

Today's Scripture Reading

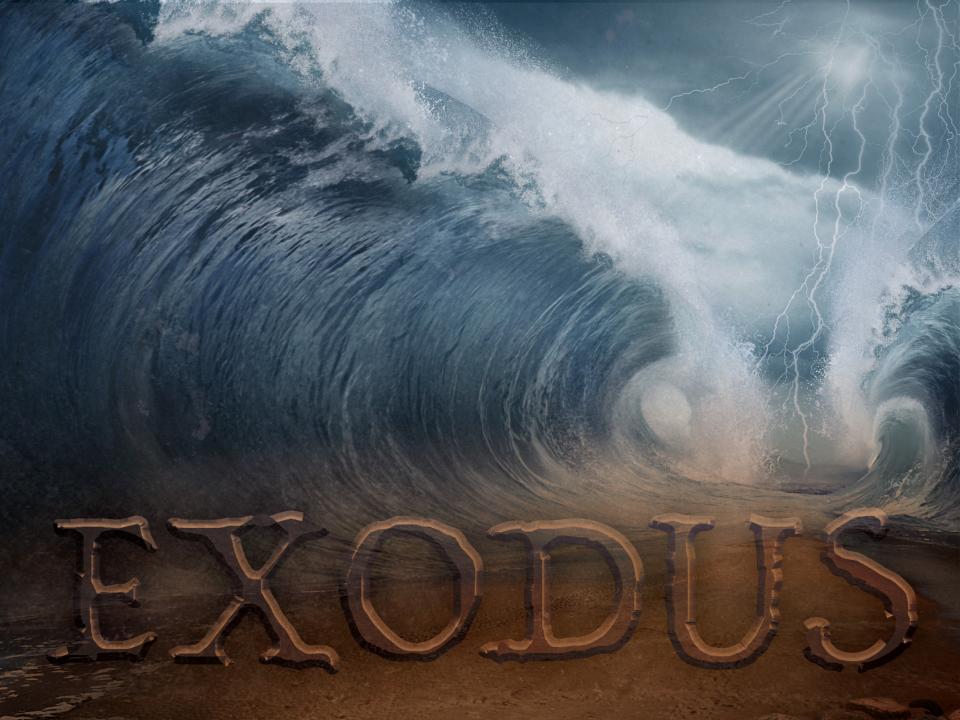
Exodus 1:8-22

⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ITherefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel.

¹³ So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves. ¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt said to the

Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live.

18 So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?" 19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." 20 So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. 22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."



COMFORTABILITY AND ITS EFFECT ON ISRAEL

- They sojourn to be saved from the famine
- They ended up staying for over 400 years

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HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Hyksos Reign in Egypt

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The idiom: "and leave the country"
(Genesis 2:6, Exodus 1:10, Hosea 1:11)
Overcoming, dominating, picture of water overflowing

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PLAN TO CONTROL THE ISRAELITES

- Reorder their position in society
- Passively kill the Israelites (endless work, over work, malnourishment)

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The Irony of the Promise

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- Requiring the Israelites to kill the offspring

EXODUS

1:8-22

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"Fear God" does not carry NT connotation
"Fear God" tends to mean - to be honest, faithful,
trustworthy, above all religious

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- Requiring the Israelites to kill the offspring
- All Egyptians were expected to join in killing all Israelite boys

APPLICATION

- Have a biblical perspective: comfort, feeling and the gospel (v. 8-9)
- We are more evil than we think (v. 10-22)
- God's promise is for everything to work together for his Glory and our good
 - (but he is not committed to feeding our flesh and providing comfort)
- You will always be blessed when choosing God (v.20)
- God always gets the last say (v.12)



