

## **A God's people in Egypt (Exodus 1:1-14)**

- ❖ The second book of Moses was called "*Exodus*" in Latin because of its subject matter. But in Hebrew it is known as "*Shemot*" (Names), because of its opening words (Ex. 1:1).
- ❖ These "names" are those of Jacob and his sons. A small group of 70 people (Gen. 46:26-27; Ex. 1:5). Over time, they grew into a people with an army of some 600,000 warriors (Ex. 12:37).
- ❖ Jacob's son, Joseph, was a minister to a 17th Dynasty pharaoh of Hyksos, not Egyptian, origin. When the Hyksos were defeated, a new dynasty began in Egypt, which "did not know Joseph" (Ex. 1:7-8).
- ❖ This brought Israel to a difficult situation (Exodus 1:9-14). However, at the end of the book of Exodus, the situation changes completely: Israel worships in freedom, before the very presence of God (Exodus 40:38). The teaching of the book is clear: God is in control; He will save us, even when circumstances make it seem impossible.

## **B From Abraham to Moses (Genesis 15:13; Exodus 1:8)**

- ❖ God had promised to give Abraham the land of Canaan, but warned him of a 400-year delay in fulfilling this plan (Gen. 15:13-16). Moses and Paul add 30 years to this period, taking it back to the call at Haran (Ex. 12:40; Gal. 3:17):
  - From Abram's call at Haran until Jacob's arrival in Egypt: 215 years
  - From Jacob's arrival in Egypt until the Exodus: 215 years
- ❖ And how did Jacob arrive in Egypt? In a completely miraculous way. Despite the fratricidal attempts to kill Joseph, he became prime minister of Egypt. Thanks to his position, he was able to bring his entire family.
- ❖ When did all this happen? We don't know the exact dates, but we know enough to fit them into known history (which also has inexact dates).
- ❖ 1 Kings 6:1 says the Exodus occurred 480 years before the 2nd year of Solomon. If this date is accurate and inclusive, it puts us at 1445 BC. If we consider this a "round number," and take into account the death of Pharaoh, the Exodus took place in 1450 BC. With this data we can determine several moments in Moses' life.
  - **Ahmose I** (1575/1550). He defeated the Hyksos. He was the pharaoh who "did not know Joseph" and enslaved Israel (Ex. 1:8-12)
  - **Amenophis I** (1550/1530). He continued to oppress Israel (Ex. 1:13-14)
  - **Thutmose I** (1530/1517). He ordered the killing of the Hebrew children (Ex. 1:15-22)
  - **Moses** (1530/1410). He was adopted by the daughter of Thutmose I, Hatshepsut
  - **Thutmose II** (1517/?). During his reign, Moses fled Egypt (1490)
  - **Hatshepsut** (?/1479). He died before his "son" returned to Egypt
  - **Thutmose III** (1479/1450). The pharaoh of the Exodus. His firstborn son was "in charge of the livestock" but never reigned, as he died during the 10th plague
  - **Amenophis II** (1450/1424). Son of Thutmose III, but not his firstborn

## **C The Triumph of Faithfulness (Exodus 1:15-22)**

- ❖ The 18th Egyptian dynasty hated foreigners. Moreover, the Israelites were numerous enough to revolt (Ex. 1:9-10). So they gradually subdued them:
  - They appointed commissioners to force them to build buildings (Ex. 1:11)
  - They tightened their demands, turning them into workers/slaves (Ex. 1:13-14)
  - They decreed the death of the males, using midwives (Ex. 1:15-16)
  - Finally, they imposed the death of the male children by force (Ex. 1:22)
- ❖ In the midst of this anguish, the faithfulness of the midwives, Shiprah and Puah, stands out, (Ex. 1:15-19).  
Moses omits Pharaoh's name, but gives us their names.
- ❖ It also records, for our learning, how God blessed them for their faithfulness (Ex. 1:20-21).

#### **D The son of the Nile (Exodus 2:1-10)**

- ❖ “Beautiful” falls short of describing Jochebed’s son (Ex. 2:2). The Hebrew term “*tob*” (good, beautiful, perfect) is the same one God uses to describe the perfection of His creation (Gen. 1:31).
- ❖ God had special plans for him. The mother took a risk; a young woman was moved; a child spoke with wisdom... and the future deliverer was saved from death (Ex. 2:3-7).
- ❖ We don't know the name his parents gave him, but we do know the name given to him by his adoptive mother, the daughter of Pharaoh: *Hapimosis* (son of the god Nile). But he only called himself "son", "*mosis*," Moses (Ex. 2:10).
- ❖ His mother made good use of the few years she had him in her care (Ex. 2:8-9). She taught him to be a true child of God. What an important task mothers perform in raising their children in the fear of God!

#### **E The Failed Deliverer (Exodus 2:11-25)**

- ❖ We know little about Moses' youth. As a possible heir to the throne, he would have received an education for it, including military and political expertise (EGW, "Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 223).
- ❖ We do know that shortly before Moses turned 40, Thutmose II was proclaimed pharaoh due to political intrigue. Moses then believed the time had come to free his people Israel. But he began his liberation by killing an Egyptian. A grave mistake (Ex. 2:11-12). Not even his people considered him their liberator. (Ex. 2:13-14; Acts 7:25).
- ❖ In just a few days, he went from being a respected member of Pharaoh's court to a fugitive shepherd (Ex. 2:15-22). However, God did not reject Moses; instead, he continued to count on him, despite his mistakes.