

What To Do When Things Get Hot - *Exodus 1*

Purpose: to show that God uses even difficult things for good to those who love Him and to encourage us to ask Him to reveal his purpose for us.

Have you ever been in a Sauna? I still remember the very first time that I entered that steamy room filled with a bunch of people that I did not know:

- At first it was ok
- Then it got hot!
- Then the eucalyptus vapours began to make my chest uncomfortable
- Just when I seemed to adjust, someone poured water on hot stones and things became even hotter!
- I didn't respond too well – I got out of there quickly!

How do you respond when things go from good to bad?

- Do you blame yourself?
- Do you blame others?
- Do you blame God?
- If we are God's people who are destined to do great things why then, do things seem to be so difficult?

There is something similar that we can learn in Exodus chapter 1 (read the entire chapter). We read that something happened gradually over the course of time for God's people:

Things became bad for them –

- There is a new king who did not know Joseph and did not remember:
 - That Joseph saved their lives
 - That Joseph made them rich
 - That Joseph made them great

Yet there were some positive things for them -

- God was faithful to His promise to Abraham
- Fruitful – like healthy trees
- Increased abundantly – like fishes
- Multiplied – very numerous
- Grew exceedingly mighty – became strong

But things became worse -

- The new king lies to cause the Egyptians to fear God's people
 - *"...the children of Israel are more and mightier than we..."*
 - *"...lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land."*
- The new king exploits them (takes advantage of them)
 - He makes them build their cities (Pithom and Raamses)
 - He makes them serve with rigor
 - He made their lives bitter with hard bondage

After a while, things became much worse –

- They attempted to kill all of the male children

One would think that if Joseph really understood that the Egyptians would eventually treat the children of Israel like this, he probably would have told them to return to the land of promise as soon as the famine had ended. Not so, for he knew what God had promised Abraham:

Gen 15:13 - *Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.*

Gen 15:14 - *And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.*

Notice what he told his brethren just before he died:

Gen 50:24 - *And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."*

Gen 50:25 - *Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."*

Think of the situations that you have faced, or are even facing now, that seem as if there is no solution, no end in sight, no way out.

- A relationship that is broken
- A job that is lost
- An illness or disease for which there is no cure
- A loved one that has gone astray

If you have no sense of what God is doing, then you will not be able to handle adversity.

Pro 29:18 - *Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.*

Conclusion

Are you going through a difficult situation?

- A broken relationship?
- Difficulty at work?
- Long-term illness or disease?
- Family members that are fighting against God?

If you are a child of God, He is working things for your good!!!

Rom 8:28 - *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

- Ask God to show you what He is doing in your life.
- When the sauna gets hot, the humidity rises, and then someone seems to stir things up even hotter, remember that the heat is good for you!