

## Exodus 1

Verses 1- 7

**Now these are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob; they came, each one with his household: <sup>2</sup> Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; <sup>3</sup> Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; <sup>4</sup> Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. <sup>5</sup> All the people who descended from Jacob were seventy people, but Joseph was *already* in Egypt. <sup>6</sup> And Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. <sup>7</sup> But the sons of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly, and multiplied, and became exceedingly mighty, so that the land was filled with them.**

**Now these are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob; they came, each one with his household:**

The name "Exodus" was first given to this book in the Septuagint about 250 BC. Prior to that time, the Hebrews named it from the first two words of the book which mean "these are the names".

**<sup>5</sup> All the people who descended from Jacob were seventy people, but Joseph was *already* in Egypt.**

The 70 were direct descendants of Jacob but this number only included the men except for one daughter. Nor did it include any of his servants and hired hands. As an example, Abraham's household included 318 fighting men plus women and children.

See Genesis 14:14

**<sup>14</sup> When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, *numbering* 318, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.**

**<sup>6</sup> And Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation.**

Joseph died in 1635 and in the following years all of his generation died.

See Chart 105

### Exodus time line

Exodus	Event	Year	Place
Genesis 50	Joseph dies	1635	Egypt
1	Hebrews become slaves	1606	Egypt
2	Birth of Moses	1526	Egypt
2	Moses flees Egypt	1486	Midian
3	The Burning Bush	1447	Horeb/Mt Sinai
4	Moses returns to Egypt	1447	Egypt
5	Bricks without straw	1447	Egypt
7-11	The 10 Plagues	1447	Egypt

**<sup>7</sup> But the sons of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly, and multiplied, and became exceedingly mighty, so that the land was filled with them.**

This group of people had been under the protection of Joseph whose authority in Egypt was almost unlimited but that blessing was about to end.

Verses 8 -14

**<sup>8</sup> Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> He said to his people, “Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we. <sup>10</sup> Come, let us deal wisely with them, or else they will multiply and in the event of war, they will also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land.” <sup>11</sup> So they appointed taskmasters over them to afflict them with hard labor. And they built for Pharaoh storage cities, Pithom and Raamses. <sup>12</sup> But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and the more they spread out, so that they were in dread of the sons of Israel. <sup>13</sup> The Egyptians compelled the sons of Israel to labor rigorously; <sup>14</sup> and they made their lives bitter with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all *kinds* of labor in the field, all their labors which they rigorously imposed on them.**

**<sup>8</sup> Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.**

This new king arose and enslaved them about 30 years after Joseph died

See chart 110

#### Exodus time line

Exodus	Event	Year	Place
Genesis 50	Joseph dies	1635	Egypt
1	Hebrews become slaves	1606	Egypt
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<sup>9</sup> He said to his people, “Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we.

Jacob and his group of 200 came to Egypt in 1705 BC. Joseph died in 1635 and this new king arose in 1605 BC. In those 100 years this group may have increased to about 7,500 people. This is based on the fact that in another 160 years in 1446 BC when they leave Egypt they will have 600,000 fighting men and a total population of 2.5 million people. This is a conservative number because the tribe of Levi was not included.

See Numbers 2:32

<sup>32</sup> These are the numbered men of the sons of Israel by their fathers' households; the total of the numbered men of the camps by their armies, 603,550. <sup>33</sup> The Levites, however, were not counted among the sons of Israel, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.

<sup>10</sup> Come, let us deal wisely with them, or else they will multiply and in the event of war, they will also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land.”

Why would the Israelites join the enemy and leave the land if they were doing well? Many of the Egyptians may have resented the fact that Joseph had blessed his brothers and their descendants during the 7 years of famine while the Egyptians had to sell their cattle, land, and themselves to the king. Most likely this new king used that resentment to get his plan approved by the people.

