

The WW2 Nazi slogan 'Arbeit Macht Frei – Works Makes Us Free' originated in an 1873 German novel about a fraudster who learns to live virtuously by honest work.

The fine line between freedom and slavery can be blurred and is often twisted.
Exodus is a freedom story shaped by God's promise which determines all of history.

Change in Size: In Goshen, life was good for the tribes of Jacob for as long as Joseph was remembered as a great Egyptian leader. Over 430 years living in Egypt (12:40) the tribes multiplied from just 70 (1:5) into an exceedingly numerous people (1:5-7; 12:37)

The Lord is creating a people for himself in fulfilment of his covenant promises.		<i>oppressed, they multiplied people became more numerous</i>	
Genesis 15:5	Genesis 22:17	Exodus 1:12	Exodus 1:20

Change in Status: The Hyksos Dynasty did not know about Egypt's debt to Joseph. Facing a growing immigrant community, a new Pharaoh enslaved the twelve tribes. (1:8;11). The people posed a threat to Egyptian security: *'Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous...'* (1:10). *'They put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor...ruthlessly.'* (1:11-14).

Change in Suffering

Infanticide: **During childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him.**
 Genocide: **Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile...let every girl live.**

Unwavering Faith

The midwives feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do

They held a large vision of God. True freedom is the obedience of faith in God. Faith gives courage in conflict. Faith lives in a conscience greater than our culture. During hard times we might be tempted to think God doesn't care or isn't there. Since evil exists and humans suffer, is God impotent, lacking power to defeat evil? God sees evil and saves from darkness. He understands and undertakes to save.

Unchanging God

Is your God too small? We need to view life through the lens of God's covenant.

"I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" (Gen 50:24).

"Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out..." (15:13-14)

We must not think Israel deserved God's help. They were immersed in idolatry (Joshua 24:2, 14-15) even after being rescued (Ex 16:3; 32:1-4). This is a story of grace.

Moses: the only baby in the Bible called beautiful was 'no ordinary child' (Acts 7:20). Moses was born '**at that time**' when the new Pharaoh **dealt treacherously with our people** (Acts 7:18-20): '*when there is no hope or counsel to be looked for at man's hands.*' (Calvin)

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 2:1-2

Surprisingly, God brings a Savior through Levi, not Judah or Joseph. "Simeon and Levi are brothers; instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place. Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly (Genesis 49:5-6).

Parents acted by faith. *It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months when he was born. They were not afraid to disobey the king's command.* (Heb 11:23)

Sister watched by faith. *sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.*

God's sovereignty. Moses rescued by Pharaoh's daughter & nursed by his mother. God works all things together for good - even providing him an education '*in all the wisdom of the Egyptians*' so that he was '*powerful in speech and action*' (Acts 7:22).

Prefiguring Jesus' rescue from Herod, escaping to Egypt, growing in wisdom and strength (Luke 2:40) and 'a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people'(Luke 24:19). Exodus is the Old Testament story that backdrops the great rescue from sin and death and God leading us forward to the new Creation.

In middle age – Moses has a crisis – remembers who he is and his mother's prayers. Moses fell for the temptation of the short cut. As a self-appointed freedom fighter – running ahead of God – he "thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not" (Acts 7:25). "Who made you ruler and judge over us" they said (Acts 7:27). Waiting to be cheered – the rescuer is rejected.

Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known." (Ex 2:14) Moses was about 40 when he fled to Midian (Acts 7:23). He spent 40 years there (7:30).

In the desert, Moses must mature – prepared by God in the University of Arabia. **His spiritual syllabus is living an ordinary life: sand - sheep - marriage - children.**

God remembered his covenant promise to Abraham...

God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them'

Exodus 2:24-25

God is working out his salvation purposes in history and in our personal history--sovereignly and foundationally by faith as he keeps his covenant promises of love. God's sovereignty 1. **Cures our sense of failure:** What have I done? 2. **Cures our complaining.** Why is this happening? **Cures our fears.** What will happen to me?

WE LIVE BY PROMISES, NOT BY EXPLANATIONS.