

Exo.1:1 Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob:

1:2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah;

1:3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin;

1:4 Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

1:5 All those who were descendants of Jacob were seventy persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already).

1:6 And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation.

1:7 But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

1:8 Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

1:9 And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we;

1:10 "come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land."

1:11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses.

1:12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel.

1:13 So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor.

1:14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage-in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.

1:15 Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah;

1:16 and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live."

1:17 But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive.

1:18 So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?"

1:19 And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them."

1:20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty.

1:21 And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.

1:22 So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

2:1 And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi.

2:2 So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months.

2:3 But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank.

2:4 And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

2:5 Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it.

2:6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

2:7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"

2:8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother.

2:9 Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

2:10 And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

From Today's Sermon

We have seen the happy ending of the story of Joseph. However, God said the following to Jacob:

"I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you up again" (Genesis 46:4).

About 350 years after the migration to Egypt, a new king who did not know Joseph ascended the throne. This may indicate a change in the Egyptian system.

From this point on, a policy of hostility towards the Israelites began.

"The descendants of Israel multiplied greatly and became a nation that filled the land." The repeated depiction of Israel's prosperity was in accordance with God's promise that he would multiply his descendants like the stars in the heavens and the dust on the earth.

Seeing this, the Egyptians imposed heavy labor on the Israelites, but the more they were tormented, the more they multiplied and spread, and the Egyptians grew afraid of the Israelites.

Finally, the king of Egypt ordered the midwives to kill any baby boy that was born, but the midwives did not obey the order because they feared God, and they received God's blessing,

and the people multiplied and became very strong.

In the midst of love and prayer, a good idea was born for the boy who would later be named Moses, and God protected everything and opened the way for life. It was none other than God Himself who was led through the hand of Pharaoh's daughter.

Good morning everyone. It will be April in two days. We have been experiencing warm and cold weather, and we have been suffering from hay fever, yellow sand, and various diseases. I think that there is a lot of busyness due to the change of the year, but please take care of your health.

This year's Easter is on April 20th. The Passion Week, which is one week before Easter, will be next week. Let's listen to today's message while remembering the Lord's suffering.

About 350 years have passed since the happy reunion of Joseph and his family.

1:1 Now these are the names of the children of Israel, which came with Jacob into Egypt, each according to his family:

1:2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,

1:3 Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin,

1:4 Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

1:5 Seventy people came out from the loins of Jacob. Joseph was already in Egypt.

1:6 And Joseph died, and his brothers and all the people died.

1:7 But the descendants of Israel multiplied greatly, and became a strong nation, filling the land.

"The descendants of Israel multiplied greatly and became a nation that filled the land." This repeated depiction of Israel's prosperity was in accordance with God's promise that he would multiply his descendants like the stars in the heavens and the dust on the earth.

1:8 Now there arose in Egypt a new king who did not know Joseph.

1:9 He said to his people, "Behold, this people who are Israelites are too numerous and too strong for us.

1:10 Let us deal with them wisely; for if they become too numerous, they will join their enemies and fight against us, and we will not be able to drive them out of this country."

Quotation: “The new king (Pharaoh) who did not know Joseph” (Chapter 1, verse 8) refers to?

① The Egyptians began writing down their own history very early on, and it is possible to trace the history of each dynasty from the First Dynasty to the Thirty-first Dynasty, without missing a single king's name. Furthermore, various events during this period are recorded. However, the period from around 1770 BC to around 1580 BC is a real blank period in terms of records. During this period, the Hyksos (foreign rulers) invaded from the north and occupied northern Egypt, while Egypt continued to rule over the south until the 14th Dynasty. Later, during the 15th and 16th dynasties, Egypt was deprived of its throne by the unified rule of the Hyksos. In the 17th dynasty, the south was returned to the hands of the Egyptian king, and in the 18th dynasty, Egypt finally succeeded in regaining control of the whole country and driving out the Hyksos.

The Hyksos were a Semitic people, and were a mixed group of people of the same lineage as Israel. The pharaoh who appears in the Joseph story in the Book of Genesis is thought to have been the king of the Hyksos. Because they were a people related by blood, it can be said that the Jacob clan's immigration to Egypt was also given preferential treatment. However, if the “new king that Joseph did not know” was the Egyptian dynasty that expelled the Hyksos and retook the country, then it is easy to understand the harsh treatment and abusive policies towards the Israelites.

From the “Pastor's Study” website

I think this is a good way of answering the question of why, at a certain point in time, Egypt suddenly forgets about Joseph, and why the descendants of the hero who saved the country are suddenly viewed as enemies.

It is indeed a policy of hostility. When the hostile forces within the country match up with the hostile forces outside the country, it becomes a big problem, and they start to treat them harshly. Now, what will happen to the Israelites?

1:10 Now, let us deal with them thoroughly. When they become numerous and war breaks out, let us side with the enemy and fight against us, so that they may not finally escape from this country.”

If they were worried that they might be driven out of the country if they sided with the enemy and conquered the country together with the enemy, I could understand, but it is interesting that the Egyptians are saying, “Let's side with the enemy and fight with them so that they

won't finally escape from this country." It is interesting that the Egyptians were afraid that the Israelites themselves would escape from the country, even though the Egyptians hated the Israelites so much. Even though they hated them so much and were jealous of their prosperity, we can see that their presence, power and prosperity were a source of strength for the country. We can recall that God's blessing was revealed wherever Abraham, Jacob, Isaac and Joseph went, and God's glory and power were revealed to the people around them.

1:11 So the Egyptians set over them taskmasters to afflict them with hard labor. They built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh.

1:12 But as the people of Israel increased, so they were afraid of them, and they made the people of Israel work as slaves with harshness.

