

Multiplied and Afflicted
Exodus 1:1-14
November 1, 2023

Review

Outline of the book

1. Departure from Egypt (ch 1-15)
2. Mount Sinai: Law (ch 16-24)
3. Mount Sinai: Tabernacle (ch 25-40)¹

The Israelites' multiplication (1-7)

vv 1-4

1. It is important to keep in mind what the Lord said to Jacob/Israel at the time of this event (**Gen 46:1-4**)
2. The Lord foretold this to Abraham (**Gen 15:13-16**)
3. God was unfolding His plan for His people whom He had chosen by grace

Exodus continues the narrative that began in Genesis

- When the Israelites were in the wilderness preparing to enter the Promised Land and received the Torah, it was vital that they understood the background given in Genesis

verse 5

vv 6-7

1. "the land" could refer to the land of Goshen within Egypt (Gen 47:27)
2. How much did the Israelites multiply? After the exodus, the number of their fighting men was 603,550 (Num 1:45-46). On this basis, it is estimated that Israel had a population of close to 2 million at the time of the exodus.
3. Israel's great multiplication was a sign of God's blessing, presence, and faithfulness
 - **Gen. 13:16** I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.
 - **15:3-6** And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

¹ Peter Enns, *Exodus* (The NIV Application Commentary), 33-34.

- **17:1–2** When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”
- **17:6** I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.
- **22:17a** I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.
- **26:4a** [The Lord said to Isaac,] I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands.
- **28:14** [The Lord said to Jacob,] Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

The Israelites’ affliction (8-14)

verse 8

vv 9-10

- The king set himself against the purpose of God unawares

verse 11

- Ancient Egyptian wall paintings show taskmasters with whip in hand

verse 12

- *Question:* What is the significance of verse 12?

vv 13-14

Question: When the Israelites were oppressed in Egypt, what was important for them to remain mindful of?

Question: What happened frequently in the Genesis narratives about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that does not occur in Exodus 1-2?

To view their lives and circumstances rightly, the Israelites had to hold on to the promises God gave to their forefathers.

If the Israelites knew and believed what God had spoken to their forefathers, then they would understand that their oppression was as much part of God’s plan as their growth in numbers, they would believe God was with them, and they would trust Him to deliver them.

Conclusion

Viewing our lives and circumstances through the lens of God's word is just as important as it was for the Israelites!

While many of the prominent characters in the Bible received new revelation, during most of history God's people have not received new revelation, but have been required to walk by faith in the revelation God previously gave