

ISRAEL IN EGYPT

DATE: 10/30/2016 pm

TEXT: Exodus 1:1-7; Genesis 43; 46

INTRODUCTION

The great need for a Deliverer in Israel is made very clear in the first chapter of Exodus

Israel was in the bondage of slavery in the land of Egypt

Their very existence was being threatened by the murderous oppression of the Egyptians

A Deliverer was desperately needed

And as God always does, a Deliverer was raised up in due time to bring about the rescue of the children of Israel from their terrible condition

That Deliverer, was Moses

To help us appreciate the oppressive circumstances of Israel in Egypt and, therefore, their great need for deliverance ...

We will see in these first few Messages on the Life of Moses the details of what the Bible says about Israel's condition in Egypt

It is not a pretty picture

Unfortunately, the picture is not unique

Israel in Egypt – Exodus 1

We could write chapters like **Exodus 1** about every age of man

When man turns from God and serves his own base passions, he will become like a brute beast in his treatment of his fellow man (Nazi Germany)

Though a society is educated, sophisticated, and computerized,

Without God it will become a jungle of immorality and manners

In this message I'd like to think on this thought ...

“Israel in Egypt”

Let's stand to read God's Word and then pray

Exodus 1:1-8 ...

~~~Prayer~~~

The Book of Exodus begins with a Listing of the names of the patriarchs, the sons of Jacob, who had gone to Egypt centuries before ...

... When Joseph had been at the height of his power as second in command to Pharaoh over Egypt

But now things had changed

The family that had emigrated with 70 members - v. 5

***“And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob***

*... were seventy souls: for Joseph was in Egypt already”*

Had now become a multitude - v. 7

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

But Joseph is now gone - v. 6 - *“And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation”*

And v. 8 tells us *“there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph”*

First, let’s look at ...

## **I. THEIR “PRESENCE”**

What is Israel doing in Egypt?

### **A. The ‘Reason’**

Even a casual reader of the Bible knows the answer

The last quarter of the book of Genesis gives us the explanation for why Israel is in Egypt

(God had already warned Abraham this would happen in **Genesis 15:13, 14**)

Joseph, the favorite son of Jacob, was sold by his cruel brothers to slave traders

The slave traders took Joseph to Egypt and Joseph was sold into slavery there

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He was the first of the Israelites to experience slavery in Egypt

But Joseph did not remain a slave

Though his slavery led to prison, one day he came out of prison to become the number 2 ruler in Egypt and to save Egypt from being destroyed by a severe 7 year famine

The famine brought Joseph's brothers to Egypt for food

Which eventually led to Jacob and all his family in Canaan; moving to Egypt to be under the care of Joseph

What started out as a great tragedy ended up a great blessing

God is a Master at turning things around!

### **B. The 'Region' – Genesis 46:28-47:6**

Joseph desired that his brethren dwell in Goshen

And he succeeds in getting the OK from Pharaoh for his brethren to dwell there

The region of Goshen was located on the eastern side of Egypt

It was a very fertile area of land, being watered by the delta of the Nile River

This made it a great place for Israel with all their flocks

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It provided them with land that would cause them to prosper

Israel settled there and remained in Egypt for 400 + years before their Deliverance by Moses

God knows where to put us to provide for our specific needs at the time they are especially needed

That's reassuring, to know God's got me exactly where He wants me

I've found that, most Christians don't have that

And live unsettled lives / never happy / never content

(Double Minded)

### C. The 'Ratification' - Genesis 46:3

Israel's presence in Egypt was under the Approval of God

***"And He said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation:"***

We need to make that clear, for generally a trip to Egypt by the patriarchs was in disobedience

Egypt speaks of the world (And all of its philosophy)

Full of paganism and materialism, its effect upon the character and spirituality of God's people was generally negative (We'll see this in a bit)

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Egypt does not represent spiritual life but carnal life

Abraham's trip to Egypt in **Genesis 12** (the first such trip by one of God's own) was an act of unbelief and resulted in lying and many other problems

(Such as the acquiring of Hagar, the Egyptian maid that has caused untold trouble ever since)

