

# Exodus: Redeemed for the Glory of God

## Chapters 1-2: A Savior is Born

### 1. Where are we in Redemptive History?

“In the Pentateuch, considered as a whole, there are only five major themes: God’s promise to the patriarchs; the exodus; God’s Self-revelation in covenant and law at Sinai; the wandering in the wilderness; the entrance into Canaan. Three of these five major themes are treated at length in the book of Exodus and, in addition, it looks back to the first theme and on to the last.” (R. Alan Cole, *Exodus: An Introduction and Commentary*)

### 2. What does the word “Exodus” mean?

### 3. Why is the exodus such an important story to understand?

### 4. In what ways does this book point to Christ?

“Israel’s deliverance from Egypt anticipated the salvation accomplished once and for all in Jesus Christ.” (Phillip Ryken, *Exodus: Saved for God’s Glory*)

### Slavery in Egypt

Exodus 1:6-22

<sup>6</sup> Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. <sup>7</sup> But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them. <sup>8</sup> Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. <sup>10</sup> Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." <sup>11</sup> Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. <sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. <sup>13</sup> So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves <sup>14</sup> and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves. <sup>15</sup> Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, <sup>16</sup> "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." <sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. <sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?" <sup>19</sup> The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." <sup>20</sup> So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. <sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

### 5. What is Pharaoh’s concern? Why do you think this is of concern to him?

### 6. What are the first two plans Pharaoh makes to solve this?

### 7. Do these tactics work? Why not? (Give both the practical reason and the theological reason behind it).

### 8. Why is Pharaoh’s cruelty toward the Israelites doubly terrible? What deeper struggle does the struggle between Israel and Egypt represent?

### 9. What was the Egyptian slavery like?

10. How is the slavery in Egypt ultimately for God's glory and for the good of the people?
11. Are there other examples in church history of the Lord using persecution for his glory?
12. How might we apply this to our personal struggles?

*"Be patient, then, my brethren, amidst the persecutions or trials you may be called upon to bear; and be thankful that they are so often overruled for the growth of the church, the spread of the gospel, and the honor of Christ."* (Charles Spurgeon)

### A Savior is Born

Exodus 2:1-10

*Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman.<sup>2</sup> The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.<sup>3</sup> When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes<sup>4</sup> and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank.<sup>4</sup> And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.<sup>5</sup> Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it.<sup>6</sup> When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."<sup>7</sup> Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"<sup>8</sup> And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother.<sup>9</sup> And 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.<sup>10</sup> When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses,<sup>1</sup> "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."*

13. What was the third plan that Pharaoh had to keep the Israelites from getting too strong (from Chapter 1)?
14. Why did Moses' parents disobey the order? (see Hebrews 11:23)
15. The word used for the basket that Moses is placed in when put in the river is the same word used of the boat that Noah built, "ark." These are the only two places in the Bible that this word is used. What is the significance of this—what is the parallel being made?
16. Name some of the miraculous and ironic providences that God brings about in this story.
17. What do the miraculous circumstances surrounding the birth of Moses remind you of? How?
18. What does this teach us about salvation? About God?

19. What should this teach us about how we should respond to our own circumstances?

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust Him for His grace;  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face.*