

EGYPT

IN THE HISTORY OF OUR SALVATION

“OUT OF EGYPT, HAVE I CALLED MY SON”



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*IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON AND
THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD
AMEN*

**O LORD,
CHANGE MY INNER EGYPT
FROM LAND OF BONDAGE TO A SANCTUARY OF
GOD!**

In the yearly feast of “The Escape of the Holy Family to Egypt” almost I feel as if the gates of the Holy Bible are opened before me. I enter through them, and I hear a divine call addressed to me personally to attain the Bible’s depth and discover the exceeding greatness of the divine grace that worked in Egypt, and in my heart as my own inner Egypt.

Among all the nations of the Gentiles we do not find a single nation in which the word of God is interested like Egypt. Egypt was mentioned directly in the Old and the New Testaments more than 550 times.

We can divide the history of Egypt as mentioned in the Bible into three stages, that resemble the three stages of our situation as redeemed people, and children of God.

The first stage: Egypt at the era of the Patriarchs that resembles our first parents in the Garden of Eden. The Patriarchs, such as Abraham, Jacob, his sons and grandchildren came to Egypt seeking for food, as they had famine where they lived (Gen. 13:1; 42:1-3; 46:7; 47:27; Ps. 105:23; Acts 7:15). The sons and grandchildren of Jacob felt that they were at home when they started as a nation in Egypt, and the first leader of Israel, Moses the Prophet was born in Egypt.

EGYPT AND THE EXODUS

Egypt was mentioned in the Psalms of David, as well as in the prophecies of the prophets. It was referred to it as the place of terror at one time, when the Pharaohs turned against the Israelites in Egypt, after over four hundred and thirty years living in Egypt as their home.

God have saved Moses and his people from the land of their slavery, and freed them from the Egyptians who were punished severely for their acts. The freedom of these people became the theme of the Glory of God in keeping his word.

Egypt was hit hard by Divine punishments, but later it was the land of people who were referred to as the " Blessed be the people of Egypt". That was Egypt that the Incarnated God came as a child with the Holy Family to hide from Herod the King, and then returned to Jerusalem to complete what God planned for the salvation of the world.

Egypt was promised to have a Temple for God in the middle of its land, and that the people will know God. It was mentioned all along from the First Book of the Old Testament " Genesis " to the last Book in the New Testament " Revelation "

The study shows how God supported his people, protected them, promised them a land, and they were ungrateful to Him. It shows how God is merciful, Who tolerated the people who were always ready to abandon Him, regardless of the wonders He did for them. At times God also was angered by their behavior.

The writers are Egyptians themselves, who find pride in their effort to put together the verses in the Holy Bible where their own mother country was mentioned and to try to give some comment about it. The mentioned verses are only those which contain the word " EGYPT ", but there are hundreds of verses referred to the events in Egypt, in continuity to the verses.

◆ Moses, who was born in Egypt, went to his ancestor's place in Midian, to visit his father in law, but the Lord ordered him to return back to Egypt. (Ex 4:19)

◆ Our Lord Jesus Christ came to Egypt as a child with His Mother The Virgin Mary and Joseph They fled to Egypt after the angel of God appeared to Joseph in his dream asking him to take the boy and his mother to the land of Egypt, Herod the king was after the new born male Hebrews. (Mt 2:13)

Who was asked not to come to Egypt?

The famine Abraham faced during his life, and his need to come to Egypt to buy food, was repeated at the time of Isaac. Egypt was known to have corn and it was logical then to Isaac to prepare himself to go to Egypt to get corn as his father did before him. But God appeared to Isaac and asked him not to go. (Gen. 26:2)

On another occasion, Johanan, the son of Kareah and all the officers of the army who were with him, the remnants of Judiah, planned to go and live in Egypt. Jeremiah the prophet, through the word of God ordered them not to go to Egypt, or " my wrath be poured out on you when you go to Egypt" (Jer 42:18)

Egypt was a sanctuary

- Hadad, at the time of King David, had to flee to Egypt. He was afraid of David that he may kill him. Later when he heard that David died and the captain of the army Joab was dead, he returned back home again from Egypt. (I ki 11:21)

- Jeroboam fled to Egypt, when he thought that Solomon was about to kill him. He stayed in Egypt till he heard of the death of Solomon. (I Ki 11:40)

- Urijah, was afraid of Jehoiakin the king, so he fled to Egypt. (Jer 26:21)

- Our Lord Jesus Christ, was brought to Egypt by Joseph and His mother the Virgin Mary hiding away from Herod the

The Bible mentioned, in different places about children who were born to an Israeli mothers and Egyptian Fathers . (Lev 24:10)

Nice things mentioned about Egypt

"Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God". (Ps 68:31) One may notice that the church in Ethiopia is a Coptic Church.

Many Miracles and wonders did happen in Egypt. (Ps 78:12 & 43)

That Egypt had the best linen and tapestry of the time. (Pr 7:16) & (Eze 27:7)

There will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord. (Isa 19:19) The Lord will listen to the cries of the Egyptians from the oppressors, and that God will be known to all the Egyptians and they will acknowledge the Lord. (Isa 19:20-22)

God will heal the Egyptians after he smites them. (Isa 19:22)

Egypt will have a highway to Assyria and they will be friendly, later Israel will join them and it would be a blessing to the world. (Isa 19:24)

The Lord blesses Egypt, by saying "Blessed be Egypt my people" (Isa 19:25)

The Lord called his Son from Egypt. (Hos 11:1)

The Lord calls himself " I am your God from the land of Egypt" (Hos 12:9)

Egypt was the sanctuary for our Lord when He fled from Herod the King. (Mt 2:13-14)

Here again our Lord says : "Out of Egypt have I called my son. (Mt 2:15)

God listened to the cries of his people when they were in Egypt

The children of Israel suffered in Egypt, after the death of Joseph and when another Pharaoh came to reign. The Israelites were used as servants and became slaves to the Egyptians. On many occasions the children of Israel wanted to leave out of the oppression of the Egyptians, but the Pharaoh refused. The Israelites cried to God asking for His help and He did listen.

