

## Lesson 14 Why Did Slavery Become the Beginning of Freedom?



### Introduction

Slavery became the beginning of freedom because it was in suffering that the people realized their complete dependence on God and cried out to Him with all their hearts.

When human support systems collapse, the way opens for God to act.

God does not create slavery, but He uses it to awaken a person, shape them, and lead them to true freedom.

👉 **God allows slavery to lead to freedom through turning to Him.**

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### 🎯 Lesson Goal

To examine the period of Israel's life in Egypt from the death of Joseph to the Exodus. This period lasted about 400 years and was a time of testing, formation, and preparation of the nation.

To understand why God allowed slavery in Egypt, how He used it to shape His people, and how He led them to freedom—and how this same principle applies to our lives today.

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## Key Scriptures

### **Exodus 1:8–11 (NKJV):**

“Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph... Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens...”

👉 In this verse we see the death of a generation and the loss of historical memory.

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### **Exodus 1:6 (NKJV):**

“And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation.”

👉 After Joseph’s generation died:

- The living witnesses of God’s works were gone
  - The living memory of God’s miracles faded
  - Only written history remained—and it was no longer valued
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**Psalms 106:21 (NKJV):** “They forgot God their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt.”

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**Exodus 2:23–25 (NKJV):** “The children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out... So God heard their groaning...”

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**Exodus 3:7–8 (NKJV):** “I have surely seen the oppression of My people... and have heard their cry... So I have come down to deliver them...”

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**Exodus 12:41 (NKJV):** “At the end of the four hundred and thirty years... all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.”

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## Historical and Geographical Context

After Joseph’s death, several generations passed. The Israelites lived in Egypt, in the land of Goshen—a fertile region in the Nile Delta.

Over time:

- A new Pharaoh came to power

- Joseph was forgotten
- Israel began to be seen as a threat

This led to slavery that lasted about 400 years.

👉 One key truth runs through this entire period:

**God allows slavery to lead to freedom through turning to Him.**

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## 1. The Forgetting of Joseph — The Beginning of Slavery

**Thesis:** When people forget God’s works, spiritual and physical oppression begins.

**Explanation:** The new Pharaoh “did not know Joseph.” This was not just a lack of knowledge—it was a rejection of history.

God had once used Joseph to save Egypt from famine, but that was forgotten.

This reveals an important spiritual principle:

➔ When the memory of God’s works disappears, injustice and spiritual decline begin.

The Israelites in Egypt gradually changed from honored guests into slaves:

- First, the Egyptians became afraid of them
  - Then they placed them under strict control
  - After that, they forced them into hard labor
  - Finally, they took away their freedom and oppressed them harshly
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## Practical Applications

### ♦ Do not forget God’s works

When a person forgets what God has done, gratitude disappears.

✅ Keep a spiritual record—write down what God is doing in your life.

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### ♦ The danger of gradual decline

Slavery does not come suddenly—it begins with small compromises.

✅ Watch your decisions—small compromises matter.

## 2. Slavery and Suffering — God’s School of Formation

**Thesis:** God allows difficulties to shape His people and prepare them for their calling.

**Explanation:** The Israelites suffered:

- hard physical labor
- pressure and fear
- lack of freedom

But it was in these very conditions that God was forming them:

- they became one nation
- they realized their need for God
- they stopped relying on Egypt

**Interesting:**

The more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied (**Exodus 1:12, NKJV**).

👉 This shows that God’s plan cannot be stopped—even through suffering.

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### Practical Applications

♦ **Difficulties shape character**

God uses pressure to strengthen a person.

✅ Don’t run from difficulties—seek to understand what God is teaching you through them.

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♦ **God works even in pain**

Sometimes it feels like God is silent, but He is still working.

✅ Trust God, even when you don’t see immediate results.

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## 3. The Cry to God — The Beginning of Freedom

**Thesis:** Freedom begins when a person sincerely turns to God.

**Explanation:** The Israelites began to cry out to God.

This was not just a cry—it was:

- realizing their helplessness

- giving up trust in themselves
- turning fully to God

The Bible says:

- God heard
- God remembered His covenant
- God saw their suffering

👉 It is important to understand:

God had not forgotten—He was waiting for the moment when the people would turn to Him.

👉 Here is the key:

**God allows slavery to lead to freedom through turning to Him.**

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## Practical Applications

### ◆ Sincere prayer has power

God hears not formal words, but the heart.

✅ Pray honestly—tell God everything as it is.

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### ◆ Recognize your need for God

As long as a person relies only on themselves, they will not seek God.

✅ Learn to trust God in every situation.

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## 4. God's Answer — Preparing Deliverance Through Moses

**Thesis:** God not only hears—He prepares a specific plan of salvation.

**Explanation:** God began to act through Moses:

- He saved him from death
- He raised him in Pharaoh's palace
- Then led him through 40 years of preparation in the wilderness

👉 This shows: God's answers are not always immediate—but they are always precise.

God was not just preparing an escape from Egypt—  
He was forming a leader and a plan of salvation.

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## Practical Applications

- ♦ **God works ahead of time**

Even when you don't see it, God is already at work.

✔ Trust God's timing, not your expectations.

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- ♦ **Preparation is more important than speed**

God prepares a person before using them in ministry.

✔ Value the difficult seasons of preparation in your life.

## 5. The Exodus — From Slavery to Freedom

**Thesis:** God brings His people not only out of slavery, but into a new calling.

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**Explanation:** The Exodus was not just an escape—it was:

- the birth of a nation
- the beginning of a new story
- a transition into covenant with God

Israel moved:

- from slavery → to freedom
- from Egypt → to the Promised Land
- from fear → to trust

👉 However, although the Israelites left Egypt physically, inside they remained “slaves” for a long time.

On their way to Canaan, they were afraid, complained, wanted to return to Egypt, and did not immediately learn to trust God.

True freedom is not only leaving bad circumstances—it is an inner transformation: learning to live according to God's will, trusting Him, and obeying Him.

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## Biblical Confirmation

**Exodus 16:3 (NKJV):**

“And the children of Israel said to them, ‘Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat...’”

👉 This verse shows:

- they were physically free
- but their hearts were still drawn back to Egypt

👉 **It is easier to leave Egypt than for Egypt to leave your heart.**

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## Practical Applications

### ♦ God brings complete freedom

He does not just improve your situation—He changes your direction.

✅ Allow God to change not only your circumstances, but your heart.

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### ♦ Freedom requires responsibility

After freedom begins a new way of life.

✅ Learn to live by God's principles, not by the old habits of "Egypt."

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## 💬 Discussion Questions

1. Why did God allow Israel to go through slavery?
  2. How did slavery help shape the nation?
  3. Why did freedom begin with a cry to God?
  4. How does God work when it seems like He is silent?
  5. What can be "slavery" in a person's life today?
  6. What does true freedom really mean?
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## 🏠 Homework

### 📖 Practical:

Read **Exodus 1–3**.

Write a short response:

👉 Where do you see God working in these chapters, even when it seems like He is silent?

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## 🎨 Creative Task:

Draw a simple diagram:

**Slavery → Cry → God's Response → Freedom**

Add notes:

- how this happened in Israel's story
  - how this can happen in your life
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