

Exodus 1

Read Exodus 1:1-14: The book of Genesis left off with a family living in a strange land. Symbolically, we too are aliens living abroad from our heavenly city.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (Philippians 3:20)

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (1 Peter 2:11)

There is not much written about the 400-year period of Hebrews living in Egypt. In fact, there is more recorded about the children of Israelites in Egypt in secular history.

Egyptian Writings and Artifacts

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
The Merneptah Stele	An inscription by Pharaoh Merneptah (1213–1203 BCE) mentions Israel, indicating their presence in Canaan. While it doesn't mention Hebrews specifically as slaves, it reflects the status of Israel as a recognized group at that time.
The Ipuwer Papyrus	A document that describes plagues and social upheaval in Egypt, some scholars interpret this as reflecting the conditions during the Exodus, though the connection to Hebrew slaves is debated.
Tomb Art and Inscriptions	Various tombs and inscriptions depict daily life in Egypt, including labor practices. While specific references to Hebrew slaves are not found, they do highlight a system of labor similar to what would be expected in the context described in Exodus.
The Brooklyn Papyrus	An administrative document detailing laborers and their tasks, suggesting forced labor practices, though again with no direct reference to Hebrew slaves.

Named Pharaohs

1. **Seti I (1290–1279 BCE):** Often identified with the oppression described in Exodus, as he was known for extensive building projects requiring a large labor force.
2. **Ramesses II (1279–1213 BCE):** Frequently associated with the construction of the cities of Pithom and Raamses, mentioned in Exodus 1:11 as cities built by the Israelites.

Why would God let his chosen people to become slaves in a foreign land? For starters, they had to get out of Canaan as the local culture became a horrible confluence of idolatry, child sacrifice, and a total breakdown of the family. Staying in Canaan would result in God having to destroy them as they became contaminated by a unsustainable Godless culture.

Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴ And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” (Genesis 15)

Egypt symbolizes the world; and Pharaoh symbolizes Satan. The scripture tells us that we are made from dust or soil. This is a perfect metaphorical backdrop to see how red clay soil is transformed through pressure and heat into useful bricks.

Jacob’s family entered into Egypt as a dysfunctional family that had made some bad choices. They emerged as a nation that had been pressed down (like a brick form) to prayer. Egypt is metaphorically described as a brick kiln, or furnace. It represents the painful and tiresome endless circuit of godless lives.

The children of Israel do not seem to be reaching out to God for 400 years until their lives reach a certain level of discomfort. We are all the same. Pain produces prayers.

⁷ And the LORD said: “I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. ⁸ So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites (Exodus 3)

The Exodus story is about how 70 people became 2 million over 400 years. Is that possible? Average ancient Hebrew families had 5-10 children per household. Assuming an average of 6-7 children, and a marrying age of 14-18, it is likely that they would grow into 2 million souls in 400 years. This is an example of the Hebrews being fruitful and expanding. Most accounts in the bible and throughout history are about population their reductions through persecutions.

Read Exodus 1:15-22: Population control has always been associated with evil. China has had a one child per household policy from 1979-2015. The result was that parents opted for males had to go to foreign lands to find wives for their sons. This resulted in a massive human trafficking and wife kidnapping industry. Planned Parenthood sells abortion services and sells human embryos for scientific research. They promote the false virtues of terminating a pregnancy. The basis of their Marxist argument is that nobody is special, and that we were not made with

special purpose in God's image. We are told that we are disposable and inhuman before birth.

The forced male child murders of Pharaoh were sidestepped by having God-fearing midwives. Can you imagine your job to deliver children all day long, knowing that you were supposed to kill half of them? The baby boys were supposed to be thrown into the river. The Egyptians saw the Nile as the method of journey to the afterlife. You may have seen this kind of funerary rite.



Luxor in Egypt, Valley of the Nobles, tomb of Menna. The funeral boat crosses the Nile. Amongst ...

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Interestingly, the Nile was seen (by the Egyptians) as the source of life and fertility. Drawing baby Moses out from the Nile from a reed raft would have been seen as a significant thing from the ancient Egyptians. Saving a child from the Nile could represent an especially chosen or blessed child from the giver of life. The Egyptians believed in safeguarding children. The basket could be seen as divine protection and destiny. I have wondered why Moses was allowed to be adopted by Pharaoh's daughter. The national fear was that the Hebrews were becoming too numerous and powerful. Pharaoh himself outlawed male Hebrew children; so there must have been something pretty special to beautiful baby Moses to allow his daughter to even keep him.