God ordered Moses to relay to his people that God did hear them. (Ex 3:16) He promised to take them out of Egypt and lead them to a land "flowing with milk and honey. (Ex 3:17)

Moses and his brother Aaron spoke with the Pharaoh, who refused to let the children of Israel to go and leave Egypt. (Ex 6:27) However God hardened the heart of the Pharaoh, to show his wonders in the land of Egypt. (Ex 7:3)

God showed His strong hands to release them from the house of bondage. (Ex 13:14)

The severe punishment to Egypt

God's anger was great when Egypt refused to let His people go. He hit Egypt with severe punishments in support to His oppressed people. The Pharaoh's heart was hard that God struck Egypt with powerful revenges, stretching His hands without mercy. (Ex 3:20 & 7:4)

The water of the rivers and the ponds turned blood. (Ex 7:19) The Frogs crept all over the land. (Ex 8:5&6) There was dust everywhere and the men and the beasts were covered by lice and flies. (Ex 8:17 & 24) The cattle died. (Ex 9:9)

There was heavy rain and hail that never before did Egypt see. (Ex 9:18-22) Then the locusts came and ate every plant and there was no greenery in the land. (Ex 10-12-15)

Darkness covered all the land, followed by the bringing of the plague. (Ex 10:22 & 11:3) & (Jos 24:5) & (Ps 135-8 ; 136:10)

Egyptians hard, showing miracles and wonders, and saved the Jews but they were ungrateful.. They yearned to their days of prison and captivity and wished that they stayed to serve the Egyptians. (Ex 14:11-12)

They couldn't help but to dream of the old "good" days when they used to eat fish, cucumber, melons, leeks, onion and garlic. (Nu 11:5) They kept asking, why ever they left Egypt where they ate meat. (Nu 11:18) They murmured all the time that it was better for themselves if they return back to Egypt. (Nu 14:3)

They wanted to make a captain, that will lead them to Egypt. {Nu 14:4} They were not contented by coming out of Egypt where they found no figs, vine, or pomegranates, nor water. (Nu 20:5) They thought that the Lord hated them to get them out of Egypt. (Dt 1:27)

God reminds his people

Our Lord is very patient, even with all the sins committed by the people, He asked them to follow Him and to remember all what He did for them. The people tend to be forgetful and ungrateful and they forgot very quickly. God then found that He had to remind them with all what He did for them. He reminded them that He was their God and He was the one who got them out of Egypt. (Lev 11:45) & (Dt 5:6 ; 6:12) & (I Sam 10:18 ; 12:6) & (Ps 81:10) & (Jer 23:7)

He even reminded them that they were strangers in the land of Egypt and have to love other strangers. (Lev :19:34) He reminded them that they were strangers in the land of Egypt, and asked them to love the strangers accordingly. (Dt 10:19)

God kept reminding them that He was their God ,who took them out of Egypt. (Lev 19:36 ; 22:23 & 43 ; 25:38 ; 26:13 &45) & (Nu 15:41) He also specifically reminded them with the glory and the miracles that He did for them whether in Egypt or in the wilderness. (Nu 14:22)

That they are the people of inheritance. (Dt 4:20) And that they were one day servants to the Egyptians. (Dt 5:15)

In order that they may forget, God reminded them of what the Pharaoh did for them. (Dt 7:18) And how they kept rebelling against Him. (Dt 9:7 & 12 ; 11:3 & 4)

God Almighty swore

God has sworn to Abraham to give him and his seeds the promised land. (Ac 7:17) God told Moses that he is going to give the land that He sworn to Abraham , Isaac and Jacob to their seeds. (Ex 33:1) & (Nu 32:11)

Because God loved His people, He will kept His oath, which He sworn to their fathers. (Dt 7:8)

As God noticed that His people did not obey His voice when they were in the wilderness forty years, he sworn that, none of them will see the promised land. (Jos 5:6) God showed that land to the generation after them, as He kept His covenant. (Jdg 2:1)

Egypt and its enemies in the Old Testament.

It was mentioned that Egypt had many conflicts with the countries in the area, many nations were at odd with her.

King Shihak of Egypt came against Jerusalem. (I Ki 14:25)

The king of Assuyria put So the king of Egypt in prison. (2 Ki 17:4) Later, Pharaohnechoh, king of Egypt went against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates. (2 Ki 23:29)

The king of Babylon took the land pertained to the king of Egypt. (2 Ki 24:7)

Shishak king of Egypt came against Jerusalem. He took away the treasures from the house of the Lord, even the shields of gold which Solomon made. (2 Ch 12:2 & 9)

It was mentioned too that Necho king of Egypt fought against Carchmish. (2 Ch 35:20)

And finally , the king of Egypt took silver and gold, at Jerusalem.

16- In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of hosts, which he shakes over it.

17- And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that made mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the Lord of hosts, which he had determined against it.

18- In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the Lord of hosts; one shall be called. The city of destruction.

19- In that day shall there be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord.

20- And it shall be a sign and for a witness unto the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the Lord because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a savior, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.

21- And the Lord shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the Lord, and perform it.

22- And the Lord shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the Lord, and shall be entreated of them, and shall heal them.

23- In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.

24- In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land:

25- Whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.