile (Exodus 1:22). The Hebrew word for basket is used only twice in the Bible, here and referring to Noah’s ark. In this great example she entrusted the child’s welfare and future to God alone.

v.4 – We later learn that Moses’ sister is Miriam, and he has an older brother, Aaron. Look up: Exodus 7:7

Notice how all of Pharaoh’s actions are thwarted by women, the midwives, Moses’ mother, and his own daughter.

v.10 – Being the adopted son of Pharaoh’s daughter, Moses was in the royal family. Egypt was one of the most academically and scientifically advanced societies on the earth. Moses would have been highly educated. Although Moses didn’t know it yet, God was working out His plan, and shaping him for great things.

Read 2:11-15 – The word “judge” also means “deliverer”

Read Genesis 2:16-22 – Notice Moses did not immediately flee in fear, but only after Pharaoh tried to kill him

To better understand this episode of Moses killing the Egyptian and the Hebrews’ reaction, read Acts 7:22-29

Acts reminds us that Moses is 40 at the time he flees. He returns 40 years later. The Israelites would later wander in the desert 40 years. Consider all the ways in this opening to Exodus that God demonstrated his plan for Moses, from the time of his infancy, to use him to deliver his people up from Egypt.