

ALMIGHTY God, We are confident of this; That You who have begun a good work in us, Will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. We pray that our love may abound yet and more in knowledge, and in all judgement, that we may approve things that are excellent, that we may be sincere and without offense, until that day of Jesus Christ, and being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus, unto whom belong the glory and praise. Amen. [Phil. 1:6-11]

Exodus 1:1-22

¹These are the names of **the sons of Israel** who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: ²Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; ³Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; ⁴Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. ⁵**The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy** in all; Joseph was already in Egypt. ⁶Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, ⁷but the Israelites were **exceedingly fruitful**; they **multiplied greatly**, increased in numbers and became so numerous that **the land was filled** with them. ⁸Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. ⁹'Look,' he said to his people, 'the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. ¹⁰Come, 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.' ¹¹So they put **slave masters over them** to oppress them with forced labour, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³and worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁴They made their **lives bitter** with harsh labour in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labour, the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the **Hebrew midwives**, whose names were **Shiphrah** and **Puah**, 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.' ¹⁷The midwives, however, **feared God** and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. ¹⁸Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, 'Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?' ¹⁹The midwives answered Pharaoh, 'Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.' ²⁰**So God** was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. ²²Then 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.'

Themes throughout Exodus; covenant blessings and curses, the divine Name, the need for sacrifice, and the two sons of God (Exodus – the son who needs salvation, Matthew – the Son who brings salvation).

Further reading? Consider reading Matthew's Gospel in parallel to Exodus.

Our Father, we most humbly ask You to give to this house, and unto each member of it in particular, to stand fast in the Lord. May we be of the same mind in the Lord. May we rejoice in the Lord always. Grant that whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, if there be any praise, may we think on these things, may we know both how to be pruned, and how to thrive. May we do all things through Christ Who strengthens us, knowing that God shall supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Amen. [Phil. 4:1-9] (**Prayers from the Apostle Paul, 5-67AD**).