



## From Acts to Exodus: Stephen & Moses

Acts 7, Exodus 1:1-14

Stephen's sermon in Acts 7 confronts the Pharisees with the continual unfaithfulness of God's people, compared to God's faithfulness in spite of their constant rejection of Him.

Understanding the Exodus story helps us to better understand our relationship to God.

"The Exodus of God's people out of Egypt is the greatest redemptive event in the Old Testament,"  
Don Carson

"Biblical religion revolves around two themes, Creation and the Exodus. The former asserts God's undivided sovereignty over nature, the latter His absolute hegemony over history. These essential themes are inextricably linked, inform one another, and are complementary."  
Nahum M. Sarna - Exploring Exodus

Your offspring will be strangers in a land that does not belong to them: they will be enslaved and oppressed 400 years. However, I will judge the nation they serve, and afterwards they will go out with many possessions.  
Genesis 15:13-14

### Exodus 1:1-14

These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: <sup>2</sup>Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; <sup>3</sup>Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; <sup>4</sup>Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. <sup>5</sup>The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt.

<sup>6</sup>Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, <sup>7</sup>but the Israelites were fruitful and multiplied greatly and became exceedingly numerous, so that the land was filled with them.

<sup>8</sup>Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. <sup>9</sup>"Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. <sup>10</sup>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.

### Exodus 1:1-14

<sup>11</sup> So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. <sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites <sup>13</sup> and worked them ruthlessly. <sup>14</sup> They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor the Egyptians used them ruthlessly.

#### 1. The problem of only knowing about God

The new king did not understand that Egypt was experiencing the blessings and grace of God through Joseph and his family. The old pharaoh could see God was with Joseph and everything he touched and he embraced Joseph because of it

In just a few generations that grace will come to an end. This king not only doesn't know God, he takes on the role of the serpent from Genesis 3. He becomes the deceiver, and his kingdom will end because of it.

Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.

Exodus 34:5-7

#### 2. The blessings of knowing God personally

"Faith attaches itself to God, and appreciates, and would have part in the bond that exists between God and His people; and thus it thinks not of patronizing from above, as if the world had authority over the people of God, or was able to be a blessing to them. It feels (because it is faith) that God loves His people; that His people are precious to Him."  
Darby, J. N. - Genesis to 2 Chronicles

#### Follow up Questions:

1. Does the story of Exodus help you understand your relationship with God better?
2. Why do you think the language of the serpent in Genesis 3 is important in this story?
3. How would you describe the difference between knowing about God and knowing Him personally in your own life?