

Set Free  
Exodus 1:8—22

The Gathering Place  
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Maxie Dunnam, former editor of The Upper Room magazine, introduces his commentary on Exodus with the following story:

The doctor and his nurse had responded to the anguished plea of a farmer. The farmer's wife was desperately ill. The doctor, with his familiar black bag, and the nurse were ushered upstairs to where the farmer's wife lay. The farmer and his family waited anxiously downstairs in the parlor. After a few minutes the doctor came down with a worried look on his face and asked for a screwdriver. After another few minutes the nurse came down and nervously asked for a can opener. Soon after that, the doctor reappeared, tense and visibly upset, and asked for a hammer and chisel. By this time the distraught farmer couldn't contain himself any longer. "Tell me, Do, whatever in the world is wrong with my wife?" "Don't know yet," the doctor answered, "Can't get my black bag opened!"

Dunnam goes on to say... that is one of the reasons the Bible is not alive for many of us. We haven't opened the bag yet. We don't have the key, or a key that will get us into the bag. He suggests that one of the keys to understanding Scripture is to put ourselves into the picture. When we read Scripture, we are to read it not as spectators, but as participants. Objective information is important, but unless we get involved, unless we put ourselves into the picture we will not receive the word as God's word for us.

Pastor David helped us a lot last week. He sure put himself into the word as he gave us a first person account of Moses' view of the Book of Exodus.

Our attention was drawn to 1 Corinthians 10:11 *These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.*

So for the next several weeks we are going to journey through the Book of Exodus and try to find out what it has to say to us today. Let's put ourselves into the story and let God work His mighty works of deliverance and grace in us.

The first thing I want you to take note of is verse 8 of chapter 1.

***Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt.***

Exodus is a continuation of the story begun in Genesis. Genesis concludes with the story of Joseph and his family and how God led them to Egypt.

Moses tells us a new king in Egypt did not know Joseph.

Joseph. What is the significance of Joseph to Egypt. Let's go back to Genesis 41:38 & 39, "***Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the Spirit of God? Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders."***

The real significance of Joseph is that this man was the means God used to reveal himself to the Egyptian people.

But now in Exodus 1 there arose a leader who didn't know Joseph. But more importantly, he didn't know Joseph's God!

Do you see a parallel to today? I sure do. Our nation and most of the nations in the western world knew a time when the leaders of the nations either knew God personally themselves, or were heavily influenced by men and women who knew God.

What happened in Egypt to bring this about? The representatives of God became ghettoized in the land of Goshen (Genesis 46:33 shepherds detestable to the Egyptians). It is never God's intention for His people to become ghettoized. We are to be salt and light. Salt is to have savour. But savour is not enough. It must get into whatever it is to purify and preserve. Proximity is needed!

God needed to get His people out of Goshen. Goshen was not their promised land. But they were comfortable in Goshen. God had to make them uncomfortable!

Is there a lesson here for us? Of course. This world is not our home, but often we get so comfortable we no longer have a longing for heaven. How does God change our perspective. He allows the Pharaohs of our world to make it hard for us here. He allows adversity so our eyes will be taken from the temporal things of this life and placed on the heavenly.

Are you in adversity, look to the Lord, and be comforted in the knowledge that He who allows adversity in our lives is also the deliverer! Exodus 20:2 ***I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.***

Maybe you are not in adversity, look to the Lord!

There is one other message from this first chapter of Exodus that I want us to see today. It has to do with children.

This morning following the 11 AM service we will be dedicating two precious, wonderful little lives. One by the name of Joshua Eufeye, and the other Daniel Hunte.

God loves children! Why, they are created by him. They were designed by Him and for Him.

Friday night I was reviewing a video tape of a message by Bill Hybels to church leaders. He used as an illustration an experience of his when he was going through the mail and turfing out the junk mail and especially catalogues. In the midst of all that stuff finding its way into the recycling box was a one page sheet that had the picture of missing children on it. And he let it go into the box, but it landed face up with those children's pictures staring at him. He paused and thought about why that sheet of paper was placed along with the junk mail in the blue box. **THEY WERE NO HIS KIDS.**

Why is God so passionate about children and young people and adults? Why did He give His one and only Son to die for them. Why does He move heaven and hell in order to reach you and me?

**BECAUSE WE ARE HIS KIDS!**

The Pharaoh who did not know Joseph or Joseph's God said we have to stop the multiplication of that despicable bunch of shepherds down in Goshen. What did he do? Attack the weakest and most vulnerable in society. **THE KIDS.**

The midwives – Shiphrah and Puah. Hebrew women? Maybe. Some commentators believe they were actually Egyptian midwives commissioned by Pharaoh to carry out his murderous plan.

The telling statement: **THE MIDWIVES, HOWEVER FEARED GOD AND DID NOT DO WHAT THE KING OF EGYPT HAD TOLD THEM TO DO. THEY LET THE BOYS LIVE.** They put their lives on the line. Their motive was their respect and fear of God.

God was kind to the midwives.

Friends regardless of what the people in authority decree or condone. We are citizens of another Kingdom. I read last night from 1 Peter 2:9 & 10 ***You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God – once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God.***

In Canada it is legal to abort babies. PLEASE, THIS IS NOT A MESSAGE OF CONDEMNATION for anyone who has had an abortion. I believe women who have abortions have been victimized by politicians and feminists. Abortion kills babies, but it also traumatizes women. If you have had an abortion, God loves you. There is forgiveness in Him, and your baby is safe in the arms of Jesus! You were robbed of the joy of seeing that baby grow up.

Whatever your bondage today. GOD IS THE ONE WHO LEADS US OUT OF BONDAGE AND SLAVERY!