**The Israelite Oppression in Egypt**

**A Bible Story From**

**Exodus 1:1-22**

**Bible Story Number: 1010440**

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**Bible Story**

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**Background**

The descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were saved by God’s intervention in the life of Joseph. What his brothers intended as evil, God used to preserve the entire family. They lived and prospered in Egypt.

God made a profound promise to Abram (later called Abraham). He called it a covenant. (Gen. 12:2-3)

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

This blessing would be realized through Abraham’s descendants. Isaac and Jacob shared in this promise from God. This series of Bible stories continues to substantiate God’s fulfillment of His promise. Along the way, we see glimpses of who God is and what He is like.

Jesus said, “If anyone has ears to hear, he should listen!” (Mark 4:23)

**Story from the Bible**

**Exodus 1:1-22**

This is what the Bible says.

Joseph and all his brothers lived the rest of their lives in Egypt. There were a total of seventy descendants of Jacob that moved from Canaan to Egypt. They grew in number as God blessed them. Their population grew rapidly and the Israelites filled the land.

A new king came to power in Egypt. Joseph and his legacy meant nothing to this new Pharaoh.

He saw the Israelites as a threat because of their great number. He was afraid they might side with the enemy in a time of war. So he made them slaves and appointed

slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built cities for Pharaoh.

However, the more Pharaoh oppressed them, the more they multiplied. The Egyptians feared the Israelites and worked them even more ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter, filled with hard work. They made bricks and mortar and did all kinds of harsh work.

Pharaoh summoned the Hebrew midwives (Shiphrah and Puah). He instructed them to kill all the baby boys born to the Hebrew women. He told them to let the girls live.

The midwives feared God and did not do what Pharaoh told them to do. When Pharaoh summoned them again, he asked them why they were letting the boys live. They responded that the Hebrew women were not like Egyptian women. They told him the Hebrew women were strong and gave birth before the midwives arrived.

So God blessed the midwives, and the Israelites became even more numerous. And because the midwives feared God, He gave them families of their own.

Pharaoh instituted a different strategy. He gave an order that every Hebrew boy that was born was to be thrown into the Nile River. He allowed the girl children to live.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* How many descendants of Jacob moved to Egypt?
* Why did the Israelites increase in number while in Egypt?
* Why did the new Pharaoh fear the Israelites?
* What was the first thing Pharaoh did to try to control the Israelites?
* What did Pharaoh tell the midwives to do?
* What did the midwives do about Pharaoh’s command? What did they tell Pharaoh?
* What command did Pharaoh give concerning all male babies?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.