

**An Exegesis Of Exodus Chapter 1:8**

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Exodus begins where Genesis leaves off as God deals with His chosen people, the Jews. The author of Exodus is Moses. The date written was 1450-1410 B.C., approximately the same as Genesis. The setting was Egypt. Exodus was written in the desert during Israel's wanderings, somewhere in the Sinai peninsula. It would seem that Moses' original readership would have been the Exodus generation of Israelites as well as all future generations who entered into covenant-relationship with Yahweh. While the covenant-relationship is offered to Israel, it is clear from the Book of Exodus that a response of faith is necessary to truly enter into that relationship. The translation of Exodus is the Hebrew language. Exodus was written in alphabetic script. Alphabetic script was being invented around Egypt about this time and the ability to write in a Semitic language spread around. The basic sentence structure in Hebrew is usually Subject-Verb-Object, just like English. In fact, This same order is often used in questions as well (unlike English). Most sentences in the Bible begin with the word "and" to indicate the new sentence, and the insertion of this "and" causes the verb to come next by the subject . The historical context to the Book of Exodus is presented in the first chapter. Israel was in Egypt, Joseph was dead along with all those of his generation, and the new Pharaoh had no idea who Joseph was or what he had done for Egypt. The scripture text Exodus 1:8 relates that "a new king,who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt" and that this monarch proceeded to deal harshly with the Israelites lest they defect and join Egypt's enemies (possibly the recently evicted Hyksos). This king, it seems, must have been Ahmose, the first king of the Eighteenth Dynasty and enemy of the hated Hyksos, with whom he prejudicially related to the Israelites. In this sense he "knew not"

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Joseph, or had no sympathy with the Hebrew cause. He placed the Israelites in bondage and required them to build public works, including the cities of Pithom and Raamses (Exod. 1:11). Israel is living in bondage to the Egyptians and subject to their desires. During this time they live in a social community of houses and likely villages perhaps organized around their tribal clans. Although they are subject to harsh labor, they apparently live moderately well having plenty of food to eat. The Book of Exodus is rich in theology. Its main significance lies in God's deliverance of Israel from Egyptian slavery. Confessions of faith and corporate worship in the Old Testament from this point on derive from the exodus events. Almost every part of the book of Exodus yields reward to theological reflection. Exodus demonstrates hope, justice, love and resilience. It is also important in today's society because this is what Christians, Anglicans and Jews believe in, particularly the Jews.

Bonus Step: The implications of future generations if we don't teach this message is the world will continue to have ever increasing problems: ill-health and like the coronavirus, financial woes, unemployment, wars and the threat of wars, mental illnesses, environmental disasters, to name a few. This is showing in 2020 the results of our nations, and their leaders, not listening to the voice of God.

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