



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2023 – WEEK 2

Exodus 1:8-2:22: Destined for Greatness

By faith, when he grew up, Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be ill-treated with the people of God than to enjoy sin's fleeting pleasure.

– Hebrews 11:24 NLT

- **An unexpected and undesirable change**

Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. 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." – Exodus 1:8-10 ESV

- Remember: Their fruitfulness was God's doing! It showcases His character
 - He had blessed them abundantly
 - But their **fruitfulness** became a **problem**
 - Their **prosperity** resulted in **persecution**
- A new Pharaoh came to power
...who did not know Joseph... – vs 8

- Joseph had been the second-most powerful man in Egypt for 80 years

*Joseph was **thirty years old** when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. – Genesis 41:46 ESV*

*So Joseph died, **being 110 years old**. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt. – Genesis 50:26 ESV*

- **The Hyksos**
 - Semites who migrated from Canaan into the northern Egypt
 - Became a powerful ruling class governed by six kings

- Known for their shepherding and multicolored garments
- Self-governed for about a century in the northern Delta region
- They were ultimately overthrown by the Egyptians
 - ~ Pharaoh Ahmose I defeated Khamudi
 - ~ The Semitic Hyksos became social pariahs
 - ~ They were a threat to Egypt’s sovereignty
 - ~ And the Israelites were included
- Ahmose I comes up with a plan
“...let us deal shrewdly with them...” – vs 10

“...lest they multiply...” – vs 10

- The battle lines are drawn

God’s will?	Pharaoh’s will?
Their multiplication	Their suppression
Their emancipation	Their subjugation
Their exaltation	Their oppression

*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.* Exodus 1:12 ESV

dread – **qûs** - (Hebrew) pronounced: koots
 abhor, loath, sickening dread

- ~ The Israelites were viewed as vermin
- ~ Their only value was as slave labor

*So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel **work as slaves** 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.*** – Exodus 1:13-14 ESV

- Despised by the world
 - ~ Their adopted homeland turned on them
 - ~ God’s blessing made them a curse
 - ~ Their fruitfulness made them a threat

*“If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me first. If you were of the world, it would love you as its own. Instead, **the world hates you,** because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world.”* – John 15:18-19 BSB

What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man. When that happens, be happy! Yes, leap for joy! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. – Luke 6:22-23 NLT

- The Israelites were about to get schooled
 - ~ Egypt was no longer their home
 - ~ The gods of Egypt were no longer an option
 - ~ Their comfort zone was going to get uncomfortable
 - ~ And their concept of blessing was about to implode

- **From exploitation to extermination**

Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him..." – Exodus 1:15-16 ESV

- Pharaoh's strategy seems to be self-defeating
 - It would produce a methodical reduction in the future workforce
 - Only targeting the male infants
 - But the midwives "feared God," not Pharaoh

So God dealt well with the midwives. – vs 20

- Compulsive complicity and culpability
 - Pharaoh makes this an ethnic/racial issue
 - He paints the genocide as a form of nationalism
 - But this is spiritual warfare
 - Satan wants to thwart God's redemptive plan

...but the angel reassured them [the shepherds]. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior — yes, the Messiah, the Lord — has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!" – Luke 2:10-11 NLT

*Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. **He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem** who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance. – Matthew 2:16 NLT*

- **The birth of a son**

*Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. The woman conceived and **bore a son...** – Exodus 2:1-2 ESV*

- The battle lines are drawn
 - Pharaoh versus Jehovah
 - Death versus life
 - Slavery versus freedom
 - The world versus the Kingdom of God
- God delivers a deliverer
 - The hand of God is all over this story

- Moses is born to an unnamed Jewish couple
- Their child is under a death sentence
- But they attempt to protect him
 - ~ She places Moses in a water-proofed basket
 - ~ She sets him afloat on the Nile
 - ~ Placing him the hands of God
 - ~ She is anticipating **salvation**, not offering a **sacrifice**

It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months when he was born. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid to disobey the king's command. – Hebrews 11:23 NLT

