

E2E: Part 27

Exodus 1

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1. The first seven verses of Exodus are reminding us that everything that takes place directly relates to what has gone before in Genesis. When promises are from God they *will* be fulfilled.
2. Exodus 1:7 covers a 400-year period where God remained faithful to His promise; the 'sons of Israel' became the nation of Israel, numbering in the millions.
3. God's deliverance is always on time. God is at work around the people of Israel - they just can't see it.
4. God allows the nation of Israel to stay in Egypt for 400 years because He is patient far beyond our understanding. (Exodus 34:6, Romans 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9)
5. On top of the harsh treatment and torture, Pharaoh begins an extermination process to stop the rapid growth of the Israelites, demanding that the midwives put to death the sons who are born. (Exodus 1:15)
6. God blessed the midwives because they feared Him more than Pharaoh. (Exodus 1:18-20)
7. Pharaoh can't get the midwives to help control the population of Israel, so he commands all his people to do it, unleashing violence on them. (Exodus 1:22)
8. God's purposes are being fulfilled, even if we are not actively involved in bringing them to pass and even if we are not aware of it and when every appearance points to the contrary.

HEBREW WORDS

Iniquity - `Avon (*aw-vone'*) - *perversity, (moral) evil* :- fault, mischief, sin

Marar (*maw-rar'*); to trickle; to be bitter :- (make) bitter (be) grieved, provoke, vex.

Perek (*peh'-rek*); to break apart; fracture, severity :- cruelty

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Since Exodus is part 2 of a 5-part book, it makes sense that Exodus would build on the main events & themes revealed in the story up till this point.
 - What are some of those events and themes that need to be remembered? (i.e. What is God's desire for humanity? What has gone wrong? How has He been at work since then? etc?)
 - Where do you see some of those same themes repeated in this first chapter?
2. While this chapter displays a lot of sadness and evil happening in Egypt at that time, God reveals that it is connected to how He is at work in rescuing humanity.
 - What can we learn about God and how He can often work from Ch. 1?
 - What truths can we apply to our time and lives today?
3. From this passage we are reminded that God's purposes are being fulfilled. Even if we are not aware of it, or actively involved in bringing them to pass. His ultimate purpose is that He be glorified, and one major way he is doing that is by restoring humanity to a right relationship with Him (read Eph. 1:4-6). But God has invited us to be actively involved in bringing his goals to pass (Matt 5:14-16, John 14:12, Phil 2:13).
 - Ask yourself: Are you purposefully engaging in activities that will contribute to Him being glorified? How?
 - What kinds of activities can we (individuals and communities) engage in that will do that?