

IN THE DESERT

PHARAOH REWARDS JOSEPH

Genesis 47:5-6 NLT Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Now that your father and brothers have joined you here, ⁽⁶⁾ choose any place in the entire land of Egypt for them to live. Give them the best land of Egypt. Let them live in the region of Goshen. And if any of them have special skills, put them in charge of my livestock, too.”

Exodus 1:7 NLT 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.

PHARAOH DECLARES WAR ON HEBREWS

Exodus 1:10-11 NLT “We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don’t, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country.” ⁽¹¹⁾ So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king.

Exodus 1:13-14 NLT So the Egyptians worked the people of Israel without mercy. ⁽¹⁴⁾ They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands.

Exodus 1:16 NLT “When you help the Hebrew women as they give birth, watch as they deliver. If the baby is a boy, kill him; if it is a girl, let her live.”

Exodus 1:22 NLT Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River. But you may let the girls live.”

GOD HEARD THEIR CRY

Exodus 2:23-25 NLT Years passed, and the king of Egypt died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God. ⁽²⁴⁾ God heard their groaning, and he remembered his covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ⁽²⁵⁾ He looked down on the people of Israel and knew it was time to act.

Exodus 3:9-10 NLT “Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. ⁽¹⁰⁾ Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.”

Exodus 4:10-12 NLT But Moses pleaded with the LORD, “O Lord, I’m not very good with words. I never have been, and I’m not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.” ⁽¹¹⁾ Then the LORD asked Moses, “Who makes a person’s mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the LORD? ⁽¹²⁾ Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.”

Exodus 4:19 NLT Before Moses left Midian, the LORD said to him, “Return to Egypt, for all those who wanted to kill you have died.”

THINK & DISCUSS:

1. How have you cried out to the Lord today?
2. What excuses do you find yourself using to keep from doing what God has asked you to do?
3. How can you personally act on behalf of someone in need?