

The Sons of Israel in Egypt

Exodus 1:1-14

Today we begin a study of the first 20 chapters of the Book of Exodus. (The other chapters deal with various laws and instructions.) Exodus means "going out," a reference to the departure of the children of Israel from Egypt en route to the land God promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jacob's family had gone to Egypt hundreds of years before to escape famine in Canaan. They were welcomed there by Jacob's son Joseph, who, though once a slave, had risen to become Prime Minister of that country. As the book opens, the Israelites are suffering and in need of deliverance.

I. The Significance of the Sons of Israel (rags to riches)

- A. The Sons of Israel are the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham, Isaac & Jacob.
- B. The Sons of Israel are the genesis of the nation through whom Messiah would come.
- C. The Sons of Israel will be the recipients of the Mosaic Covenant that leads to Christ.
- D. The Sons of Israel have names recorded so as to show that the people of God are real people.
- E. Whatever our lot, we believers are the people to whom God has promised salvation.

II. Egypt as a Type of the Sinful World (Who is the Lord that I should obey him?)

- A. God appointed Egypt to harm the Israelites and subsequently to be punished before all nations.
- B. Egypt was sinful because of its idolatry, greed, cruelty and arrogance.
- C. The descendants of were not zealous for the God of their fathers
- D. They would be renewed to the Covenant through tribulation and redemption.
- E. God's promise is to take us from darkness to light.

III. Proverbial Fears protected front and back (Psalm 139:5)

- A. The Israelites prospered with Joseph but lost their place under a new Egyptian dynasty. (6)
- B. They became the victims of paranoia, jealousy and the devil. (8-10)
- C. Pharaoh is a model for Proverbs 28:1 - *The wicked flee when no one is pursuing...*
- D. But the Israelites proved to have their own fears and hesitations.
- E. Freedom from fear means freedom to serve God.

IV. Enslavement [a slave, is the Lord's freedman; [one] called while free, is Christ's slave. 1 Cor 7:22]

- A. The Israelites enslavement was part of a larger plan to punish the Amorites. (Gen. 15:12ff)
- B. Their trials were designed to illustrate sin's "ownership" of those at odds with God.
- C. True salvation is about deliverance from spiritual slavery and a promised land.
- D. Their trials also illustrate that God's people need a restorative cleansing and culling.
- E. *Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?* (Romans 6:16)