

Study Notes and Questions for Exodus 1 and 2

Chapter 1

- “The Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly” and filled the land (Exodus 1:7). This fact is so important to this chapter that it is mentioned three times (see 1:7, 12, 20). To whom had God promised this would happen?
- Note: Pharaoh (1:11). This meant “great house” in Egyptian. It was a royal title, not the king’s personal name.
- In what sense did the new king not “know” Joseph (1:8)?
- God fulfilled His promise of fruitfulness even under Egyptian oppression. What does this say about Him?
- What “shrewd” strategies did Pharaoh decree in his attempt to control the growth of the Hebrew population (see 1:11–14)?
- What were the results of these measures (see 1:15–22)?
- How did God feel about His people’s sufferings (see 2:23–25)?
- Why do you think He allowed His people to suffer under the Egyptians?
- There was enormous social pressure on the Egyptian midwives to kill Israelite baby boys. What social pressures are on people today to do wrong? How can a fear of the Lord help us resist those pressures?
- What does it mean to “fear God” in a good sense?

Chapter 2

- How did Moses try to demonstrate his commitment to his own people (see 2:11–14)?
- Note: **Midian** (2:15). The Midianites probably descended from one of Abraham’s younger sons (see Genesis 25:2). They lived in southeastern Sinai and west central Arabia, on either side of the Gulf of Aqaba (an arm of the Red Sea). This parched semidesert and its tribes of wandering shepherds were a sharp change for a man raised in the luxurious Egyptian court. Moses wandered with the tribe’s flocks in Midian for forty years (see Acts 7:29–30).
- **Priest of Midian** (2:16). His personal name was Reuel (“friend of God”), and his title was Jethro (which probably meant “his excellency”)—2:18; 3:1.
- What do you learn about Moses’ character at this stage of his life from 2:11–14 and 2:15–22?

- Put yourself in Moses' place. How would you feel living as an Egyptian nobleman, knowing that the Egyptians were oppressing your own family?
- How would you feel if you were suddenly thrust out of your comfortable, familiar home and into a desolate land to keep sheep and sleep in tents with strangers?
- What is ironic about the question in 2:14? (Consider: Who eventually did make Moses ruler and judge over Israel?)
- God "saw" and "knew" Israel (2:24). How has He shown His concern for Israel already in these first two chapters?