

Bitter with Hard Bondage

Exodus 1:1 – 22

~ Our Spiritual Safari through the entire Word of God leaves the Gospel of Matthew in this report – where we just witnessed the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ - and arrives right back in Egypt as we return to the Old Testament. It wasn't so bad last time we were here in Egypt in Genesis; but this is a terrible place for us now - and we are going to have to get out of here - somehow - as quickly as possible. Thank God our Father that He is the Deliverer of our souls because we're going to need it more than ever for the next one hundred twenty-six thousand words or so. That's a lot of safari miles we have ahead of us through Exodus.

Nothing is begun in this book of the Bible, and nothing is concluded here, either. We're just going to pick up the Genesis account right where we left off and carry it straight into Leviticus, after another detour through Mark, of course. We have traveled about three and a half centuries from the end of Genesis to where we end up beginning today. When we were in Genesis, God said in chapter fifteen at verse thirteen to Abraham that they would spend four hundred years in Egypt. We will come across another verse that says it was three hundred and thirty years. Well, the times are confirmed in Galatians, and we'll see that from the time God told Abraham they would be in Egypt was four hundred years. It was seventy years from that time until they got to Egypt. From the place we are today it will be four hundred years, exactly – to the DAY! Even so, I would say let's not be overly dogmatic about dates because the patriarchal periods are definitely difficult to determine. I don't think it's really as important as we seem to think it is, either. I don't care for the Bible dating system that Dr. Ussher came up with, personally; particularly concerning the Pentateuch. I think they're totally unimportant and do not lend any sort of edification to the Word of God.

I only mention all of that because there is a book available, and the subject is contradictions in the Bible. Strangely, there are no contradictions in the Bible. I have examined the Word of God word for word under a neutron

microscope for the slightest HINT of any type of contradictory phrase – and – it’s just not there. The only imagined contradictions that seem to be in the Bible are actually in the minds of the reader. We’re not that smart. Well, friends – don’t take my overtly arrogant claim of superior Biblical understanding out of context; in fact, forget about me. Ask the Holy Spirit to open the supernatural sensationalism of the Bible to your MINDS – but be careful – because He’s going to if you ask! By the way, there’s no lid for this jar we have opened.

Okay, we begin this leg of our safari with the children of Israel in terrible bondage. Remember, Jacob had packed up the family and came down to Egypt at the end of Genesis with just a small group of camels and wagons. The estimate of the number that leaves Egypt in this book is two point one million souls. If you do the entire math that number will be our reasonable conclusion. Oh, don’t worry, in Numbers we’re going to do that math together; so let’s not bog down here in the sand of Egypt with that right now. When we do get there, we’ll take our lessons from Dr. Melvin Grove Kyle, acclaimed Egyptologist and editor of National Geographic Magazine who has a set of books called the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia. Dr. Kyle was also an outstanding archeologist and it’s his number we’ll dissect.

God said He was going to multiply the seed of Abraham – and He did. We really should drop back into Genesis chapter forty-six at verse two for background when God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night; God said to Jacob, “Jacob, Jacob!” And Jacob said, “....here am I.” And God said, “fear not to go down into Egypt for there I will make of thee a great nation.” As we open in Exodus, that promise has been made good. By the way, our calculus is conservative; the number could not have been less than that. Some think it could have been double that number. Regardless of the actual number we know a great nation came out of Egypt. We also know it was under the most severe and adverse circumstances that they will come out of slavery.

Moses is now born to author the Pentateuch. The first five books of the Bible are called the Pentateuch - or the Mosaic System of Levitical Law - or the Mosaic Law. The critic today says there were myriad authors of these

first five Old Testament books. That has been bantered around since long before the days of Nazism in Germany, too, by the way. It's very interesting that when men get rid of the Bible they always adopt some seriously strange philosophies. Of course, that was only a part of their rejection; but I reject their theory altogether and dismiss it as not worthy of thoughtful consideration. Let's just say Moses was the author of all five books. There is a plethora of credible evidence for my statement....

