



STAY FOCUSED **Exodus 1:1-7**

These are the names of the sons of Israel (that is, Jacob) who moved to Egypt with their father, each with his family: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, 3 Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, 4 Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. 5 In all, Jacob had seventy descendants in Egypt, including Joseph, who was already there. 6 In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation. 7 But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land. (Exodus 1:1-7)

- **While Genesis is the book of creation, Exodus is the book of redemption.**
- **The Book of Exodus can be divided into three story lines:**
 - **The “exodus” experience of the Israelite people (Exodus 1-18)**
 - **The giving of the Law (Exodus 19-24)**
 - **The construction of the Tabernacle (Exodus 25-40)**
- **In our study of the Book of Exodus we’re going to learn how to follow the Lord in new ways to new levels in our lives.**
 - *“The Lord guided them by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night.” (Exodus 13:21)*
- **In the initial chapters of Exodus we discover that *God cares when His people experience brokenness in their lives, circumstances and relationships.***
- *“Then the Lord told Moses, ‘I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land.’” (Exodus 3:7-8)*
- **The Israelites had come to Egypt because they experienced a great famine in their own region, and then later on experienced even more difficult times (Exodus 1-2).**
- ***What kinds of difficulties are we facing in our day, and what will help us to overcome them?***

**During “Difficult Times” We Need To Reflect On:
OUR IDENTITY IN THE LORD**

- “These are the names of the sons of Israel (that is, Jacob) who moved to Egypt with their father, each with his family: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.” (Exodus 1:1-4)
- **Jacob had once been a “deceiver” who had been transformed through a supernatural encounter with the Lord (Exodus 32:1-32).**

Our Lives, Circumstances And Relationships Are Changed When We:

- **EMBRACE GOD’S PROMISES**

- Jacob - “You promised me, ‘I will surely treat you kindly, and I will multiply your descendants until they become as numerous as the sands along the seashore.’” (Genesis 32:12)
- **God has promised to be with us (Hebrews 13:5), to provide for us (Philippians 4:19) and to protect us (Psalm 91, Romans 8:31).**
- “The Lord always keeps His promises.” (Psalm 145:13)

- **ENCOUNTER GOD’S PRESENCE**

- “This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break . . . Jacob named the place Peniel (which means ‘face of God’), for he said, ‘I have seen God face to face.’” (Genesis 32:24, 30)
- **Our Initial life changing encounter with the Lord happens when we experience God’s Salvation (Acts 2:38).**
- **The Lord wants us to have Continual encounters with Him - which is what happens when we Seek Him through worship, prayer and Bible study (Acts 2:42-47).**

- **EXPERIENCE GOD’S POWER**

- “When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob’s hip and wrenched it out of its socket. . . . ‘What is your name?’ the man asked. He replied, ‘Jacob.’ ‘Your name will no longer be Jacob,’ the man told him. ‘From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.’” (Genesis 32:25-28).
- **Jacob meant “heel-snatcher, supplanter or deceiver” while Israel meant “Prince of God.”**
- **God’s power can bring change to our lives, courage to our hearts and connection to our relationships (Exodus 32:1 - 33:4).**
- **My name used to be _____, but now God calls me _____.**

- ***What changes has the Lord brought to my life since I fully surrendered to Him?***

During “Difficult Times” We Need To Remember:

OUR HISTORY WITH THE LORD

- “In all, Jacob had seventy descendants in Egypt, including Joseph, who was already there.” (Exodus 1:5)

Even During Difficult Times We Can Experience The:

- **PROTECTION OF GOD IN OUR LIVES**

- **The Lord protected Joseph even when his own brothers sought to harm him (Genesis 37:12-26).**

- *“God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.”* (Psalm 46:1)
- **POWER OF GOD IN OUR LIVES**
 - **The Lord blessed Joseph even when his circumstances were difficult (Genesis 39:1-23).**
 - *“God is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”* (Ephesians 3:20)
- **PROVISION OF GOD IN OUR LIVES**
 - **The Lord blessed Joseph because of his faith in Him, bringing him from being a prisoner to being the Prime Minister of Egypt (Genesis 40-41).**
 - Joseph to his brothers – *“God turned into good what you meant for evil.”* (Genesis 50:20)
- *“We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God.”* (Romans 8:28)
- ***What has the Lord done in and for my life to demonstrate His love and care for me?***

During “Difficult Times” We Need To Refocus On:

OUR MINISTRY FOR THE LORD

- *“In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation. But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land.”* (Exodus 1:6-7)
- **The population growth of the Israelites while in Egypt was actually carrying out God's first command to humankind (Genesis 1:28)**
- **The Lord wants His people to be involved in replicating themselves and multiplying their impact and influence in our world.**
- Jesus - *“Go and make disciples of all the nations . . .”* (Matthew 28:19)
- Jesus – *“My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to My Father.”* (John 15:8)

“Producing much fruit” occurs when we are involved in:

- **SERVING OTHERS**
 - *“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”* (1 Peter 4:10)
- **SHARING OUR FAITH WITH OTHERS**
 - *“The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me – to tell people the good news about God’s grace.”* (Acts 20:24 NCV)
- **DISCIPLING OTHERS**
 - Jesus – *“Go and make disciples . . . Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands that I have given to you.”* (Matthew 28:19-20)
- **When we become who the Lord has called us to be and do what He has called us to do we will have a powerful impact on the culture around us.**
- ***What do I need to be doing to carry out God’s ministry in our difficult world?***

- The Lord to His Old Testament People – *“This is the covenant I am going to make with you. I will perform wonders that have never been done before . . . And all the people around you will see the power of the Lord – the awesome power I will display through you.”* (Exodus 34:10)
- *“He brought His people out of Egypt with joy, His chosen ones with rejoicing.”* (Psalm 105:43)