

The God Who Keeps His Covenant

Exodus 1

Genesis 15; Acts 7:1-22



19 March 2023

Pursuing our Goals - Pressing Forward Together into 2023

- Knowing and Doing the Will of God
 - We are called to understand what the will of God is (Ephesians 5:15-17).
 - God's will for us is to live on every Word that comes from Him (Luke 4:4).
 - Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him (John 9:31).
 - ONLY those who DO the will of God abide forever (1 John 2:17)

God's Eternal Purpose

"From all eternity God purposed to gather to Himself a special people from every nation, tribe, peoples, and tongue, re-created in His image, purchased by the blood of His own Son, **who would treasure, glorify, praise, worship and enjoy Him for His infinite worth and beauty** for all eternity for His own glory and their good and pleasure"

Review Where We Are

- Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." (Genesis 50:24).
- God brings His People to Egypt (Genesis 15:13-16).
- Exodus (redemption) opens with God remembering his covenant with Abraham (Exodus 2:23-25) and coming down to redeem His people through His chosen mediator, Moses. A picture of Christ (Exod 3-4)!
- God remembers His covenant recorded in Genesis:
 - 1) The promise that through Abraham's offspring all the families of the earth will be blessed (Gen 12:1-3; Deut 1:8).
 - 2) The promise that Abraham's offspring will be in captivity for a time, but will return to the Promised Land (Gen15:13-14).

- 3) The promise of the death blow (enmity) to our ancient enemy through the offspring of the woman (Gen 3:15).

The Twelve Sons of Jacob Who Came into Egypt (v1-6).

- GOD is still fulfilling His eternal purpose/plan. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- God grows the little family numbering only 70 persons into a multitude! (v5).

The Rapid Multiplication of the Children of Israel in Egypt (v7)

- They did indeed multiply exceedingly over the generations - so that the land was filled with them (Genesis 47:27).
- God faithfully preserved and prospered them into the 'great nation' that He had promised.
- God is a promise keeper. The LORD fulfils the promises He made to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-5; 15), to Isaac, to Jacob (Genesis 28:1-28; 17:6; 35:11; 47:27).
- God was fulfilling His covenant that He made with Christ in eternity, through Israel His chosen people (Acts 15:18).

Israel's Suffering in Egypt (v8-11)

- A new king arose who did not know Joseph. The status Israel enjoyed ended (Daniel 2:21; Proverbs 21:1). Remember man forgets!
 - Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; come, let us deal shrewdly with them:
 - In the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us:
 - They set taskmasters over them... they built for Pharaoh supply cities:
- Pharaoh despises them and fears them - because they are so numerous, he fears revolt and keeps them in submission through oppressive treatment.
- God is the determinant of times, to fulfil His eternal purpose (Psalms 105:16-23).

Israel Prospers and Grows Despite the Hard Bondage (v12-14).

- The more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew: This was God's purpose for Israel's time in Egypt.

- They made their lives bitter with hard bondage: Because God's purpose was to bless Israel and fulfill His role for them in His eternal plan, no amount of affliction could defeat His purpose! (Isaiah 54:17).
- The wickedness of the Egyptians could hurt the children of Israel but could never defeat God's plan for them.
- In the midst of their cruel and harsh service, God was still working out His plan through their suffering. MEDITATE! (Isaiah 43:2).
- This is a picture of persecution - God's church continues to GROW. God's plan and work will always prevail. Always! (Proverbs 19:21).
- God keeps His covenant irrespective of what man does! (Isaiah 54:17; Matthew 16:18).
- God uses these afflictions to prepare for a deliverer. A picture of how God works using the Holy Spirit to convict men of sin (John 16:18).

The Hebrew Midwives Obey God (v15-16).

- The king of Egypt tries to destroy Israel by ordering the death of all male babies.
- If it is a son, then you shall kill him: an attack against God's Messiah and ultimate plan for Israel in His plan of redemption (Gen 3:15).
- Satan knew that the Messiah - the Seed of the Woman, the One who would crush his head (Genesis 3:15) would come from the children of Israel. Therefore, he tried to destroy the whole nation in one generation by ordering all the male children killed!
- Jesus is the one descendant of Abraham that defeats evil and brings us back to God. God protects His Seed thus His people, His Eternal Purpose! (Genesis 3:15).
- But the midwives feared God: Yes, they feared Pharaoh and his power; but they feared God more greatly. For them, the choice was clear. Pharaoh commanded something that was clearly against God's command, so they did the only right thing, obeying God rather than men. Do we emulate their example? Remember Daniel, Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego, Peter, John, Paul. (Acts 4:18-19)
- Saved the male children alive: we are called to obey the government and honour our rulers (Romans 13:1-5; 1 Peter 2:13-17), however we are never called to put government in the place of God. God first, always! Then we accept the consequences, even death!
- Therefore, if the government tells us to do something against God's will, we are to obey God first!
- All of these events are recorded for our learning (Romans 15:4). Even when it seemed impossible, our God is able! (Isaiah 46:9-10).

God Rewards the Obedience of the Midwives (v18-22).

- Therefore, God dealt well with the midwives: They are blessed for this courageous act, in fulfilment of God's promise that he would bless those who bless Abraham's descendants (Gen 12:3).
- The people multiplied and grew very mightily: The worse the persecution against God's plan to multiply the children of Israel in Egypt, the more God made sure the plan succeeded. MEDITATE!
- He provided households for them: God our provider.
- Every son who is born you shall cast into the river: Seeing that his plan did not work, Pharaoh made a far more radical command, that all male children should be killed. Yet God's will comes to pass!

Are we in AWE of the Glorious Gospel of GOD?

- God is always faithful to His plan and promises. What He says He will do, He does! (Number 23:19; 2 Timothy 2:13)
- God is always with us actively, even when we don't seem to see Him (Exodus 1:12; Deuteronomy 31:6-8; Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 41:10-13)
- **EVERYTHING** is working for our good, including our suffering and tribulations (Romans 5:3-5; 8:28).
- Are we willing to stand up to the power of "Pharaoh" and do what is right in all circumstances? (Proverbs 3:5-6; Proverbs 14:12)
- The method Pharaoh commanded for the death of the male children of Israel became the divine provision for training the deliverer of Israel (Genesis 50:20). God's will comes to pass!
- God will not be mocked: Joseph gets sold into slavery by his brothers in Egypt, their sins have consequences! (Romans 6:23; Galatians 6:7-8)