### Exodus

## Chapter 1

1These are the names of the Sons of IsraEl that came to Egypt with their father Jacob and their families:  
  
 • 2ReuBen,  
 • SimeOn,  
 • Levi,  
 • Judah,  
 • 3IshSachar,  
 • ZebuLun,  
 • BenJamin,  
 • 4Dan,  
 • NaphTali,  
 • Gad, and   
 • Asher.  
  
  
5Then [there was] JoSeph [who lived] in Egypt; so altogether, there were 75 of these people who [descended] from Jacob.  
  
  
6[In time], JoSeph, his brothers, and that entire generation died. 7But the children of IsraEl grew and multiplied into a large and strong [nation], and the land helped them to grow.  
  
8Then a new king became the ruler over Egypt who didn’t know JoSeph [possibly SobeKemsaf I]. 9And he said to his nation:  
  
 ‘{Look!} The children of IsraEl have [grown tremendously] and they’re now more powerful than we are!  
  
 10‘So, let’s be crafty in the ways that we deal with them, because if they continue to grow, and then we find ourselves at war, they could side with our enemies!  
  
 ‘And after they beat us in war, they will leave our land!’  
  
11So he appointed [governors] over them, whose [job] was to make them do hard labor; and they built fortified cities for PharaOh, including Pithom, RaMesse, and On (the City of the Sun).  
  
12But the more they held [the IsraElites] down, the faster they grew.  
  
Well, they multiplied so much and grew so strong that the Egyptians hated the children of IsraEl! 13So the Egyptians became tyrants over IsraEl 14and made their lives unbearable by forcing them to work hard by making bricks from clay and working in the fields… Whatever needed to be done.  
  
And they were also dealt with violently.  
  
15Then the king of Egypt told the midwives that [served] the Hebrews (one was SepPhora and the other was Poua):  
  
 16‘When you serve as midwives to the Hebrew women and they’re about to give birth, kill [the baby] if it’s a boy, but leave it alone if it’s a girl.’  
  
17However, the midwives feared God and wouldn’t do what the king of Egypt told them… They allowed the male [babies] to live. 18So, the king of Egypt called for the midwives and asked them:  
  
 ‘Why haven’t you [killed] the male [babies]?’  
  
19And the midwives answered PharaOh, saying:  
  
 ‘Hebrew women aren’t like the women of Egypt, because they give birth before the midwives arrive, so they [already] have their children!’  
  
20As a result, God dealt kindly with the midwives, while the [IsraElites] continued to multiply and grow very strong. 21Also, these midwives that feared God were able to start families.  
  
22Then PharaOh told all his people:  
  
 ‘Whenever a male is born to the Hebrews, you must throw it into the river… But let the females live.’