

Torah Studies

Exodus: *Shemot* or Names

Israel in Egypt
Exodus 1 – 2



Rabbis Studying Scripture –
Konstanty Szewczenko

Torah Studies

The Firmness of God's Word

- Psalm 119:89-92 (NKJV)

89 Forever, O Lord,

Your word is settled in heaven.

90 Your faithfulness endures to all generations;

You established the earth, and it abides.

- Psalm 119:89-92 (NKJV)

91 They continue this day according to Your ordinances,
For all are Your servants.

92 Unless Your law had been my delight,
I would then have perished in my affliction.

Israel in Egypt

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Introduction

- Previously in the *Torah* – meaning Law or Instruction:
- These are the first five books of the Bible.
- In August of 2024, we began in *Genesis* 1.
- Last week we completed that book with *Genesis* 50.

Israel in Egypt

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Introduction

- What to Expect in Exodus:

Israel in Egypt

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Introduction

- What to Expect in Exodus:
 1. Moses as Leader and Mediator
- He will act as God's representative before Pharoah and the people of Israel.

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Introduction

- What to Expect in Exodus:
 2. The Plagues and Divine Power
- God will demonstrate His power over nature, human rulers and the gods of Egypt.

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Introduction

- What to Expect in Exodus:
3. The Exodus Event
- Israel will depart from Egypt in dramatic fashion, framed by the Passover and the Red Sea crossing.

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- What to Expect in Exodus:
4. The Covenant at Sinai
- This is the basic agreement in which the LORD will be their God, and Israel will be His special people.

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- What to Expect in Exodus:
5. The Giving of the Law
- The Ten Commandments and other laws reveal the moral and legal foundation for the nation of Israel.

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- What to Expect in Exodus:
6. The Tabernacle
- This is the portable sanctuary that will symbolize God's presence among the Israelites on their journey.

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Introduction

- What to Expect in Exodus:
7. Rebellion and Redemption
- Despite their continuous complaining and testing of God, He will repeatedly show His faithfulness.

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Outline

Israel in Egypt

Exodus 1 – 2

Outline

- I. Israel Suffers 1:1-22
- II. Moses Is Born 2:1-10
- III. Moses Escapes 2:11-22
- IV. Israel Groans 2:23-25

I. Israel Suffers

1:1-22

I. Israel Suffers

1:1-22

- 1:1-7 Tracing their lineage was essential to Israel.
- This is a reminder that the family of Jacob moved to Egypt and stayed there on happy terms.
- But then something changed.

I. Israel Suffers

1:1-22

- 1:8 Generations later, there comes a Pharoah that views things differently.
- He did not know or care about Joseph.
- He did not remember the way the nation was saved by Israel's help.

I. Israel Suffers

1:1-22

- 1:8 One theory is that Joseph came to Egypt during a period when a Semitic dynasty – the *Hyksos* – ruled.
- When they were ousted and a native Egyptian family ruled, the Semitic Israelites seemed problematic.