- A series of “fortunate” events
 - ~ The basket is discovered by Pharaoh's daughter
 - ~ She decides to violate her father's edict
 - ~ She hires Moses' mother as his nursemaid
 - ~ Moses is raised as a Hebrew until he is weaned
 - ~ But he eventually becomes Pharaoh's grandson
 - ~ All according to God's sovereign plan

*One day, **when Moses had grown up**, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens... – Exodus 2:11 ESV*

- The narrative skips 40 years
 - ~ Moses has grown up **privileged**
 - ~ He has also been **protected**
 - ~ And he has been **prepared**
- He has had four decades to witness his stepfather's assault on the Israelites
 - ~ He has seen the inequities and injustices
 - ~ He questioned his dual citizenship
 - ~ He wrestled over his role and responsibility
 - ~ Then he saw his opportunity

*...he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, **he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.** – Exodus 2:11-12 ESV*

*Then Moses was afraid, and thought, “Surely the thing is known.” When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. **But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian.** And he sat down by a well. – Exodus 2:14-15 ESV*

By faith, when he grew up, Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be ill-treated with the people of God than to enjoy sin's fleeting pleasure. He regarded abuse suffered for Christ to be greater wealth

than the treasures of Egypt, for his eyes were fixed on the reward. By faith he left Egypt without fearing the king's anger, for he persevered as though he could see the one who is invisible. – Hebrews 11:24-27

“Moses was being called by God to reject the fleeting pleasure of sin and the treasures of Egypt. This was part of God’s plan for his life. And he would spend the next 40 years of his life in Midian as a common shepherd...Moses left his former life behind. He turned his back on his old identity as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter so that he might be who God had called him to be.” – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Book of Hebrews*

- **Discussion questions**

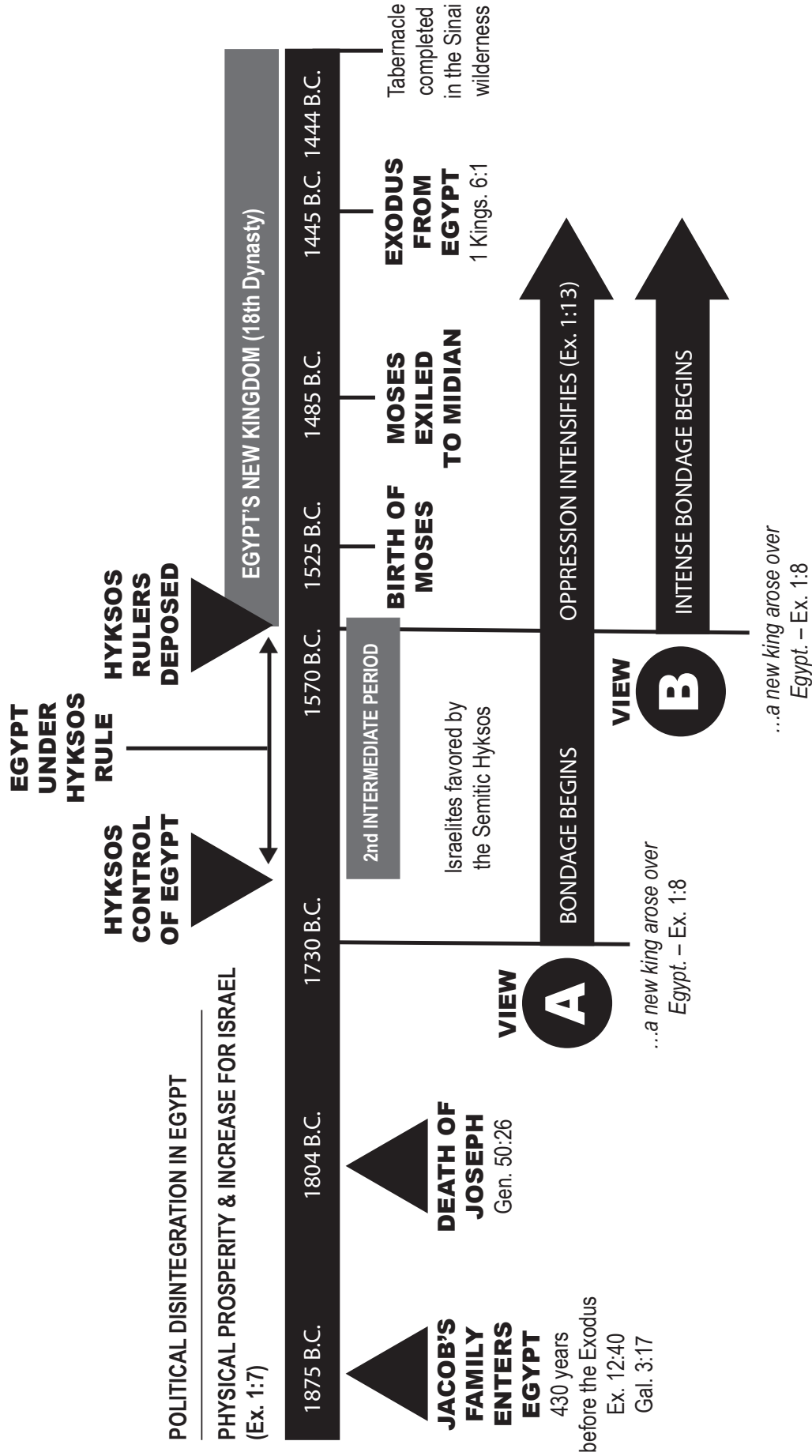
How did you see God’s character on display in your life this past week?

