

## **MONDAY June 3 The Historical Background**

When Jacob's family arrived in Egypt after experiencing famine in Canaan (*Genesis 46*), the Egyptian king was friendly toward the Hebrews because of Joseph and all that he had done for the Egyptians.

"And Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.' Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, 'Bow the knee!' So he set him over all the land of Egypt" (*Gen. 41:41-43, NKJV*).

**What was the key to Joseph's amazing success in Egypt after such a rough start?** (*Read Gen. 37:26-28 and Gen. 39:2, 21.*)

**"And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian."**

**Genesis 39:2**

**"But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison."**

**Genesis 39:21**

The most plausible historical background to the Joseph story is the following: the new ruler, in Exodus 1:8 (ESV), "who did not know Joseph," is Ahmose [AH-MOSE] (1570 B.C. -1546 B.C.). Next came Amenhotep I [AMEN-HO-TEP] (1546 B.C. -1526 B.C.), the ruler who feared the Israelites and oppressed them. Later Thutmose I [THUT-MO-SA] (1525 B.C.-1512 B.C.) issued the death decree for all the Hebrew male children. His daughter Hatshepsut [HAT-SHEP-SUIT] (1503 B.C.-1482 B.C.) was the princess who adopted Moses to be her son. Pharaoh Thutmose III [THUT-MO-SA] (1504 B.C.-1450 B.C.), who was for some time co-regent [JOINT RULER) with Hatshepsut, [HAT-SHEP-SUIT] was the pharaoh of the Exodus.

The Exodus occurred, according to the best calculations, in March 1450 B.C. (see William H. Shea, "Exodus, Date of the," *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, edited by Geoffrey W. Bromiley et al., vol. 2 [Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 1982], pp. 230-238). To understand the time of the Exodus, study the following biblical texts: *Gen. 15:13-16; Exod. 12:40, 41; Judg. 11:26; and 1 Kings 6:1 (see also Acts 7:6; Gal. 3:16, 17).*

The first chapter of Exodus covers a long period—from the time of Joseph, when his father Jacob with the entire family entered Egypt, to Pharaoh's death decree. Though some debate exists over the exact number of years, what matters is that,

even with His people enslaved in a foreign land, the Lord did not forget them.

THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH AND SHEWED HIM MERCY AND GAVE HIM FAVOR IN THE EYES OF OTHERS. AND JOSEPH RESPONDED TO GOD AND LEARNED TO TRUST HIM. THE STORY OF JOSEPH, HIS BROTHERS TREACHERY, AND GODS GREAT MERCY AND FAVOR OFFERS US A POWERFUL LESSON FOR THESE LAST DAYS. THIS LESSON IS ENCODED IN THE 7th CHAPTER OF REVELATION AND THE SEALING OF GODS PEOPLE IN THE TIME OF INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT.

REV 7:6

GENESIS 49:16, 17

GENESIS 41:51

[2 Chronicles 33:1-13]

That is, even though many details about the Hebrews in Egypt at that time remain hidden, at least for now (see 1 Cor. 13:12), the revelation of God's character still shines through the pages of this book, as it does all through Scripture. We can know that no matter how bad things seem, God is always there, and we can trust Him in whatever bad situation we find ourselves.