

# Making Promises

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## Part 2: The Exodus

### Review

- God chose Abraham to be the father of many nations and to bless the world through him. He also promised to bless those who bless him, and curse those who curse him (**Gen. 12:1-3; 15:4-5**).
- God promised to give Abraham's descendants the land of Canaan as the land of promise (**Gen. 15:7**), but first they would be servants in a foreign land for 400 years (**Gen. 15:13**). Upon their exit, the nation in which they live would be judged, and they would receive many possessions in preparation for their possession of the promised land (**Gen. 15:14**).
- The sons of Jacob began to live like the Canaanites (**Gen. 34:25-26; 35:22**), and consequently God moved them out of the land of Canaan into Egypt. The book of Genesis ends with the children of Israel in the land of Egypt, in Goshen, and Joseph dies making them swear to take his body with them when God's promise is fulfilled (**Gen. 50:25-26**).

### Egypt

- In 1570, the Hyksos dynasty that had controlled Egypt is expelled by **Amosis**, ruler of the **18<sup>th</sup> dynasty**. It is most likely Amosis or his successor Amenhotep I (or both) that are referred to in **Exodus 1:8, 11-16 (see attached table)**.
- When the subjugation of the Hebrews to slave labor failed to reduce the population, **infanticide** was decreed (**Ex. 1:15-16**).
- Based on a date of **1446** for the exodus, we can establish the birth date of Moses, who was 80 just before the exodus (**Ex. 7:7**) and 120 at his death (**Deut. 34:7**). Since his death was at the very close of the wilderness period, it most likely occurred near **1406** giving him a birth year of **1526**. Thus Moses was born in the very year of Amenhotep I's death.
- **Thutmose I** succeeded Amenhotep and most likely decreed the infanticide, since Moses faces the threat, but his brother Aaron, born 3 years earlier (**Ex. 7:7**) appears to have been exempt. A regime change between Aaron's birth and Moses' birth reconciles history and the biblical narrative nicely.
- Most likely Moses was raised and reared by Thutmose I's daughter **Hatshepsut**. She married her younger, half-brother **Thutmose II**, who died young, leaving Thutmose III on the throne. Thutmose III was most likely the pharaoh that drove Moses out into the wilderness after he murdered an Egyptian.

- **Amenhotep II** is thus identified as the Pharaoh of the Exodus. The best understanding suggests that Amenhotep II's power did not pass to his eldest son, but rather to **Thutmose IV**, a younger son. This is at least implied in the so-called **dream stela** found at the base of the Great Sphinx near Memphis.

## The Exodus

- The Exodus is not to be understood as God trying to convince Pharaoh to let his people go, but rather **God judging Egypt** for their enslavement of the Hebrew people, and positioning himself far above **the gods of Egypt**. Therefore, it seems that the 10 plagues were a judgment on at least 10 of the gods of Egypt.
  - This is further evidenced by the number of times Pharaoh's heart is hardened by the Lord (**Ex. 4:21, 7:3, 13-14, 22, 8:15, et al.**), and Aaron's serpent/staff swallowing up the serpent/staffs of the Egyptian magicians (**Ex. 7:12**).

## The Plagues

- The first plague, turning the water to blood (**Ex. 7:14-25**), seems to be a judgment on the Egyptian god **Hapi**, the god of the annual flooding of the Nile.
  - Some of the titles of Hapi were, "**Lord of the Fish** and Birds of the Marshes" and "Lord of the River Bringing Vegetation." But when Aaron curses the Nile, it brings the **death of the fish** (**Ex. 7:21**).
- The second plague, the plague of frogs (**Ex. 8:1-15**), seems to be a judgment on the Egyptian goddess **Heket**.
  - To the Egyptians, the frog was an ancient symbol of **fertility**, related to the annual flooding of the Nile.
- The third plague, the plague of gnats (**Ex. 8:16-19**), seems to be a judgment on the Egyptian god **Geb**.
  - Geb is not the god of the gnats, but rather is the god of **the dust of the earth**. Hence Aaron stretches out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth (**Ex. 8:17**).
  - Geb is thought to provide **growth to the crops**. Thus, in the plague, YHWH controls the dust of the earth to bring a plague (instead of a blessing) on the Egyptians.
- The fourth plague, the plague of flies (**Ex. 8:20-32**), seems to be a judgment on the Egyptian god **Khepri**.
  - This Egyptian god has the **head of a fly**, and was commonly associated with renewal or rebirth.

## The Exodus: Part 1

<b>Genesis 12:1-3</b>	1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
<b>Genesis 15:4-5</b>	4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." 5 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."
<b>Genesis 15:7</b>	And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."
<b>Genesis 15:13</b>	Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.
<b>Genesis 15:14</b>	But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.
<b>Genesis 34:25-26</b>	25 On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and came against the city while it felt secure and killed all the males. 26 They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem's house and went away.
<b>Genesis 35:22</b>	While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine. And Israel heard of it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve.
<b>Genesis 50:25-26</b>	25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." 26 So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.
<b>Exodus 1:8</b>	Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.
<b>Exodus 1:11-16</b>	11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. 13 So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves 14 and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves. 15 Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16 "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live."
<b>Exodus 1:15-16</b>	15 Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16 "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live."
<b>Exodus 7:7</b>	Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.
<b>Deuteronomy 34:7</b>	Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated.
<b>Exodus 4:21</b>	And the Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.
<b>Exodus 7:3</b>	But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt,
<b>Exodus 7:13-14</b>	13 Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. 14 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go.
<b>Exodus 7:22</b>	But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.
<b>Exodus 8:15</b>	But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, he hardened his heart and would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.
<b>Exodus 7:12</b>	For each man cast down his staff, and they became serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.
<b>Exodus 7:21</b>	And the fish in the Nile died, and the Nile stank, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

<b>Exodus 8:16–19</b>	16 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.’ ” 17 And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. 18 The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. 19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.
<b>Exodus 8:17</b>	And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt.

### EIGHTEENTH DYNASTY OF EGYPT

<b>RULER</b>	<b>BEGAN TO RULE</b>	<b>RULE ENDED</b>
Amosis	1570	1546
Amenhotep I	1546	1526
Thutmose I	1526	1512
Thutmose II	1512	1504
Hatshepsut	1503	1483
Thutmose III	1504	1450
Amenhotep II	1450	1425
Thutmose IV	1425	1417
Amenhotep III	1417	1379
Amenhotep IV	1379	1362
Smenkhkare	1364	1361
Tutankhamon	1361	1352
Ay	1352	1348
Horemheb	1348	1320