Later in Israel's national history, their alliances with Egypt (**Isaiah 30**) and the emigration by some of Israel to Egypt (**Jeremiah 43**) evidenced their rejection of God and would cost them

But there were Exceptions when Israel's being in Egypt did not reflect disobedience

One case was that of Jacob and his family going to Egypt in Joseph's time

Another was when Joseph and Mary in the New Testament were ordered to take the Child Jesus to Egypt for several years for protection from Herod (**Matthew 2:13-15**)

Carnality would like to make the exception, the rule

But spirituality knows better and does not go to Egypt unless there is a clear, unmistakable command from God

One day the Bible tells us that Egypt will be laid waste

**Ezekiel 29:12** – *“And I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries that are ...*

*... desolate, and her cities among the cities that are laid waste shall be desolate forty years: and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries”*

The Reason for the **Presence** of the Israelite in Egypt

**THEIR “PRESENCE”**

### **II. THEIR “PRODUCTIVITY” – v. 7**

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

The Productivity of Israel in Egypt was the fulfillment of a promise which God had given Jacob when Jacob and his family were moving to Egypt

God promised Jacob in **Genesis 46:3** – *“I will ‘there’ (In Egypt) make of thee a great nation”*

The fulfillment of this Promise gives us 3 Lessons about the fulfillment of all Divine Promises

#### **A. The ‘Place’**

First, let’s look at the Place of Fulfillment

In Jacob's case it meant Egypt

God's promise specified the place for its fulfillment

Had Jacob and his family not abode in Egypt as instructed ...

## *Israel in Egypt – Exodus 1*

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They would have missed the blessing of this fulfillment

God told Jacob in **Genesis 46:3** –

***“I will ‘there’ (Egypt) make of thee a great nation”***

We must realize not every place is the Divinely appointed place of blessing

It is, therefore, very important that we be in the particular place where God said the blessing would be if we expect to receive the promised blessing

We can see this truth in other incidences in Scripture as well as in the case of Jacob

For example, the prophet Jeremiah was instructed to go to the potter's house to hear from God

In **Jeremiah 18:1** we are told – ***“There I will cause thee to hear My Words”***

Had Jeremiah not gone to the potter's house as instructed, he would not have received the blessing of hearing the Word of God

Those who complain they are coming up short on the promised blessings of God are often those who are not careful about being ***“there”*** in the place of blessing

Promises are not apart from Responsibilities

One of the great Responsibilities is to be ***“there”*** in the appointed place of blessing

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For those who have difficulty with knowing where “*there*” is ... let me help you

**Hebrews 10:25** – *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”*

As an example, “*there*” would be in church whenever the doors are open, not the beach or the lake or at home watching TV or mowing the lawn

“*There*” may not be where we necessarily want to go

But wherever God's “*there*” is, that is where the promised blessing will be; and it is, therefore, the best place for us to be

We need to be “*there*” no matter what our feelings

### **The ‘Place’**

#### **B. The ‘Problems’**

As we noted at the start of this chapter,

**Exodus 1** records some of the great persecution which confronted Israel in Egypt which threatened to destroy them

Yet, in spite of these great persecution problems, the Israelites still grew and multiplied

God's Promise proved, as always, to be stronger than man's Problems

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If God said He would make Israel a great nation in Egypt,

He would do it in spite of the problems which slavery brought upon the Israelites

The devil really fights the Promises of God,

And at times the saints in viewing their current circumstances may wonder if God's Promises will prevail

But have no fear... If God Promised, God will fulfill!

**I Thessalonians 5:24 – *“Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it”***

How encouraging this should be to God's people

If God can fulfill the promise of productivity for Israel amidst the opposition that abounded in Egypt,

He can also fulfill His Promises to us in spite of the opposition of our enemy who tries to discourages us at times by making our circumstances very negative

**The ‘Place’**

**The ‘Problems’**

**C. The ‘Patience’**

Israel’s Productivity did not occur overnight

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It took hundreds of years before they became a great nation