They worked them like slaves with hatred, and tried to put an end to the war between Egypt and Israel with a victory for Egypt, but "But as the Israelites were afflicted, they grew more and more in number, and they feared because of the Israelites" says the Bible. Here too, the strength of God's people is shown.

According to one theory, the city of Rameses was built in the land of Goshen where they had settled. The harassment they suffered must have been terrible.

When they were faced with difficulties and persecution and felt like they had no way out. However, God's people are accompanied by God himself, and the more they suffer, the more they will increase and spread in blessing and prosperity. What a reliable work of God! I feel like the church in Japan today would also like to receive a share of this word, but God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

"They were afraid because of the people of Israel."

It is clear that this was not due to their own strength.

2 Corinthians 6:2 "For God says, 'In a time of favor I have heard you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the time of favor; see, now is the day of salvation.

6:3 "We do not want this ministry to be slandered, so that we will not be causing stumbling to anyone,

6:4 but rather, in everything, we manifest ourselves to be God's servants, by means of great endurance, by means of affliction, by means of danger, by means of distress, by means of

6:5 by means of being struck, by means of imprisonment, by means of riots, by means of toil, by means of sleeplessness, by means of hunger,

6:6 by truth and knowledge and long-suffering, by kindness and the Holy Spirit, by love

unfeigned,

6:7 by the word of truth and by the power of God, by the weapons of righteousness which we have in our right hand and in our left,

6:8 by which we make ourselves known as servants of God, whether we are praised or blamed, whether we are held in high esteem or despised, we make ourselves known as servants of God. We seem to be misleading, but we are true;

6:9 though we seem to be unknown to men, yet we are accepted; though we seem to be dying, yet we live; though we seem to be punished, yet we are not killed;

6:10 though we seem to be sad, yet we are always happy; though we seem to be poor, yet we have become rich; though we seem to have nothing, yet we have everything.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

5:2 And not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces perseverance,

5:3 and perseverance produces character, and character produces hope.

5:4 for we know that patience produces perseverance, and perseverance produces hope.

5:5 And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Paul also said: "Praise be to the name of God!"

1:13 The Egyptians oppressed the people of Israel,

1:14 and made their lives bitter with hard labor. They made them work at making mortar, at building bricks, and at all the work of the field; and all their labor was harsh.

1:15 And the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew women who were midwives, to the one whose name was Shiphra and to the other whose name was Puah,

1:16 said, "When you are midwifing for the Hebrew women, look at the top of the birth platform, and if it is a boy, kill it, but if it is a girl, let her live."

1:17 But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live.

1:18 The king of Egypt called the midwives and said, "Why did you do this and keep the boys alive?

1:19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are different from the Egyptian women; they are healthy and give birth before the midwives arrive."

1:20 So God blessed the midwives, and the people increased and became very strong.

1:21 The midwives feared God, and God caused their houses to prosper.

Then the king of Egypt cruelly ordered that any male Israelite child born should be killed at birth. However, the Hebrew midwives did not fear the king, but rather God, and so they did not obey the king's order.

I think this shows us the stance we should take in life.

If you believe in God and fear God, the fear you see will disappear, you will be saved from threats, and you will be able to be full of the blessings of God, who cannot be overturned or harmed.

1:22 Then Pharaoh ordered all his people, saying, "Every boy who is born, throw him into the Nile, but save the girls alive."

2:1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and took a wife from the daughters of Levi.

2:2 She became pregnant and gave birth to a son, and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months.

2:3 But when she could hide him no longer, she took a papyrus basket and daubed it with bitumen and resin, put the child in it, and placed it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.

2:4 His sister stood at a distance, wanting to know what would be done to him.

This time, the king of Egypt stopped relying on the midwife and gave a direct order to the people to throw the baby boy into the river if he was born.

Here, a child appears. "The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a boy, and when she saw how beautiful he was, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she took a basket woven of papyrus, and daubed it with bitumen and resin, and put the child in it, and set it in the midst of the reeds by the bank of the Nile."

It is a famous story. The baby's older sister was watching the basket to see what would happen to the baby. Even if the basket was waterproofed and placed in a cool place, it would not be possible for the baby to survive there for long without being fed. She was praying, wondering what would happen to the baby. "How will things turn out for him?" Then God worked.

2:5 At that time, the daughter of Pharaoh came down to the river to wash herself. Her handmaids were walking along the riverbank, and when she saw a basket among the reeds, she sent her handmaiden to get it,

2:6 and when she opened it, she saw the child. The child was crying. She felt sorry for him

and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

2:7 Then the sister of the child said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call for a nurse from among the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

2:8 Pharaoh's daughter said, 'Go.' So the girl went and called the child's mother.

2:9 The daughter of Pharaoh said to her, "Take this child and nurse him for me. I will give you your reward." The woman took the child and nursed him.

2:10 When the child grew up, she took him to the daughter of Pharaoh, and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

God works his own works. The mother was even paid a wage, her child's life was saved, her child was led to life, and she was able to raise her child.

How wonderful is God's guidance!

2:10 When the child had grown up, she took him to the daughter of Pharaoh, and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

Pharaoh's daughter says that she pulled him out of the water by her own will and strength, but it was all in God's guidance.

We too are pulled out of sin, sorrow, and misery by God's power and are saved. Because of this precious work of God, we too want to listen to God's words and testify to His salvation.

◇Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's service.

God strengthened and increased his people, but as a result, they came under attack in the land of Egypt and suffered. However, the more they suffered, the more their numbers increased. The midwives who feared God more than the king's orders. And God, who rescued a boy from the danger of death and later prepared Moses to save his people. We thank you for all your salvation for us in the midst of suffering and desperation. Please lead all those who are suffering to God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people of our community. Use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen