

1

Exodus 1 – 2

PEOPLE WITH A PROMISE



talk about

1. Have you ever relied on someone's promise to you? What was it about them that made you trust them? Did you ever worry that they might not keep it?



investigate

▶ Read Exodus 1 v 1-7

In the original Hebrew, the book of Exodus actually begins with the word "and". It immediately alerts us to the fact that this story is part of a bigger story...

2. **Read Genesis 12 v 1-7; 15 v 1-21; 17 v 15-22.** What did God promise, and to whom?

Abraham's son was Isaac, and his son was Jacob, which brings us to Exodus 1 v 1.

3. How is God keeping his promise in Exodus 1 v 1-7?

➤ **Read Exodus 1 v 8-21**

4. How is God's promise-keeping threatened in these verses?

DICTIONARY

Shrewdly (v 10): craftily.
Hebrew (v 15): Israelite.
Nile (v 22): major river.
Tar and pitch (2 v 3): a waterproof coating.

- In what ways is Pharaoh's plan thwarted?

➤ **Read Exodus 1 v 22 – 2 v 10**

5. How does Pharaoh raise the stakes (1 v 22)? What is ironic about the way in which his plans are thwarted (2 v 1-10)?



explore more

optional

Israel's fruitfulness here shows God is keeping his promise to Abraham.

➤ **Read Genesis 1 v 26-29**

How is it also a mark of Israel keeping God's command to all humanity?

➤ **Read Genesis 3 v 8-15**

What had God promised would be the relationship between the snake and the woman (v 15)?

How are Pharaoh's actions in Exodus 1 a fulfilment of the promise of Genesis 3 v 15?

So Egypt will be the site of the ongoing battle between those who belong to the snake, and those who belong to the promise.

What significance does this add to the coming showdown between God and Pharaoh?

➔ apply

6. What does Exodus 1 teach us about the promise-keeping of God? And the plans of powerful regimes?

- How should this encourage us as God's people today?

🗣️ getting personal

Do you trust more in God to keep to his plans... or deep down, do you think that the plans of those who oppose him or his people are more likely to succeed? When are you most likely to act as though God will not come through for you?

Jesus promises, "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16 v 18). When do you most need to remember this verse?

⬇️ investigate

This baby, Moses, now being raised as a Hebrew but with all the privileges of Egypt, will be the Hebrews' great liberator.

➤ Read Exodus 2 v 11-25

7. How are Moses' actions in verses 11-12 more "Egyptian" than godly? How do they undermine his ability to lead Israel (v 14-15)?

DICTIONARY

Midian (v 15): see next page.

Covenant (v 24): binding agreement.

Moses ends up living as a Midianite. The Midianites were nomads, but they wandered all over the Sinai Peninsula and the land of Canaan—all areas of land promised to Abraham. And in Midian, in contrast to Egypt, the Lord was worshipped freely (the reference to a “priest” in verse 16 raises this possibility; 18 v 9-12 confirms it).

8. So in what sense has Moses left home, and in what sense has he come home?

9. By the end of chapter 2, to what extent has God kept his promises? What remains to be fulfilled?

- How do verses 23-25 suggest that God is about to intervene in Israelite history?

10. **Read Hebrews 11 v 24-27.** Why did Moses choose to live as an Israelite, rather than an Egyptian? What did he give up in order to do so?



11. **Re-read Exodus 1 v 15-18.** Why did Shiphrah and Puah not obey Pharaoh? What were they risking in order to disobey him?

 **apply**

12. How do you face similar choices to Moses, and to Shiphrah and Puah? What would it look like for you to choose to fear God and live by faith, as they did?



getting personal

Are there ways in which you fear people more than God? What would change if you trusted in his promises rather than being swayed by human plans? How will you remember to fear and trust God?

 **pray**

Thank God that he is both a promise-making and a promise-keeping God. Thank him for the confidence and assurance that can give you as you walk through life.

Pray together about the times when you must choose between fearing God or fearing man, based on your answers to Question Twelve.

