

Israel Suffers in Egypt

1 Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; 3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; 4 Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. 5 All those who were the seed of Jacob were seventy-five persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already). 6 Now Joseph died, as well as all his brothers and all that generation. 7 Then the children of Israel increased and multiplied, became numerous, and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

8 But there arose a new king over Egypt who knew not Joseph. 9 Then he said to his nation, “Look, the race of the children of Israel is a great multitude and is stronger than we; 10 come, let us outwit them, lest they multiply, and it happen in the event of war that they also join our enemies and fight against us and so escape out of the land.” 11 Therefore he set taskmasters over them to afflict them in their works; and they built for Pharaoh strong cities—Pithom and Raamses and On, which is Heliopolis. 12 But the more they humbled them, the more they multiplied and grew; and the Egyptians greatly abhorred the children of Israel. 13 So the Egyptians tyrannized the children of Israel by force. 14 They made their lives bitter with hard labor—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their labor in which they made them serve was by violence.

15 Then the king of the Egyptians spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; 16 and he said, “When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women and see they are about to give birth, if it is a male, then you shall kill him; but if a female, let her live.” 17 But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive.

18 So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this thing and saved the male children alive?” 19 Thus the midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the women of Egypt; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them.” 20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. 21 So it was, because the midwives feared God, He provided households for them. 22 So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every male born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the river, but every female you shall save alive.”

Exodus 2**The Birth of Moses**

1 Now a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. 2 So the woman conceived and bore a son; and seeing he was a beautiful child, they hid him three months. 3 But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes, daubed it with asphalt, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river’s bank. 4 Now his sister was watching from a distance to learn what would be done with him.

5 Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, and her maidens walked along

the riverside; and seeing the ark among the reeds, she sent a maid to get it. 6 So when she opened the ark, she saw the child crying, and the daughter of Pharaoh had compassion on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.” 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?” 8 So Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go.” Then the maiden went and called the child’s mother. 9 Pharaoh’s daughter then said to her, “Take this child and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the child and nursed him. 10 Now when the boy was grown, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son; and she called his name Moses, saying, “Because I drew him out of the water.”

Moses Flees to Midian

11 Thus it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and saw their burdens. He also saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren of the sons of Israel. 12 So he looked this way and that, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13 When he went out the second day, he saw two Hebrew men fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, “Why are you hitting your neighbor?” 14 He replied, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” So Moses was alarmed and said, “Surely this thing is known.” 15 Thus when Pharaoh heard this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, who fed the sheep of their father Jethro; and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father’s flock. 17 Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

18 When they came to Reuel their father, he said to them, “How is it you came so soon today?” 19 They replied, “An Egyptian delivered us from the shepherds; and he also drew enough water for us and watered our sheep.” 20 So he said to his daughters, “And where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.” 21 Then Moses dwelt with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses. 22 So the woman conceived and bore Moses a son, and he called his name Gershom; for he said, “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.”

23 Now in the course of time, it happened that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of their labors and cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the labors.

24 So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

25 Then God looked upon the children of Israel and was made known to them.