GOD'S WEAPONS for TRANSFORMATION

Part 2 – Embracing the Path to Transformation

Exodus 1:8-22 & 2:23-25

Exodus 1:8-9 NIV Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us.

Exodus 1:10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."

So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and **Rameses as store cities for** Pharaoh.

Exodus 1:12-13 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the **Egyptians came to dread the** Israelites and worked them ruthlessly.

They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the **Egyptians worked them** ruthlessly.

Exodus 1:15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah,

Exodus 1:16 "When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live."

The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?"

The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like **Egyptian women; they are** vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive."

Exodus 1:20 So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous.

Exodus 1:21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

Key Verses Exodus 2:23-25

Exodus 2:23

During that long period, years passed and the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery, went up to God.

Exodus 2:24

God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.

Exodus 2:25 God saw the people of Israel and God knew.

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Exodus 1:8-22 & 2:23-25

Principle #1

When life becomes very hard, unfair, painful, and full of suffering (especially when the cause or situation is entirely out of your control), it does NOT mean that you are out of God's will or favor or that He is punishing you.

Exodus 1:8-9

Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us.

Exodus 1:10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."

So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and **Rameses as store cities for** Pharaoh.

Principle #2 If you are a faithful believer and follower of Christ (who is not living in outright disobedience), you are exactly where you are, exactly when you are, because God's Plans must come to pass.

Genesis 15:12-14 God told Abram that for 400 years his descendants would be strangers in a country not their own, where they'd be enslaved and mistreated... but that afterwards, they would come out with many possessions.

Genesis 46:3-4

God told Jacob not be afraid to go down to Egypt, because his family would become a great nation there, and that God would be there, with them.

Principle #3 It is God's intent to transform us, grow us, mature us, and bless us when we are in the middle of suffering difficult, painful, and unfair circumstances.

Exodus 1:6-7

Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, but

<u>the Israelites were exceedingly</u>

fruitful; they multiplied greatly,

increased in numbers and became

so numerous that the land was filled with them.

Exodus 1:12-13 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the **Egyptians came to dread the** Israelites and worked them ruthlessly.

Exodus 1:15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah,

Exodus 1:16 "When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live."

The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

Principle #4 God NEVER wastes pain and suffering.

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

Principle #5 God will meet you right where you are.

Exodus 2:23

During that long period, years passed and the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery, went up to God.

Exodus 2:24

God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.

Exodus 2:25 God saw the people of Israel and God knew.

Principle #6 You are exactly where you need to be, at exactly the right time you need to be there, because God has you on a collision course to meet Him face to face.

You're Not Where You Are Right Now Because...

- Some unforgiveable sin
- Too many bad choices or mistakes
- You need to pay restitution
- You need to be punished
- You're not special to God's plans
- You misunderstood what God said

Principle #7 You will never know that God is All you need... Until God Is All You Have

Let's face it... some of our losses cannot and will not be reversed in this life. But that is because all who believe in and follow Jesus Christ are eternal citizens of Heaven. We must remember that our reward and our best life won't be lived on earth.

When we live with eternity in mind and when we understand the love of God deep down in our core, it will transform our view of this life.

Principle #8 God sent His only begotten Son into the world to live without sin.... but not without pain, suffering, unjust and unfair circumstances, hardship, and difficulties.

God has a purpose for your pain. A reason for your struggles & an eternal gift for your faithfulness.

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