

## **God's Multiplication Plan**

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Exodus 1:8-22 (page 41 in the black Bibles)

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Background: Pastor Scott's Introduction to Exodus

Proposition: God's sovereign plan is that His people would be fruitful and multiply and that plan cannot be thwarted.

Even though God is not mentioned until verse 17 the one who is familiar with Genesis knows that God is the one who brought Israel to Egypt and is blessing them.

### It was God's plan to lead His people to Egypt

Genesis 15:13-14 "God said to Abram, 'Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.'"

Genesis 46:3-4 [God's words to Jacob] "...do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again..."

Psalms 105:23 "Israel also came to Egypt, thus Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.

### **God Causes His people to multiply in good times. (1-7)**

This growth began in Egypt with over 70 (vv. 1-5)

Genesis 46:8-27

"Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation." (v. 6)

"But the sons of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly, and multiplied, and became exceedingly mighty, so that the land was filled with them." (v. 7)

The description in Exodus brings to mind the mandate given to Adam and Eve (Gen. 1:28), Noah and his family (9:1, 7); the promises made to Abraham (13:16; 15:5; 22:17), Isaac (26:3-4), and Jacob (35:9-12).

Exodus 12:37-38a "Now the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, aside from children. A mixed multitude also went up with them...." (Ex. 38:26)

Deut. 10:22 "Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in heaven."

Psalms 105:24 "And He caused His people to be very fruitful, and He made them stronger than their adversaries."

**God causes His people to multiply even in affliction and hard labor. (8-14)**

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Behold the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we. Come, let us deal wisely/shrewdly with them, or else they will multiply and in the event of war they will also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land. (vv. 8-10)

Psalm 105:25 "He turned their heart to hate His people, to deal craftily with His people."

So they appointed taskmasters over them to afflict them with hard labor. And they built for Pharaoh storage cities, Pithom and Rameses. (v. 11)

But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and the more they spread out, so that they were in dread of the sons of Israel. (v. 12)

The Egyptians compelled the sons of Israel to labor rigorously; and they made their lives bitter with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all kinds of labor in the field, all their labors which they rigorously imposed on them. (vv. 13-14)

**God causes His people to multiply even in the face of death. (15-22)**

A contrast in characters: (the villain) the unnamed king of Egypt and (the heroines) the two named Hebrew midwives. (Also in Luke 16:19-31)

The king of Egypt's instruction to the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah: when you help deliver the babies, kill the sons and let the daughters live. (vv. 15-16)

The midwives' response: "But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, and let the boys live." (v. 17)

The fear of the Lord.

Matthew 10:28 "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

The king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and let the boys live?" (v. 18)

The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife can get to them." (v. 19)

**The result:**

So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very mighty. Because the midwives feared God, He established households for them. (vv. 20-21)

**"You don't owe the truth to an ungodly person who is going to use the truth in an ungodly way."  
Pastor Scott Carlson**

Other examples in Scripture:  
Rahab (Joshua 2:1-7)

Deceiving spirits (1 Kings 22)

Also 2 Thess. 2:8-12

Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive." (v. 22)

**Truths to Consider:**

**God's sovereign plan cannot be thwarted.**

Matthew 16:18 "I will build My church and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

God's plan is that His people will multiply and fill the earth so that His glory would be known in the world.  
Matthew 28:18-20

Saul/Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus – Acts 26:14

**God is sovereign in suffering**

1 Peter 4:19 "Those who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right."

## **Even the Persecution of God's People Serves God's Purposes**

Genesis 45:7-8; 50:20

Romans 8:28

Acts 1:8; 8:1

### **Application:**

Fear God and serve Him

Proverbs 1:7a "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge."

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."