

Exodus 1

Setting a new scene



Although a separate new book, Exodus is clearly intended as a continuation of the story-line of Genesis. The book *starts* with an “and” – often left out in English – and then the same words as Genesis 46:8. But what a contrast!

➤ Turning the page (1-7)

What has happened between Genesis 46:8 and here? So how many years are we likely to be thinking about? Just how many “sons of Israel” – in a broader sense – are there now?

Although v6 reads sadly, v7 deliberately picks up the language of Genesis 1:28. But what sounds like a success story, from the Israelite side, is viewed very differently by the Egyptians ...

➤ Turning up the heat (8-12)

“... who did not know Joseph” (8). Ignorant, but just by passage of time or by deliberate choice, do you think? What are people *ignorant* of nowadays (Romans 1:18 ff)? So sometimes the truth is just inconvenient?

First response: a deliberate policy of oppression. But how “shrewd” was this, really ... if this Pharaoh had known the history of these Israelites (and God's promise, Genesis 12:3)? How long a period of time are we talking about here? Months? Years?

➤ Upping the stakes (13-22)

The oppression hardens, a step at a time.

13-14: *ruthless* oppression – broader in scope as well as greater in depth

15-21: covert infanticide

Were there just two midwives??

What do you make of their side of the story (19)?

Who is named here – and who isn't? Comment?

(v20: notice further Genesis language)

22: open genocide

So how would this work?

How widely was this order followed?