

EXODUS / SHEMOT

Bible verse for week: P¹ SALM 119:50

"This is my comfort in my affliction,
For YOUR word has given me life."

Hebrew word study: Hebrew/ Ivri - "to pass over" (How appropriate!)

Abram passed over the River Euphrates; hence he and his people were called Ha Ivri, or the Hebrews.

Book of Mysteries, Day 364-"Home"

TORAH-First five books of the Old Testament, some written by Moses himself, and other portions compiled from patriarchal writings (some found in Dead Sea Scrolls) but all under inspiration of God.

Exodus is the continuation of Genesis, covering the first year of the exodus from Egypt. Then, the books of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy continue the journey to entering the Promised Land.

To begin, re-read Genesis 50:22-26.
(In verse 24, the word "visist" is in Hebrew, 'redeem.')

God has used Egypt to protect His people, the Jews, and He had used Egypt to punish Israel.

The time of Joseph in Egypt was its "Golden Age." They were blessed by God for being a welcoming refuge to Abraham and family and reached their peak in wealth and power with Joseph's God-given wisdom.

Joseph is credited for building the first pyramid, possibly as a sign to travelers, marking the place where they could buy grain. That pyramid could be seen for miles.

The Great Pyramid is thought to have been built approximately 70 years later, still in his life span.

No wonder Joseph was so honored and in death was actually thought of as a god!

I want to correct what I have said for years concerning the pharaoh at the time of Joseph.

The general teaching has been that he was not Egyptian, but a Hyksos, or Semitic ruler from the East who had invaded Egypt.

Looking at the practices in Egypt at that time, it seems more in keeping with Egyptian culture (clean-shaven, abhorring sitting to meals with outsiders, etc.)

Egyptian history has many missing pieces, but new information continues to dribble out and it appears the word, "Hyksos" refers to two different groups of people.

One, the Semitic "Sons of Esau" who were a wild bunch, if you recall.

The other group is the Hebrews themselves!

Hyk sos Hyk-"King" sos-"shepherds" "Shepherd kings", or possibly even "Shepherds of the King."

The Hyksos capital was Avaris, in the middle of Goshen. Avaris is not an Egyptian word, but Hebrew. It comes from Ivri, "to cross or pass over." In Exodus Avaris is called Pi-Rameses.

Ha "The" Ivri "Hebrew" Ish ("man" "Land of the Hebrew Man"

PHARAOHS FOR THIS TIME PERIOD

THUTHMOSES I - His is the guy who ordered all Hebrew baby boys thrown into Nile

THUTHMOSES II - Half-brother and husband of Hatshepsut

HAPSHETSUP - Childless princess who adopted baby Moses

She gave Moses her "family" name

Moses is Egyptian word for "son or "born" It is a play on words for Hebrew word, "moshe", which means to draw out"

She was the most powerful woman in Egyptian history and after death of husband-brother, co-ruled with his illegitimate son, Thuthmoses III.

THUTHMOSES III - Illegitimate son

Raised mostly by and influenced by the Egyptian priests. Credited with writing the Book of the Dead.

About the same age as Moses

He murdered Hatshepsut for the throne.

This is the Pharaoh on throne when Moses returned.

He was the most powerful Pharaoh who ever lived. Never lost a battle until he went up against God.

He drowned in the Red Sea and his body was likely never found.

AMENHOTEP II -The last Pharaoh after Exodus

on a campaign in Canaan-Syria at the time, he came home to find his father THUTHMOSES and his own firstborn son dead. He went insane

Because of Joseph the Hebrews were welcomed into Egypt where they settled in the richest land, upper part of the Nile, called Goshen

Egypt grew immensely wealthy and began an explosion of building projects like nowhere else in that part of the world.

The Hebrews thrived and there began an intermingling with Egyptians in neighborhoods and even some intermarriages.

To the East, the sons of Esau envied the wealth they saw in Egypt and began to infest the edges of Egypt. The Egyptians feared them, but the Hebrews took up battle against them and ran them off.

Seeing the Hebrews as fierce fighters made the Egyptians begin to fear them, as perhaps they would side with outsiders and take over Egypt.

Jewish writers say that at this time Moses as a young prince was a great general and led troops against warring nations.

Read Exodus 1:1-11

Fearing the Hebrews, a plan was devised to deal with them,

First, they offered high wages to build.

Then, they began removing any Egyptian worker and leaving only the Hebrews.

Next, their wages were lowered.. When many complained about the cut in wages, taskmasters were set over them and harsh treatment was given to those who wouldn't go along until the Hebrews were

cruelly treated and demoralized. The goal was to break their spirits..

However, persecution can bring out a strength that is not expected. Pharaoh's plan was being used by the Lord for His plan.

Read Verses 12-14

All Pharaoh knew to do was to make things even harder for them. He feared their numbers and possible revolt, yet considered them his greatest wealth.

Read verses 15-22

Shiph'rah and Pu'ah probably represented a larger number of midwives as two would not be enough for such a large population.

There is a Jewish belief that these were Jochobed and her daughter , Miriam, and verse 21 refers to the blessing of the Levites being appointed as the priestly family.

People question why they were blessed when they lied to Pharaoh, but God blessed them because they feared God over Pharaoh and because they protected babies from being murdered. They lied, not for selfish reasons, but to save lives.

Perhaps the Lord forgave them for the lie; perhaps it was a half-truth. The Hebrew women were strong and capable.

Was it wrong to lie to the gestapo when Jews were hidden in WWII?

“CHOOSE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE.” Joshua 24:15

There are only two choices: Dark or Light.

What is Egypt a picture of? Who is the Prince of this world?

Well, Pharaoh, failing to control the population in that maner, commanded all Egyptians to keep an eye out for newborn males in the neighborhood and to throw them into the Nile.

NEST WEEK: Chapters 2 and 3