What are some specific examples of God’s sovereignty over the events in today’s passage?

How was He at work?

Moses spent 40 years in Pharaoh’s court and another 40 years in Midian. How do you think God used this 80-year delay to prepare Moses?

TIMELINE FOR THE EXODUS



The Hyksos – a Semitic population that had migrated from Canaan into the northern Egyptian Delta and became a powerful ruling class. These people of Semitic, “Canaanite” origin were known to the Egyptians as the Hyksos — a unique people known for their shepherding and multicolored garments. The Hyksos continued to live and self-govern for about a century in the northern Delta region of Egypt, until a series of native Egyptian pharaohs from Upper Egypt in the south rose up, accusing the Hyksos dynasty of overrunning Egypt. Ultimately, the Hyksos were overthrown.



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FALL SERIES 2023 – WEEK 3 HOMEWORK

WEEK 3 – Exodus 2:23-6:1: A Reluctant Deliverer

Moses had been set apart by God but was not yet ready to serve as God's deliverer. He was a fugitive from justice and, in essence, damaged goods because he had committed murder. But the beauty of this lesson is how God chose Moses despite all his problems. And when Moses heard the call of God, he expressed strong reservations. This lesson will examine how, oftentimes, God chooses the unworthy and unexpected to accomplish His sovereign will. Moses had no desire to serve, and his past sins made him an unlikely candidate to act as the official spokesman for God. Yet, he was the one whom God had miraculously delivered so that he could be a deliverer. He was the perfect choice, not because of any value he brought to the table, but simply because God had chosen him.

- Read Exodus 2:23-6:1. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.
- Now read pages 25-58 of Ken's Devotional™ on Exodus.
- Go back and look at verses 16-22 of chapter 2. Even though God is not mentioned, how do you see the sovereign hand of God operating behind the scenes in this story?

Look closely at the women's description of Moses in verse 19. What does it tell us about his appearance when he arrived in Midian?

- Verses 23-25 provide a summary of things back in Egypt. What do they tell you about God's awareness of all that His people suffer and His readiness to intervene on their behalf?

- Glance back at Exodus 3.
How did God reveal Himself to Moses on Mount Horeb?

What was Moses' reaction to this unexpected display of divine glory?

How does God introduce Himself in verse 6 and why is this important?

Write down all the assurances God gives Moses in verse 7-10?

According to verses 11-18, what is Moses' response to God's call?

What does God promise in verses 19-22?

- In chapter 4, God provides Moses with further evidence of His power. What are they?

What were these "signs" supposed to tell Moses about God?

How does Moses continue to respond to God's calling on his life?

Verses 18-31 record Moses eventual return to Egypt. Write down all that happened?

- Exodus 5 records the first encounter between Moses and Pharaoh. How did it go?

What was the outcome of Moses' meeting with Pharaoh and how did the Israelites respond?

Look closely at verses 22-23. In what ways have you experienced the same kind of frustration as Moses?