

LESSON 2: EXODUS 1
MAY 4, 2011

OVERVIEW

- . Israel's slavery and deliverance foretold – Genesis 15 & Exodus 1:1-7
- . Who was the Pharaoh of the exodus – Exodus 1:8
- . Slaves in Egypt – Exodus 1:9-22

ISRAEL'S SLAVERY & DELIVERANCE FORETOLD – GENESIS 15, EXODUS 1:1-7

- . God's covenant with Abram
 - . The story of the exodus has its roots in Genesis 15
 - . Abram, having no children, thought his servant Eliezer would be heir
 - . God had other plans for Abram – Genesis 15:5
 - . God bound Himself to Abram by making a covenant with him
 - . The covenant was confirmed by a ceremony used in those days
 - . Unlike a human covenant, where both exchanged mutual promises, in this ceremony Abram did not take part
 - . God did not say, "I will do this if you do this"
 - . This covenant was not dependent on Abram or his faithfulness, but solely on the faithfulness of God
- . Israel's slavery and deliverance foretold in heart of this covenant – Genesis 15:13-16
 - . Six important prophecies contained in these verses
 - . Hebrews would be strangers in a land that was not theirs – ~~Exodus~~ ^{Genesis} 15:13
 - . The last third of Genesis tells how this happens – Genesis 37-50
 - . The book of Exodus begins with a very brief summary of these events – Exodus 1:1-5
 - . These verses are intentionally designed to bridge the story of Genesis with Exodus and act as a continuum of the narrative
 - . They would be slaves in that land – Genesis 15:13
 - . Although Joseph had originally been brought to Egypt as a slave, the rest of the Israelites did not arrive as slaves
 - . Israelites entered Egypt at the invitation and blessing of Pharaoh
 - . Although they were settled in Goshen, they were allowed to grow and prosper like the other Egyptians – Exodus 1:6-7
 - . Their prosperity would later become a cause for concern
 - . The Hebrews would be mistreated – Genesis 15:13
 - . The Israelites were not mistreated during the time of Joseph
 - . The mistreatment unfolds later under a new Pharaoh

- . The nation that mistreated them will be judged – Genesis 15:14
 - . Exodus 7-11 reveals how God fulfills this prophecy through his judgment of Egypt
 - . It was because of these judgments that Pharaoh lets them go
- . They would experience a great deliverance and leave the land of their oppression with many possessions – Genesis 15:14
 - . Exodus 12 is the fulfillment of this prophecy
- . In the fourth generation they would return to Canaan – Genesis 15:16
 - . The last four books of the Pentateuch prepare us for this
 - . Moses would not be allowed to re-enter Canaan

WHO WAS THE PHARAOH OF THE EXODUS – EXODUS 1:8

- . The date of the exodus and the name of the Pharaoh at the time of the exodus is never mentioned in the book of Exodus
 - . Egyptian records don't refer to the Hebrews explicitly
 - . There are references to Habiru people, but this represents a broad spectrum of Semitic people living in areas east of Egypt
 - . Merneptah's Stele is the only cross-reference between Hebrew and Egyptian history at the time
 - . Victory monument erected by Pharaoh Merneptah in 1220BC to commemorate a small victory over Israel in the south of Canaan
 - . Therefore we know the Israelites were back in Canaan by then
- . The very late date theory (about 1280BC)
 - . A popular view with a couple of strong arguments
 - . Chief argument is based on the mention of the cities Pithom and Rameses in Exodus 1:11
 - . The latter was built and named by Rameses II (1300 – 1234BC)
 - . Another supporting fact are the Palestine cities of Lachish, Bethel, Debir and Hazor that were destroyed in 1240BC
 - . This would match an Israelite invasion of Canaan about 40 years after a 1280BC exodus
 - . If 1280BC was the date, then Rameses II was the Pharaoh during the exodus and his father Seti I was Pharaoh during the long period of oppression
- . The early date theory (about 1446BC)
 - . This theory is based on biblical time data that centers on Solomon's reign and the building of the temple – 1 Kings 6:1
 - . The traditional date used for the beginning of the building of the temple is 966BC
 - . Based on 1 Kings 1:6 the date of the exodus would have been 1446BC

- . Based on this theory Thutmose III (1501-1447BC) would have been Pharaoh during the time of great oppression
 - . This matches Egyptian history that said he was the Pharaoh who was antagonistic to foreigners and drove the Hyksos out of Egypt
- . Under this theory the Pharaoh at the time of the exodus was Amenhotep II (1447-1421BC)
- . There are also paintings from the time of Thutmose III showing Seminites working as slave labors

SLAVES OF EGYPT – EXODUS 1:9-22

- . Pharaoh's first plan; slave labor – Exodus 1:9-14
 - . Slaves were common in ancient times
 - . At the time of the exodus half the world's population were slaves
 - . It was common for a conquered nation to become enslaved to conqueror
 - . In this case the enslavement was motivated by fear and envy
 - . The Israelites had been extremely fruitful and multiplied rapidly
 - . In addition the Hyksos people had only recently been thrown out
 - . Concern they might form alliance with Israelites
 - . Also concerned they might just up and leave Egypt leaving them high and dry for labor pool
 - . The more oppressed they became, the more they multiplied and spread out
- . Pharaoh's second plan; genocide – Exodus 1:15-22
 - . As time went on the Pharaoh's fear grew to the point where he decided to start killing them
 - . He ordered midwives Shiphrah and Puah to kill the newborn males
 - . When that didn't work he ordered them thrown in the Nile
- . The birth of anti-Semitism
 - . This represents the first expression of anti-Semitism in world history
 - . It presents a pattern that has been repeated time and time again
 - . God's blessing of the Israelites
 - . We see God not only blessing them in being fruitful but also in protecting them against extinction
 - . In 1836 there were 3,000,000 Jews living in the world
 - . In 1936, despite persecution in Europe and Russia there were 16,000,000 Jews worldwide
 - . Today, despite the holocaust were 6,000,000 Jews perished, there are more Jews worldwide than before 1936
 - . Persecution of Jews
 - . Why have Jews been persecuted and hated throughout the ages?
 - . Satan hates the Jews because God's promise for a Messiah will come through the Jewish race

- . History has shown that the nations that have persecuted the Jews have done so at their own peril – Genesis 12:3
- . It's also interesting to note the period of Israelite persecution in Egypt ended up being their high water mark
- . A bright spot were the Hebrew midwives – Exodus 1:17-21
 - . These Hebrews were not Israelites
 - . God's light, shining through the persecuted Israelites impacted and converted these women despite their non-Hebrew heritage
 - . We know the names of the midwives but not the Pharaoh

NEXT LESSON IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011: EXODUS 2