I. Israel Suffers

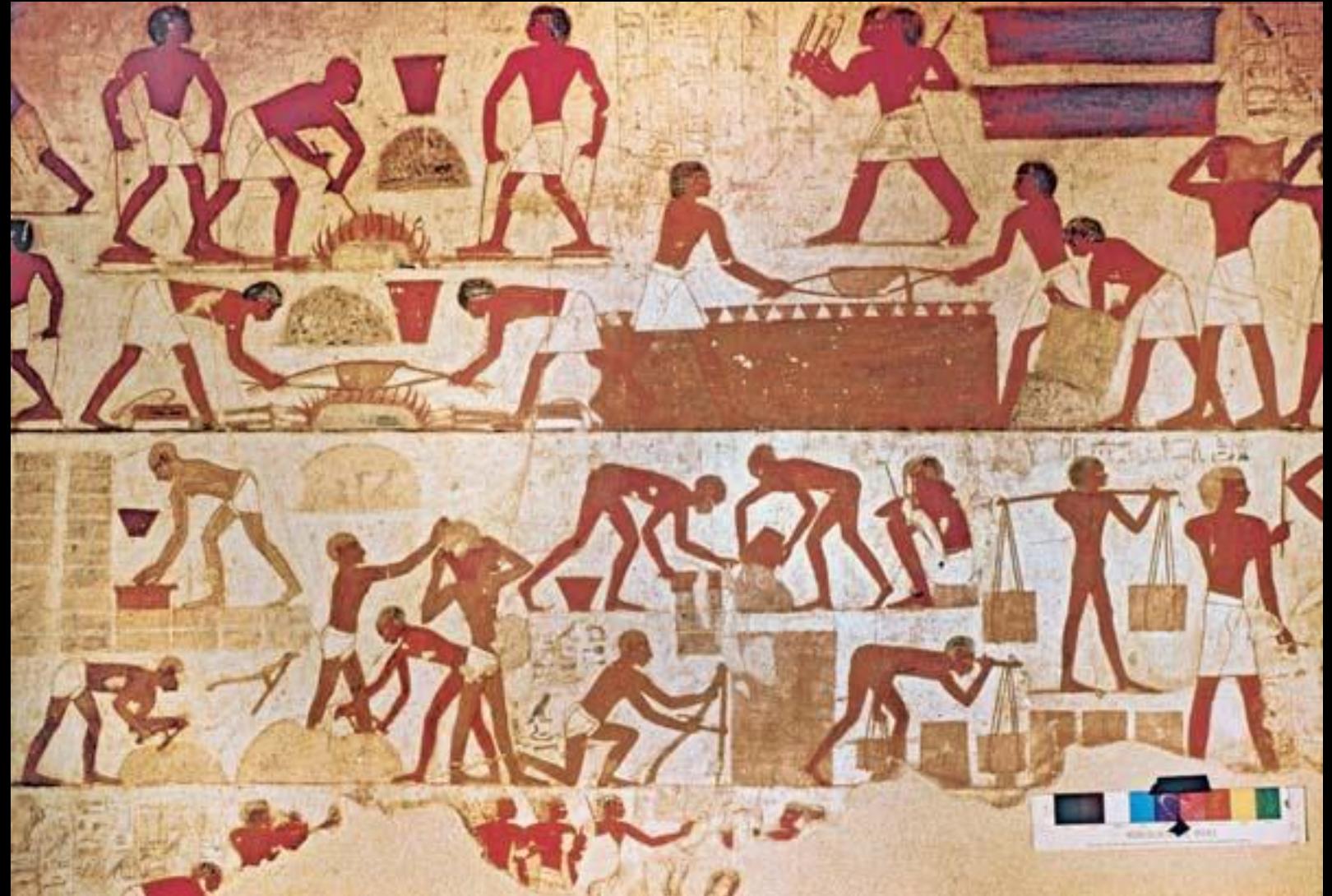
1:1-22

- 1:9-14 The big concern was that there were now a lot of Israelites – and the king felt threatened by them.
- He made them work hard, but the nation only continued to grow.

I. Israel Suffers

1:1-22

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<https://library.biblicalarchaeology.org/images/bsba3301032001.jpg>

I. Israel Suffers

1:1-22

- 1:15-22 Pharoah devises a plan: Let's kill all the newborn baby boys so they can't raise up an army.
- We know that won't work, because the Israelites must eventually go back to Canaan.
- In this case God uses the Hebrew midwives.

I. Israel Suffers

1:1-22

- 1:15-22 Plan B is to throw all the little boys into the Nile River.
- Let's see how that goes.

II. Moses Is Born

2:1-10

II. Moses Is Born

2:1-10

- 2:3, 5 **basket** (ESV) = the same word used for the “ark” of Noah.
- This was a much smaller version.

II. Moses Is Born

2:1-10

- Presumably, there were a lot of Israelites and a lot of Egyptians living along the Nile at this time.
- It's kind of amazing that Pharoah's own daughter wanted to keep this one baby.
- And that Moses' sister volunteers Moses' own mother to nurse him.

II. Moses Is Born

2:1-10

- The sister (Miriam) is one brave and clever girl.
- Presumably also, Pharoah knew about the baby.
- He probably didn't have the heart to tell his daughter the child had to be killed – drowned in the Nile.
- And so, Moses lived.

III. Moses Escapes

2:11-22

III. Moses Escapes

2:11-22

- 2:11-15 Moses is partially right.
- He is right for identifying with the Israelites – his own people – over the Egyptians among whom he lived.
- He also sees the injustice here and hates it.

III. Moses Escapes

2:11-22

- 2:11-15 And then he overreacts by killing the Egyptian – and worse yet attempting to hide the body.

III. Moses Escapes

2:11-22

- Acts 7:22-25 in the speech of Stephen before he died,
22 And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the
Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.
23 “When he was forty years old, it came into his heart
to visit his brothers, the children of Israel. 24 And
seeing one of them being wronged ...

III. Moses Escapes

2:11-22

- Acts 7:22-25 in the speech of Stephen before he died, ... he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian. 25 He supposed that his brothers would understand that God was giving them salvation by his hand, but they did not understand.

IV. Israel Groans

2:23-25

IV. Israel Groans

2:23-25

- This whole time God fully understood what was happening to the Israelites.
- Sometimes I wonder if He lets us endure suffering just long enough that we cry out adequately in prayer.

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Conclusion

Israel in Egypt

Exodus 1 – 2

Conclusion

The Outworking of God's Plan

- Pharoah wants to kill all the baby Israelite boys, and yet somehow Moses survives.
- Part of this is due to his parents' faith.
- Part of it is due to the unwitting cooperation of Pharoah's own daughter.

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Conclusion

The Outworking of God's Plan

- Moses later decides he does not want to be counted among the Egyptians.
- His initial ideas are frustrated, but God still has more in mind for the future of this imperfect leader.

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Conclusion

- **Hebrews 11:23-26**

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. 24 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter ...

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Conclusion

- **Hebrews 11:23-26**

... 25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

26 He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

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Conclusion

Moses and Works of the Flesh

Israel in Egypt

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Conclusion

Moses and Works of the Flesh

- When Moses killed the Egyptian, he no doubt attributed his actions to righteous anger.
- That might be true in part; he also overreacted.

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Conclusion

Moses and Works of the Flesh

- Over the years a lot of us have probably killed some Egyptians assuming we were doing the right thing.
- Happily, God in His grace usually gives us second, third and a lot more chances to learn to do things His way.

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Conclusion

Moses Points Us to Christ

Israel in Egypt

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Moses Points Us to Christ

- Jesus similarly survived the order of an evil king to kill the baby boys.

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Conclusion

Moses Points Us to Christ

- Matthew 2:16

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.

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Conclusion

Moses Points Us to Christ

- The first time around, the people of Israel rejected the leadership of Moses.
- So, he went away for a long time.
- When he comes back, he will in fact deliver his people from a truly satanic ruler.

Torah Studies

The Burning Bush
Exodus 3

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