

Lesson Ten: *Bondage*  
Exodus 1:1-2:10

Themes:

**Exodus:** God fulfills His promises by establishing His people as a nation and by delivering them from bondage through the leadership of Moses.

**Deliverance under Moses (1-18):** God delivers His people through His mighty power, not through the power of human effort.

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I. (1:1-7) **Faithfulness**

- a. *Now these are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob...*
  - i. (1-5) Exodus highlights the continuity of the Pentateuch narrative and God's faithfulness to His promises.
    1. The continuity of the Pentateuch
      - a. Genesis 46:8 – the continuation of God's story
    2. God's faithfulness to His promises
      - a. Genesis 1:28; 9:1 – the fulfillment of the creation mandate
        - i. The power of God (Gen 16:1; 25:21; 29:31)
        - ii. Israel must put her trust in God.
      - b. Genesis 12:1-3 – the ongoing fulfillment of the covenant
        - i. *Go forth* (12:1)
        - ii. *I will make you a great nation... name* (12:2)
          1. Exodus 1:1, 7 – *sons of Israel*
            - a. From a family to a nation
          2. The timing of God's promises
            - a. *For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay* (Hab 2:3).
        - c. Genesis 15:18-21 – movement toward the Promised Land
          - i. Not where they want to be, but not where they were.
      - ii. (6-7) Exodus demonstrates God's use of death for the blessing of His people.
        1. (6) *Joseph died, and all his brothers...*
          - a. God's protection of His people
        2. (7) *But the sons of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly...*
          - a. From death, God brings life and abundance.
            - i. Exodus 12:29-32; John 19:18
          - b. A reminder of God's faithfulness as the narrative transitions from a season of rest to one of oppression

II. (1:8-2:10) **Oppression**

- a. *Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.*
  - i. (1:8-2:10) Exodus marks a transition to a season of suffering for God's people.
    1. According to promise
      - a. Genesis 15:13 – the LORD ordained Israel's oppression
      - b. *They were where they were by divine command, under divine promise, awaiting divine intervention* (Motyer).
        - i. Suffering and God's people
          1. *Whatever else Exodus may say to us, this is where it starts—with the suffering of God's people* (Motyer).
          2. God's people are not immune to hardship.
        - ii. Genesis 15:14—providence in oppression (cf. Gen 50:20)

2. According to **secondary causes**
    - a. God's preservation and governance of His creation through natural causes—history, weather, politics, etc.
      - i. (6) The death of Joseph
        1. The agent of Israel's protection is removed.
          - a. Israel must trust her *eternal* Protector.
            - i. Psalm 146:3
        - ii. (7, 9) The growth of Israel
          1. Israel's growth fulfills God's promise.
            - a. Where God's children increase, so too the persecution and hatred of them.
              - i. James 1:2
        - iii. (8) A political shift in Egypt
          1. A government unsympathetic to outsiders
            - a. God's children are always *outsiders*.
              - i. Leviticus 11:44
      - b. God's people should expect the fear and hostility of the world.
    - ii. (1:8-14) The first oppression
      1. Forced labor
        - a. (13-14) An emphasis on "labor" (serve)
          - i. Who is Israel going to serve? (Josh 24:15)
    - iii. (1:15-2:10) The second and third oppressions
      1. The death of all male children (1:15-21-midwives, 1:22-2:10-decree)
        - a. The murderous intentions of our enemy
          - i. Genesis 3:15; John 8:44
        - b. The right response
          - i. (1:17) *But the midwives **feared** God...*
          - ii. (2:2) *She hid him for three months...*
            1. *By **faith** Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict (Heb 11:23).*
      - c. God's people respond to trial with holy fear and faith.
- III. (1:8-2:10) **Blessings**
  - a. (1:12) *But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied...*
    - i. Despite hardship, God's people still prosper.
    - ii. *The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church* (Tertullian).
      1. Suffering and separation, faith, and sanctification
  - b. (1:20) *So God was good to the midwives and the people multiplied...*
    - i. (19) Protection
    - ii. (20) Further fulfillment of Gen 12:2
    - iii. (21) Personal fruitfulness (barrenness)
  - c. (2:6) *And she had pity on him...*
    - i. (3) Protection (cf. Gen 6:14)
    - ii. (6) Favor
    - iii. (7-10) Preparation (Israelite heritage / Egyptian education)
  - d. Significance
    - i. Human governments cannot hinder God's purposes.
    - ii. God accomplishes His purposes through the obedience of His people.
    - iii. God uses the weak to humiliate the proud.