

“Why Is This Happening To Me?”

Exodus 1:6-10

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Exodus 1:6-10 New Living Translation (NLT)

⁶In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation. ⁷But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land.

⁸Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. ⁹He said to his people, “Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are. ¹⁰We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don’t, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country.”^[a]

1:10 Or will take the country.

INTRODUCTION:

- Exodus provides us with the history of the growth, development of a people destined to conquest an inheritance that was promised to them from God.
- It is a “Kingdom Snapshot” for us to follow and model today.
- Many of us are dealing with **trying challenges and circumstances:**
 - **Either they are new ones, occurring one after another**
 - **Or, they are the same ones endured over long period of time**
- Our tendency is to reason:
 - Is there something I’m doing to bring this on?
 - Is there something I’m missing that is causing this?
- **Today: Develop a proper Kingdom Perspective: “Why Is This Happening To Me?”**

I. THREE CONSIDERATIONS TO HELP ANSWER THE QUESTION:

- A. “An Enemy has done this...” (Matt. 13: Parable of Tares (Weeds))
 - a. The Master sows GOOD SEED in His Field (us)
 - b. The Enemy sows (weed people and weed experiences)
- In Matthew 4, Jesus is “tested” by the devil:
 - The devil “confronts” Him (in wilderness)
 - The devil “takes” Him to the Temple
 - The devil “takes” Him to a mountain top

NOTE:

JESUS BECAME MAN AND MADE HIMSELF “TAKABLE” AS THE LAST ADAM AND AS AN EXAMPLE FOR US. WE DEFEAT SATAN WITH GOD’S WORD, JUST AS JESUS DID. IN THIS, JESUS IDENTIFIED WITH US IN THE *VULNERABILITY* SO WE COULD IDENTIFY WITH HIM IN THE *VICTORY*.

- B. God is pruning a branch: (John 15)
 - a. Reason for it? **FRUITFULNESS**
 - b. Purpose for it? **GREATER FRUITFULNESS**

Psalm 1:3 The Passion Translation (TPT)

They will be standing firm like a flourishing tree, planted by God’s design, deeply rooted by the brooks of bliss, bearing fruit in every season of their lives. They are never dry, never fainting, ever blessed, ever prosperous.

- C. The *behind-the-scenes* **Kingdom Reason: *the enemy perceives you as a threat to his kingdom and fears a take-over!***
 - a. Pharaoh = a type of satan, the god of this world
 - b. Joseph’s descendants = the church of Jesus Christ (we are his people too!)
 - i. They grew, multiplied and living ***La vida bendito***
 - ii. They were doing everything right
 - iii. Oppression was the last thing they expected

Satanic Tactic: *to wear out the saints...*

Daniel 7:25 New Living Translation (NLT)

He will defy the Most High ***and oppress the holy people of the Most High...***

Revelation 13:7 The Passion Translation (TPT)

The beast was given the authority to wage war against the holy believers...

Exodus 1:11 New Living Translation (NLT)

... They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, ***hoping to wear them down*** with crushing labor...

Exodus 1:12 New Living Translation (NLT)

But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread, and the more alarmed the Egyptians became.

More oppression = more multiplication/influence = enemy is more alarmed

II. HOW THE ENEMY SEES US:

- “Joseph” wasn’t the only thing the Pharaoh didn’t know
- He also didn’t know that oppressing God’s people would result in:
 - The destruction of his authority
 - The defeat of his mightiest weapons and forces
 - The bankruptcy of his nation (the spoiling of all his goods)

A POWERFUL Old Testament Example:

Gideon: (Judges 6)

- Because of their idolatry, Israel was raided constantly; they were like locusts...
- Gideon was angry, frustrated and toiling with what little he had to thresh... and ***hiding from the enemy*** (the enemy’s purpose of oppression)
- NOTE: THE NATION WAS IN IDOLATRY, BUT GIDEON WASN’T!

A. The Lord’s Perspective (KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE):

Judges 6:12 New Living Translation (NLT)

The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, “Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!”

B. Gideon’s perspective:

Judges 6:13 New Living Translation (NLT)

“Sir,” Gideon replied, ***“if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?”*** And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn’t they say, ‘The Lord brought us up out of Egypt’? But now ***the Lord has abandoned us*** and handed us over to the Midianites.”

