

THE BIRTH OF A NATION

Pain and Prosperity

Exodus 1

Introduction

- In Exodus 1 we see that God prospered the Israelites after the death of Joseph and his brothers.
- From 71 people, who migrated to Egypt about 300 years ago, they are now close to 1.5 to 2 million people.

Introduction Cont.

- The text says that they multiplied and were numerous and the land was filled with them.
- The new Pharaoh was not happy with this and he started to persecute them.
- The Bible says that they grew and became more powerful, even in hardship.

Introduction Cont.

- That led to more severe persecution and killing all Hebrew male children.
- God gave them the favor of the midwives
- Pharaoh ordered to throw all male children in the Nile river.

Introduction Cont.

- We learn from this passage that sometime God prospers us because of His covenantal relationship with us.

God blessed the children of Abraham because God has made that promise.

Introduction Cont.

- Sometimes we go through suffering because there is evil in this world.
- We should respect and save human life, when we have the opportunity.

I Prosperity of Israel in Egypt

- In **Exodus 1:1-7**, we see that sons of Jacob grew in number and strength. This happened because God has made a promise with Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-3;22:15-18.

- This is my belief, that we enjoy many blessings, because of riches of His Grace.

II Suffering of Israelites in Egypt

Nature of their suffering

God allowed suffering to build them up as a nation and depend upon Him
Hard labor.

Physical and mental harm.

Brick and agriculture work.

Murder of their sons.

Biblical Reasons for Suffering (Cont.)

- Evil and craftiness of Pharaoh.
- To help them grow and trust God.
- To bring glory to God's name.
- To teach us God's ways. **Psalm 119:71**
- To discipline and train His children in righteousness. **Heb. 12:5-11**
- To test our faith. **1Pe. 1:5-7; Jas. 1:2-3**

Biblical Reasons for Suffering (Cont.)

- To humble us and cause us to depend on God. **Ps. 46:1-3; 2 Cor. 1:8-9**
- To cause us to glorify Him. **2 Cor. 4:7**
- To equip us to minister to others.
2 Cor. 1:3-7
- To cause us to grow to maturity in Christ. **Jas. 1:2-4; Ro. 5:3-5**

How God Helped Them

- He was with them in suffering.
- He heard their cry. **Ex 2:25**
- He made them more prosperous.
Ex 1:12
- He gave them the favor of midwives. **Ex 1:15-21**

III. Midwives Honored Life

- Egyptian midwives sided with life. They disobeyed the king in order to honor the King of Kings.
- We should always honor and save human life because human life is sacred. **Psalm 8 and 139:13-16.**

Conclusion

- God prospers his people because He is faithful. Many times He blesses us because we are in His kingdom.
- Suffering is allowed in our life for His glory and our growth.
- We should honor human life all the time.