

God Israel and Egypt

Introduction

To appreciate the gospel aspect of redemption in Exodus, there must be a consideration of the providential movements of God in love for the children of Israel, the deep-seated sinfulness of Israel, the change of the political government in Egypt, and the moral conditions of the Amorites.

Israel and Egypt

For four hundred years, the children of Israel were slaves to a pagan idolator who cruelly afflicted them (Gen. 15:13). For whatever reason, the Israelites began to get curious about the new gods, with the result that idolatry was rampant in Israel. They were not as Abraham had been, a worshipper of the true God. Ezekiel 20:2-10 records how they had abominations, defiling images. They did not forsake the gods of Egypt.

From wise reasoning, Pharaoh became alarmed at the growth of the children of Israel numerically and feared they would join with other nations to fight against Egypt (Ex. 1:10).

It would seem as a last resort, or perhaps the godly among them began to cry unto the Lord for deliverance. Knowing the pledge of God to Abraham, there would have been a recognition the time was nearing for the fulfilment of that promise.

Why did God not act sooner?

One would think if God were so powerful, able to control nations and their attitudes toward His people, why did He let them suffer for 400 years? Some questions cannot be answered, but one must never question the rights of the Almighty. Nevertheless, there is at least one specific reason and other suggested reasons:

- a) God waited until the iniquity of the Amorites was full.(Gen 15:16) God always waits until there is a final total rejection of His ways for He is not willing that any should perish (2 Pet. 3:9), but in mercy waits and waits again for individuals to respond to His mercy. However, there comes a point when there is no hope of any recovery or change of mind from any individual, then God will judge.
- b) Another possible reason. When the children of Israel went into Egypt, they were 70 people (Ex. 1:5), and even a generation later, they would never have been a nation to rouse the concerns of Pharaoh. Things must develop naturally, and after 430 years, they had developed from a family into a nation. They were now apparently two million individuals.
- c) The difficulty of life in Egypt with its long blistering days and slavery (Gen. 15:16) would have led to the development of a longing to be free. The individual must have wondered if there would ever come a time of relief and a promised land. Spirits would have been low as parents thought of their children with nothing but slavery in the future. Surely they would have longed for a deliverer, but even though Moses was wrong in his timing, he was right in his belief, but the time and method were wrong

In the process of delivering the children of Israel from the land of Egypt and the power of Pharaoh, there were a number of decisions to be made and promises to be fulfilled, such as:

- a) The promise of God to Abraham that his people would be released after 400 years of bondage (Gen. 15:13).
- b) The preparation of Moses to be the shepherd for these people in the wilderness.
- c) The ancient Israelites had to hear, understand, accept as truth and believe that Moses had been sent from God and had a message of deliverance from God (Ex. 4:1-31).
- d) Moses alone and no one else had a message of deliverance.
- e) The plagues to subdue the Prince of Egypt and the Egyptians (Ex. 4:9-12:31).
- f) The Passover itself and redemption was really happening (Ex. 12:1-31).
- g) The defeat of the fall of Egypt's king and best warriors (Ex. 14:3-26).

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When in the palace, Moses would have been educated with all its wisdom, which was earthly, therefore would have been instructed the various gods.

- a) We must remember that the children of Israel were not a God-fearing people, they were idolaters (Ezek. 20:5-31). When God set them free from the power of the Egyptians, they were liberated potentially from the adherence to the gods of Egypt (Ex. 12:12; Num. 33:4). I say potentially for Jeremiah records that they were idolaters when in the wilderness and in the land. “And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?” (2 Sam. 7:23).
 - i) The possibility is that we, in this age, who are redeemed with a perfect sacrifice, can find idols in our hearts. An idol is anything or anyone we place more trust in, which takes priority in time or energy and that comes before God.
 - 1) “Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.” (1 Jn. 5:21)
 - 2) “Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.” (1 Cor. 10:14)
 - 3) “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (Col. 3:5)

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

Rowan Jennings, Abbotsford, British Columbia