

Title: A People For Glory

Main Passage: Exodus 1:1-7

Secondary Passages: Genesis 1:28, 9:1, 17:1-2, 26:4, 28:14; Acts 7:1–53

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

Exodus 1:7

Overview: The book of Exodus opens with the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob. After being introduced to these people, we are told that they were fruitful and increased in number. At first glance this does not seem all that significant. But it is. You see, Exodus is the continuation of the work God started in the book of Genesis.

The book of Genesis is the first book in the Bible. It begins with a description of God creating a beautiful world for his people to enjoy. God's act of creation culminated with the creation of man and woman, who were made in the image and likeness of God. Adam and Eve were then instructed by God to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth and subdue it.

Sadly, sin entered God's creation and threatened God's plan of dwelling with his people. When sin entered the world, everything changed. Sin separated us from God, and as mankind multiplied, they filled the earth with corruption.

God then judged the world with a great flood. Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark alone were spared. After the flood, God called Noah to be fruitful and to fill the earth.

After Noah, generations passed and eventually a man named Abram was born. In his grace, God drew near to Abram, changed his name to Abraham, and promised to be his God, to make him into a great nation, and to give his descendants the Promised Land. These promises were the next step in God's strategy to undo sin and restore our relationship with him.

Abraham demonstrated great faith. He believed the promises of God and so he followed God to the Promised Land. Upon his arrival, the land was occupied by the Canaanites, and through a series of painful events including famine, sibling rivalry, and a great grandson being sold into slavery, Abraham's descendants found themselves in Egypt.

More than 400 years passed from the time that God made his promises to Abraham to the beginning of the book of Exodus. And although God's people have not seen God fulfill all of his promises, they have started to see the fulfillment of one of God's promises. They have become a great nation and now they await a great intervention that will demonstrate God's glory and show many people that Israel's God is the one true God.

Opening Question:

What excites you most about studying the book of Exodus?

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 1:1–7. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- Exodus 1:7 says, “*the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly.*” This fact is so important to this opening chapter that it is mentioned three times (see 1:7, 12, and 20). Now look at Genesis 1:28, 9:1, 17:1-2, 26:4, 28:14. How do these verses relate to Exodus 1:7?
- What do the verses in Genesis indicate about the faithfulness of God?
- Acts 7:1–53 is a beautiful summary of the history of God’s people during the time of Exodus. Read Acts 7:1–18. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- In Acts 7:5–7, what do you learn about the God’s people being in slavery in Egypt?
- During the 400 years of waiting in Egypt, what do you think God’s people thought regarding the promises of God?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?

Application Questions

- Having to wait on the promises of God is part of being a follower of Jesus. Knowing this doesn’t make waiting easier, especially during seasons of trial and hardship. Read 2 Peter 3:8–9. How does this passage relate to God’s promises in Genesis?
- How have you seen God keep his promises to you?
- Have there been seasons in your life when you struggled to believe God would keep his promises to you? What have those seasons been like?
- The book of Exodus is about God demonstrating his glory by rescuing his people from slavery. What work could God do in your life that would bring him glory?
- How has this lesson challenged the way you think, speak, or act?

Table Time With Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family read aloud Exodus 1:1–7. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- Does God keep his promises to his people? *Yes. God is a faithful God who keeps all of his promises to his people.*
- How have you seen God keep his promises to your family?
- What could God do in your family during this series to demonstrate to you that he is great?