

04-End of the Beginning: “Times they are achanging”

Exodus (Names) - Changing the World

Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 1:1-2:22

Exodus Begins

- Genealogy: The controversy begins - both are correct
 - The Hebrew (Tanakh) gives the number of people as 70
 - The Greek (Septuagint) gives the number as 75?!
- The Tanakh does not count Joseph and his family
- The Septuagint does count Joseph and his family; Stephen, a Greek, read the Septuagint (Ge 46:26-28; Ac 7:16)

Linking Past and Present

- The first seven verses show God fulfilled His promise to Abraham to make a large people from him (Ge 15:5-6)
- Joseph was probably made Vizier under Sesostri III of the 12th dynasty (1878-1843 BC) (Middle Kingdom)
(<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2007/01/14/Tomb-of-Joseph-Dated.aspx>)
- Moses was probably born under the reign of Thutmosis II/Hapshetsup (ca. 1526 BC) (New Kingdom)
(<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2008/01/17/Moses-and-Hapshetsup.aspx>)

Dating the Exodus Event

- The Bible clearly dates the exodus as it relates to Solomon building the first temple in Jerusalem (1K 6:1)
 - This places the exodus at ca. 1440
 - The Bible places Abraham ca. 1870 (430 years) (G. 12:1-3)
- The Egyptian records of their kings is not precise; the kings names are given for historical context but it is impossible to be dogmatic in their identities

National Security Threatened by Alien Intruders!

- Egypt is a very narrow country along the Nile R.
- Hebrews live at Goshen, gateway to Canaan
- If the Hebrews side with the Canaanites, Egypt can be easily invaded, possibly



Two-Fold Problem

Pharaoh-High Priest

- Charged with maintaining Ma'at, harmony, with the gods to secure Egypt's peace and prosperity
- Large Hebrew contingent with their "one God" will disrupt this harmony

King of Egypt

- Charged with maintaining internal/external security, the king's small standing army cannot prevent a coup from a large, organized internal, foreign force

Two-Fold Solution

Pharaoh-High Priest

- To restore harmony the Hebrews must be shown as weak and their God humiliated
- Killing the boys (not the girls) *reduces* and dilutes the people restoring Ma'at

King of Egypt

- Enslaving the Hebrews to build monuments to Egypt's greatness occupies the Hebrews energy & time
- Showing the Egyptians strong against *internal* foreigners shows Egypt's fundamental weakness

Conflicting Strategies

- Killing the *boys* weakens the work force disrupting the building that demonstrates Egyptian superiority
- Keeping the *girls* invites interracial children that weakens the Egyptians
 - Mothers educate the children so nearly all children will be Hebrew in orientation (Moses) even if only partially Hebrew in DNA, strengthening the Hebrews

Promoting Societal Degradation

- Authorizing murder, even interracial murder, hardens a person's conscience; thus, societal morality degradation
- Law of Unintended Consequences (LUC) (Really didn't think the problem and solution through to their ultimate ramifications [something people rarely do] and now have more problems to deal with) usually labeled as "complicated" issues ('cause I made 'em so)

Self-Destruction in Progress!

- One man wearing two hats with two different goals promoting a self-defeating strategy on two fronts
 - Pharaoh's solution will cause deeper disharmony inviting disaster for Egyptian societal salvation
 - The king's goal of showing Egyptian strength in the Goshen region can actually open this region to infiltration by Asiatics (Canaanites) supported by the Hebrews (Look at the ease Aaron came and went)

Ritual is Everything

- Pharaoh, and his army of priests, secures Egypt's future through elaborate rituals on behalf of the people who were kept at a distance from the temples and gods
- Our concept of personal morality was nearly non-existent in this day and will remain non-existent until after the events of the Exodus and subsequent percolation of ideas through the Axial Age cultures

Killing Babies

- While abhorrent to our sensibilities (?), killing babies was the norm throughout most of man's history
- Having midwives kill foreign babies would not have seemed cruel as many parents killed their unwanted babies (girls)
- World societies have returned to an earlier morality in place before the Exodus awakening AEB increase in Gnosticism and decrease in Christian morality (abortion - murder)

Unusual Midwives

- The midwives did not kill the boys to preserve their people (asking the chickens to kill the chickens)
- **Hebrew** midwives were entrusted to perform this action on **Hebrew** women (not a great plan)
- I doubt if they would have understood *our* sense of morality; they were simply preserving their people

Criminalizing a Society

- Since the King of Egypt could not trust the Hebrews to destroy themselves, the Pharaoh of Egypt commanded his people to kill the foreigners to promote Ma'at
- The people become complicit in this quest to restore harmony and thus insure the internal/external strength of Egypt; i.e., the people share the guilt and the consequences of their sin with their King/Pharaoh

Moses: Example of the Contradictions

- Moses was a **Hebrew** boy born under the penalty of death for being a **Hebrew** boy
- His parents complied with Pharaoh's directives in a creative manner, placing him in the Nile, so that the Egyptians would not literally drown him in the Nile
- He was placed in an *ark* under the watch care of God, and sister, strategically near where the Princess prayed

Hatshepsut Praying at the Nile

- This Egyptian princess was not bathing, she would have bathed in the building away from the gaze of everyone
- She was praying to the gods of fertility such as:
 - Hapi - God of Nile and fertility
 - Hathor - Goddess of childbirth

Fertility Goddesses

Hapi



Hathor



Thutmosis III

- Historians believed that this king had no sons but he did have a daughter Hatshepsut who produced no heirs
- Possibly she was the "mother" of Moses, "drawn from the water", thanking the gods via the name of the baby
- However, she eventually had no heirs (Moses fled), Thutmosis III died without sons so she became ruler until she died and succeeded by Amenhotep II

Self-Fulfilling Prophecy

- The Egyptian king, seeking to destroy Hebrew strength in the land, adopt a Hebrew boy who came under an automatic death sentence; thus, defying their own edict
- The Hebrew boy was raised by his Hebrew mother until weaned (5-8 years old) and knows of his Hebrew roots
- The Hebrew noble kills an Egyptian defending a Hebrew slave thus promoting the disharmony of Egypt

Can We Say, Awkward?

- How was Moses able to escape through Goshen into Canaan without being pursued and executed?
 - A trial would reveal that the King, and his daughter, had disrupted the harmony of Egypt - blasphemy
 - There is no good outcome for the royal house except to watch the problem "run away" into the wilderness
 - No trial, no threat to the throne, and no "dead" Moses



Egypt's Unintended Consequences

If the King/Pharaoh had not seen the Hebrews as a threat, had not made the edict to kill Hebrew boys and had not adopted a Hebrew boy against their own law Exodus would NOT have occurred and the world changed!

Moses in Hiding

- Moses lives in Midian, an area controlled by Egypt, safe from invaders though distant from Egyptian power
- Moses keeps a low profile though his education and abilities had to be obvious to his new family
- Moses grows old as a fugitive herding sheep probably forgetting about the God his mother told him would come for them one day - then, that day came