1 And these are the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt; every man and his household came with Jacob.

2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah,

3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin,

4 Dan, and Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

5 And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls: for Joseph was in Egypt already.

6 And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.

7 And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.

8 Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

~ So, just like that, a new Pharaoh is seated on the throne and a great change begins. This Pharaoh obviously never heard of Joseph. Well, Dr. Kyle says that at the time of the Exodus a new dynasty arose in Egypt. The Hyksos kings had been ruling when we first arrived here with Joseph. These kings were desert dwelling nomads, a Bedouin tribe; and they were, naturally, related from chapter thirty-six of Genesis to the Israelites. That was possibly a part of the reason the Pharaoh at that time was so willing to allow Joseph to have the authority that he did and why he allowed them to

multiply. When the Hyksos were driven out, the prior Egyptian dynasty was able to return to the throne again – and the Hebrews had to go.

There is a tremendous lesson here as the new king of Egypt knew not Joseph. Anyone who specializes in children's ministries should use this verse. There is a certain critical and continuous responsibility in teaching the Word of God properly, correctly and completely to each new generation. If we don't, then the time will come when they forget all about it; because here there arose a new king that knew not Joseph. It's amazing how quickly we forget even modern history; the dust bowl, for example. That has now been relegated to a documentary the TV people pull out once in while. This is a new generation and any generation "gap" is simply an honest misunderstanding of what the older generation has been through. We always have a new generation that has not heard about the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember, there was a time when they couldn't even take Joseph's dead body out of the land....

9 And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we:

10 Come on, let us deal in the wisdom of the world with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.

~ Now, right here is where it all starts to get crazy. The wisdom of the world says to enslave the Israelites; but the only effective solution would have been to send them out! See, greed was their problem. They wanted cheap labor. Greed is at the heart of our industry and it's where all of our problems begin today. Solomon will teach us riches are given by God and stored up by man to man's hurt. ANY amassing of wealth is going to bring heartache. I know there are people that want to justify their wealth, great and small, and that's fine with me. I refuse to the penny because the Word of God says it will be to my hurt if I do. Well, it hurts not having any money, too; so I can only imagine what God means when He says we store up riches to our hurt? That's what's real, friends. Now, to be sure: I don't care if you don't believe the Word of God – that's YOUR problem – but don't try

to tell me that the Bible does not teach exactly what I am teaching because you do so at your own peril....

11 Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh Treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.

~ It's hard to imagine the conditions and the scope of work being produced at this time. They not only made the Israelite's their slaves, but the Egyptians horribly mistreated them. Raamses has been excavated and there are bricks still in existence today that are made with and without straw. Now, don't get me wrong - the record is accurate with or without excavated bricks. I only mention it because I think it's interesting. Well, Israel was put into a very bad way down in Egypt – of that we are sure. God said to Abraham in our verse quote from earlier that Israel would be strangers that serve in affliction. Well, guess what? We've come to some fulfilled prophecy in Exodus....

12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

13 And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:

14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour.

15 Now the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, meaning beauty, and the name of the other Puah, meaning splendor

16 And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live.

~ Beauty and splendor certainly adorn Egyptian silhouettes. These two ladies seem to hold the office of midwife general and vice, apparently. So, what we have is another attempt by Satan to destroy the lineage leading to

the Lord Jesus Christ. This will follow us all the way through the Bible. From the Old Testament to the New Testament, repeated attempts are made to destroy and exterminate Israel. The spread of anti-Semitism throughout the world is interesting because it never seems to stop. It's purely Satanic in origin. No truly born-again Christian that knows anything at all about the Word of God could possibly hate Israel. It's always the basest and most godless of people that want to lead a persecution of Jews. During the dark ages the church engaged in anti-Semitism; that's why we call them the dark ages - because they were very far away from the light of the Word of God. Everything was an externality in religion at that time. Thank God He always intervenes on behalf of His people....

17 But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

18 And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?

19 And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them.

20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.

21 And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.

22 And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.

~ The attempt to destroy the Israelites didn't go well for Pharaoh. This is just one of myriad political maneuvers that didn't work out against this nation that will bring us the Son of God. Pharaoh resorts to taking them to the river and dropping them in the water. Now, it seems, Pharaoh's trying a little "washing them down." Well, we know where it goes from here and we'll meet Moses in our next report. Moses was born and raised specifically

to deliver the children of Israel out of this Egyptian bondage. Exodus is the great book of redemption, my beloved. Redemption is the theological exhibition of the Book of Exodus. In this section of Scripture, we will get a picture-book detailed depiction of how God delivers us from sin and the world and the flesh; and how He saves us into Heaven. That is, of course, ultimately illustrated by the Lord bringing them into the Promised Land – which we will get to in Joshua ~

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