In fact, Israel was in Egypt for some 400 + years before they left the land as a nation

There were just 70 people when they first moved into Egypt, only a few compared to a nation

But year after year the number increased until finally there was a whole bunch of them

*The flesh is so impatient regarding God's promises*

It wants total fulfillment of the promise, moments after the promise is made

If the promise is not fulfilled quickly, it complains quickly

But **Hebrews 10:36** speaks the exhortation we so often need regarding God's promises

***“Ye have need of patience that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise”***

Having to wait for the fulfillment of the promise will test our faith, of course

But this gives us opportunity to strengthen our faith and to give greater proof of the sincerity of our faith

These are 2 things we are in need of a lot more today

-- We need stronger faith in order to live more ...

... victoriously, to overcome temptation, and to serve faithfully

-- And we need greater proof of the sincerity of our faith in order to have a better testimony to the world

**THEIR “PRESENCE”**

**THEIR “PRODUCTIVITY”**

### **III. THEIR “POLLUTION”**

The Israelites did not maintain a strong stand in their faith of Jehovah in Egypt

Some, of course, stood true, such as the parents of Moses

But a great portion of Israel was Polluted spiritually and morally

We learn of this Pollution of the Israelites in Egypt by looking at several passages of Scripture outside of Exodus

#### **A. Their Idolatress Practices**

***Joshua 24:14 – “Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD”***

Here in Joshua’s text, he tells the Israelites after they had arrived in Canaan, ***“Put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt, and serve ye the LORD”***

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The phrase, ***“and in Egypt,”*** reveals the fact that idolatry was practiced by the Israelites in Egypt

This fact is confirmed in a text in **Ezekiel 20:7**

God is reported as saying to Israel when they were about to leave Egypt

***“Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt”***

Israel did not heed well what God said on that occasion, however; for the next verse in Ezekiel says ...

**Ezekiel 20:8 – *“But they rebelled against Me, and would not hearken unto Me; they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt”***

Israel's rebellion is hard to believe

You would think they would have been glad to do anything to get out of their bondage in Egypt,

But sin had a Deceptive Grip on them

Their behavior later in the wilderness was another indicator of what was really in their hearts

Israel not only needed to be taken out of Egypt,

But Egypt needed to be taken out of Israel

Unfortunately, Israel was taken out of Egypt much easier and quicker than Egypt was taken out of Israel,

Though removing Israel from Egypt was no easy and quick task

### **Their Idolatress Practices**

#### **B. Their Covetous Ways**

Egypt being a land of ease and luxury brought about a spiritual and moral decay in undisciplined souls

Goshen, was the fertility of the land and a warm climate prevailed there

Beneath the seductive influences of the Egyptian climate... Israel's spiritual character became greatly relaxed

The ideals of their Father Abraham's faith was beginning to be lost

God had located Israel in a choice place in Egypt to make it conducive for them to prosper and grow

But like so many folk in every age, material advantages instead of being used to help one spiritually was used to their disadvantage

This is so obvious in American Churches today

Church members have nice houses, automobiles, clothes, many luxuries ...

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All of which should give them more time and convenience and means for serving the Lord

But instead, these material advantages have often taken the members away from the Lord and His service

These folk are so busy spending their time and material gain on fleshly pleasures, that they have little time for God

Our Jobs keep us from serving God fully

This explains why many folk are off pleasure seeking on Sunday instead of being in church

It also explains why our churches are shot through with moral disgrace

Divorce, children born out of wedlock, and moral scandals all permeate the membership of many churches

Material blessings and advantages are not wrong in themselves;

But when they are used to pamper the flesh instead of promote the spirit, character will be destroyed

When this happens, God is forced to bring many and mighty afflictions upon folk in order to bring them back to Him even as He afflicted Israel in Egypt

## **CONCLUSION**

*Israel in Egypt – Exodus 1*

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THEIR “PRESENCE”

THEIR “PRODUCTIVITY”

THEIR “POLLUTION”