NOTE:

ISN’T IT INTERESTING HOW A CALLED, ANOINTED AND GIFTED PERSON CAN PERCEIVE HIMSELF IN SUCH A VICTIMIZED STATE AS A RESULT OF CONSTANT OPPRESSION? HE HAD IT WRONG CONCERNING HIMSELF AND GOD AS WELL.

A DIVINE COMMISSION:

Judges 6:14 New Living Translation (NLT)

Then the Lord turned to him and said, “Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. ***I am sending you!***” **(We have an APOSTOLIC COMMISSION)**

Judges 6:16 New Living Translation (NLT)

The Lord said to him, “I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites ***as if you were fighting against one man.***”

NOTE:

- **OUR LIMITED ABILITY/STRENGTH + GOD’S PRESENCE = VICTORY**
- **ONE MAY CHASE A THOUSAND; TWO WILL CHASE TEN THOUSAND!**
- **WE MUST RECOGNIZE OUR APOSTOLIC CALL! WE ARE NOT AN ACCIDENT OF CIRCUMSTANCE; WE ARE SENT BY GOD HIMSELF!**

C. The enemy’s perspective:

Judges 7:13-14 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹³ Gideon crept up just as a man was telling his companion about a dream. The man said, “I had this dream, and in my dream a loaf of barley bread came tumbling down into the Midianite camp. It hit a tent, turned it over, and knocked it flat!”

¹⁴ His companion answered, “Your dream can mean only one thing—***God has given Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite, victory over Midian and all its allies!***”

III. THE TRIUMPHANT CHURCH JESUS IS BUILDING:

Matthew 16:18b New Living Translation (NLT)

“... I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

Matthew 28:18 New Living Translation (NLT)

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven ***and on earth.***”

Luke 10:18-19 New Living Translation (NLT)

“Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.

Luke 10:18-19 The Passion Translation (TPT)

¹⁸ Jesus replied, **“While you were ministering, I watched Satan topple until he fell suddenly from heaven like lightning to the ground. ¹⁹ Now you understand that I have imparted to you all my authority to trample over his kingdom. You will trample upon every demon before you and overcome every power Satan possesses. Absolutely nothing will be able to harm you as you walk in this authority.**

NOTE:

- There were 70 Elders who ruled with Moses.
- Jesus commissioned 70 disciples to “rule” with Him.
- The church (ecclesia) is God’s GOVERNING BODY on earth called and sent to enact legislation on His behalf; establishing His ROYAL REIGN (aka His Kingdom), until “...the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ!”
- ***Satan saw the First Adam FALL; the Second Adam saw Satan FALL!***

IV. IT’S TIME FOR THE CHURCH TO GET ON OFFENSE:

Joshua’s Example:

Joshua 10:24-25 New Living Translation (NLT)

²⁴ When they brought them out, Joshua told the commanders of his army, “Come and put your feet on the kings’ necks.” And they did as they were told.

²⁵ “Don’t ever be afraid or discouraged,” Joshua told his men. “Be strong and courageous, for the Lord is going to do this to all of your enemies.”

Yeshua’s Instructions:

Luke 10:19 “... You shall tread upon...”

Paul’s Declaration:

Romans 16:20 “The God of Peace (what He identified Himself to Gideon as) will bruise Satan under your feet shortly...”

NOTE:

Genesis 3:15 Amplified Bible (AMP) (to the serpent)

“And I will put enmity (open hostility)
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed (offspring) and her ^[a]Seed;
He shall [fatally] bruise your head,
And you shall [only] bruise His heel.”

JESUS CRUSHED THE ENEMY'S HEAD WITH HIS FOOT. HE CRUSHED SATAN'S HEAD, BUT SATAN WOUNDED HIS HEEL IN THE PROCESS.

WE ARE CALLED AND COMMISSIONED TO STEP ON A SERPENT WHO IS STILL ALIVE BUT HAS LOST HIS AUTHORITY (HEADSHIP)! JESUS HAS ALL POWER; HE'S GIVEN IT TO US TO EXERCISE AND DO THE "EARTH-SIDE" TRAMPLING IN ESTABLISHING HIS ROYAL RULE UNTIL HE COMES!

CONCLUSION:

ACTS 19:

PAUL I KNOW, JESUS I KNOW... DOES THE ENEMY KNOW YOU?

ANSWER: YES! THE QUESTION IS; DO YOU KNOW HE KNOWS YOU?

Heb. 12:28 (Peshitta)

"Therefore, since we have received the Kingdom that is not shaken, we shall receive grace (divine enablement) by which we shall please God in awe and worship"