

Exodus

The Israelites in Egypt

Note the three promises God made to Jacob regarding the sojourn in Egypt:

There I will make you a great nation

- ² And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.” ³ Then he said, “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. ⁴ I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph’s hand shall close your eyes.” *Genesis 46:2-4 (ESV)*

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I will bring you up again (back to the Promised Land).

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The Book of Exodus unfolds how God fulfills these three promises.

- Promise One: I will make you a great nation.
 - 70 People entered the land. Joseph was 39 years old at that time.
 - Joseph died at 110 years of age. Genesis 50:22 tells us he lived into the time of his great-grandsons.
 - In the years after Joseph's generation passed from the scene, the people of Israel are described like this: "they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.
 - By the time they left Egypt 430 years after the 70 people entered the country, a census revealed a population that contained 603,559 men over twenty years old and able to go to war. Numbers 1:45-46

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- Promise One: I will make you a great nation.
 - The fulfillment was a blessing to God's people but seen as a curse by the Egyptians.
 - A new king arose who had no connection to Joseph. This could have been as much as 300 years into the sojourn of the Israelites in Egypt.
 - This king saw the Israelites as a possible unified threat to the country.

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- Promise One: I will make you a great nation.
 - Three attempts to control and diminish the Israelites were implemented :
 - **The first was to enslave the Israelites and use them as forced labor for building and agriculture. Yet the more they were oppressed the more they multiplied. 1:11-14**
 - **70 people at a growth rate of 2.6% would result in: (Currently, there are 34 countries with a population growth of 2.6% and higher.) (3.83% to 2.6%)**
 - 154,634 in 300 years
 - 558,051 in 350 years
 - 2,013,920 in 400 years
 - 4,349,738 in 430 years

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- Promise One: I will make you a great nation.
 - **Three attempts to control and diminish the Israelites were implemented :**
 - **The second was to have the midwives kill all of the baby boys at birth. 1:15-21**
 - **The midwives feared God more than the Egyptian king and refused to implement the command.**
 - **The law of Moses has not been given but God had revealed the sacred nature of human life in his postdiluvian instruction to Noah. ⁵ And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. ⁶ “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. *Genesis 9:5-6 (ESV)***
 - **This gives a clear picture of appropriate civil disobedience. An earthly authority may be disregarded or disobeyed when their command is a direct contradiction to a command of God.**

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- Promise One: I will make you a great nation.
 - Three attempts to control and diminish the Israelites were implemented :
 - The third was to kill all the sons by throwing them into the Nile River. This would have been a cruel plot to pit the Israelites against one another as some who were forced to give up their child would be inclined to expose others.

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- Promise Two: I will be with you.
 - The presence of God, active and working, among His oppressed people is clearly revealed in the birth of Moses and the preservation of his life although this will not be seen by the Israelites for another 80 years.
 - The birth of Moses would have dated this to 350 years into the sojourn in Egypt. (Moses was 80 years old at the time of the Exodus. Exodus 7:7)
 - You have to love the insight God gave to Moses mother to put him in a waterproof vessel before casting him in the Nile.