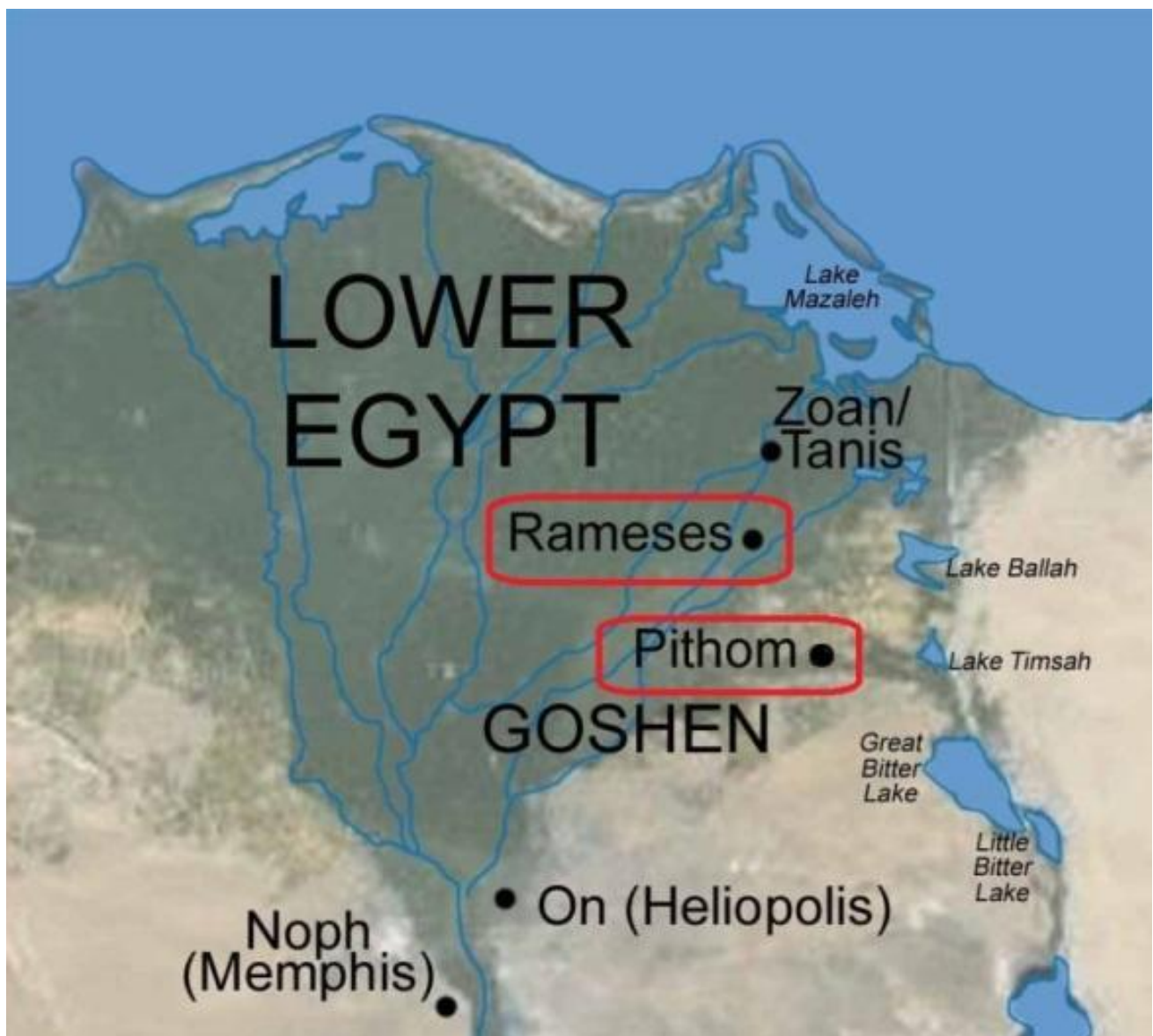
<sup>11</sup> **So they appointed taskmasters over them to afflict them with hard labor. And they built for Pharaoh Storage cities, Pithom and Raamses.**

What is slavery really about? Is it not about cheap labor?

Henry Ford created a company based on a living wage that gave his employees the ability to own the cars they were making. It sure seems like that worked out pretty good for a long time. Unfortunately, many American companies have forgotten that policy and how well it worked.

They built storage cities Pithom and Raamses.

See pic 115



**<sup>12</sup> But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and the more they spread out, so that they were in dread of the sons of Israel.**

Their evil plan not only backfired, it created an even worse scenario.

**<sup>13</sup> The Egyptians compelled the sons of Israel to labor rigorously; <sup>14</sup> and they made their lives bitter with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all *kinds* of labor in the field, all their labors which they rigorously imposed on them.**

Egypt became a rich nation by enslaving the Israelites for 160 years but they would lose it all in a matter of months during the 10 plagues.

See Galatians 6:7 - 8

**<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap. <sup>8</sup> For the one who sows to his own flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit.**

Verses 15 - 18

**Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other was named Puah; <sup>16</sup> and he said, “When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see *them* upon the birth stool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.” <sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live. <sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this thing, and let the boys live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife can get to them.” <sup>20</sup> So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and became very mighty. <sup>21</sup> Because the midwives feared God, He established households for them. <sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive.”**

**Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other was named Puah**

These women were leaders of the midwife profession and they were expected to communicate these instructions to their associates.

**<sup>16</sup> and he said, “When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see *them* upon the birth stool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.”**

This command revealed the heartless nature of the king.

**<sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live.**

This would be like asking a doctor to go against the Hippocratic Oath. In the oath, the physician pledges to prescribe only beneficial treatments, and to refrain from causing harm or hurt. So these brave midwives choose to honor God instead of the king.

**<sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this thing, and let the boys live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife can get to them.”**

The midwives didn’t want to lie to the king, but saving the children was a higher priority.

**<sup>20</sup> So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and became very mighty. <sup>21</sup> Because the midwives feared God, He established households for them.**

He blessed them with marriage and many descendants.

**<sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive.”**

Perhaps the king thought if he included all boys, both Egyptian and Hebrew, it would be less offensive to the Hebrew midwives.