

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Exodus 1

Exodus one is the first chapter of the second book of Moses. The name of the Book of Exodus comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures and means "The way, road or path out." This definition is from a compound Greek word, the preposition, "ek" meaning out, or out of, and the noun "hodos" referring to a way, road, or a path. The Hebrew name is "Shemot" which means "Names." Exodus opens by setting the context for the writing, the names, hence the Hebrew name of the book, *Shemot*, of the children of Israel and their descendants. The Lord has blessed the Hebrews and that manifests itself with a population explosion; the children of Israel begin to fulfill the promise made to Abraham some five hundred years earlier at Hebron (see Genesis 15). This growth, combined with the changing of an Egyptian Pharaoh brought a change in the favored status of the people of God. Instead of enjoying the life of privilege as had been the case under the Pharaohs who knew of Joseph, they now worked as slaves under the hard taskmasters of Egypt. The population explosion brought fear and dread to the Egyptians and their Pharaoh that a rebellion could occur. Due to the massive number of Hebrews, they could overcome the country and overthrow the ruling dynasty. The slavery was brutal, but the more the Hebrews were brutalized the more children came forth, bringing about a different strategy to control the slaves. Pharaoh commanded the midwives of the Hebrews to kill the Hebrew babies if boys and let the daughters live, but the midwives "feared God" and did not obey. They were called before Pharaoh to give an account of their failure to stop the population of boys. They indirectly answered his question and talked about how strong the Hebrew women were; they could

give birth without them being present. God blessed the heart of the midwives and gave them families of their own. Finally, in a desperate attempt to stop the population explosion among the Hebrews, Pharaoh decreed that all baby boys be thrown into the River Nile. The girls were to be the only survivors. God only knows how many baby boys were drowned during this time. It seems the enemies of God and the enemies of God's people always go after the children. The same thing is happening, only worse, in the United States of America, as not only are the boys killed, but all the precious babies are killed in the abortion houses across the land. This is the cultural context in which the baby was born to a Hebrew family who would be used by God to deliver his people from bondage and to be given the responsibility of constituting the Hebrews into a nation, called by the name of the father of the tribes, Israel.

Prayer and Action Steps

God in His wisdom alone knows the time to answer the prayers of His people. God always sets the stage for redemption. Exodus is the unfolding of another chapter in the telling of the "Great Story of God" in human history. He heard the prayer of a people in bondage and provided a way of deliverance and escape. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul, "For whatever thing were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience (being divinely enabled to endure) and comfort (parakaleo = encouragement) of the Scriptures might have hope (hope is not wishful thinking in the Bible, but rather "assurance"). Pray that as you walk through the Key Chapters of the Book of Exodus that you might see God's faithfulness to His people Israel and be instructed and encouraged to stay the course and live a life of godliness through His divine enablement and help.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
