

A decorative wavy line in pink and white runs vertically down the left side of the page.

THE STORY OF MOSES

The logo for New Life Church Bristol, featuring the letters 'nlc' in a stylized, overlapping font within a pink square.

New Life
Church
Bristol

INTRODUCTION

RICHARD BROWN

EXODUS 1

NIV

¹ These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; ³ Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; ⁴ Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. ⁵ The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt.

⁶ Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, ⁷ but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

EXODUS 1

NIV

⁸ Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. ⁹ “Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. ¹⁰ Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”

EXODUS 1

NIV

¹¹ So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labour, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³ and worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁴ They made their lives bitter with harsh labour in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labour the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

EXODUS 1

NIV

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶ “When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” ¹⁷ The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. ¹⁸ Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?”

EXODUS 1

NIV

¹⁹ The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.”

²⁰ So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

²² Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

EXODUS – AN HISTORIC ACCOUNT

- The events of Exodus date around the 15th century BC
- The most likely author of this book is Moses
- This story is relevant for us today in helping us understand God's work of salvation.



BACKGROUND

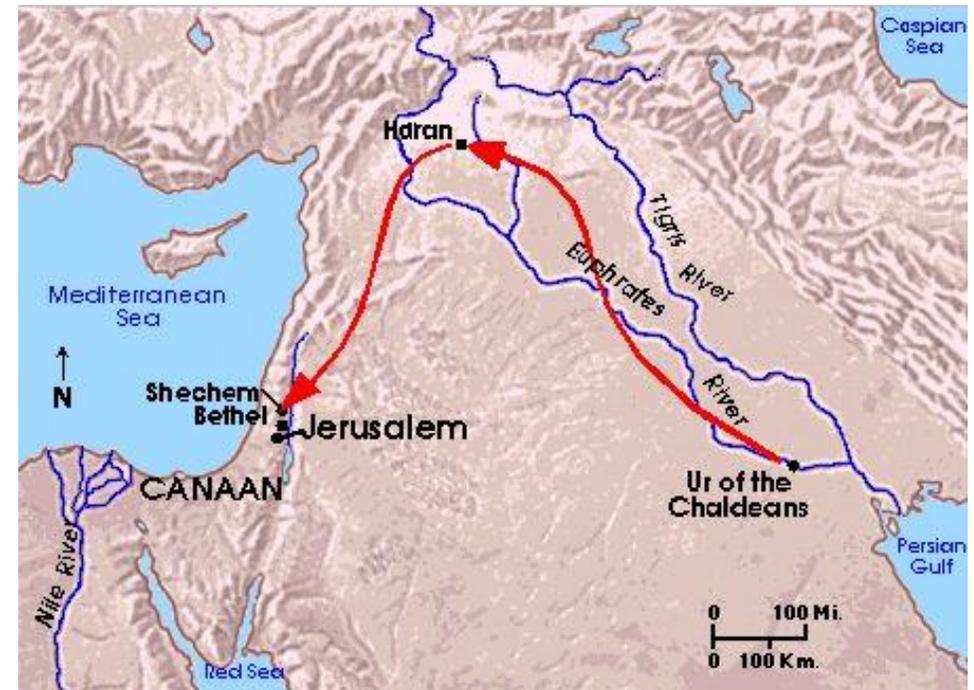
- God's original intention for mankind - *"be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and rule over it"* (Genesis 1:28)
- Mankind sinned and the rest of scripture is about God's plan for salvation.



BACKGROUND

God's promise to Abraham

“Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ‘I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’” (Genesis 12:1-3)

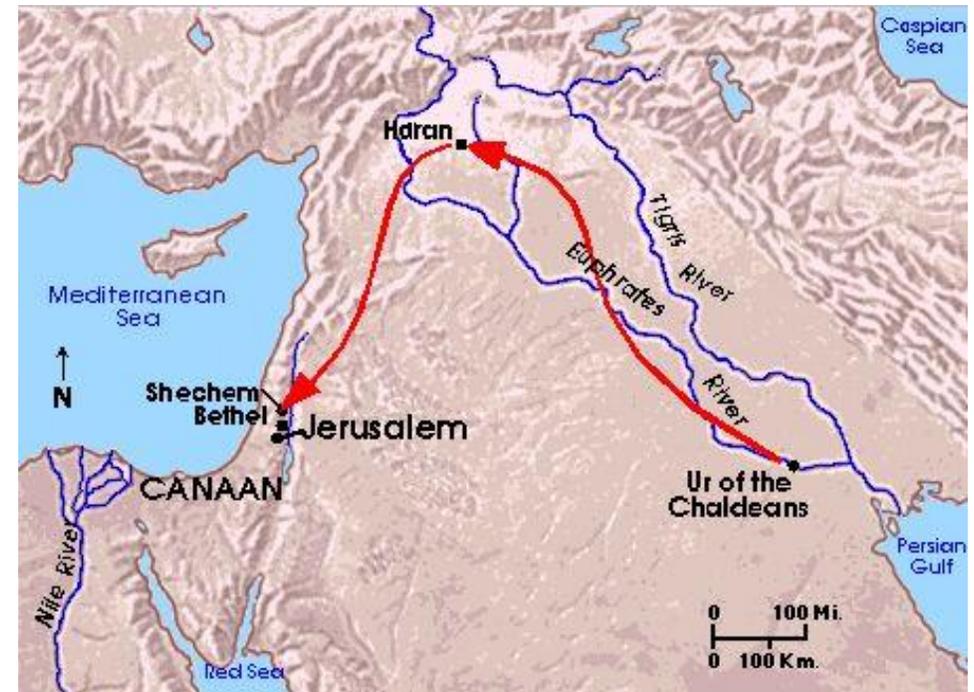


BACKGROUND

God's promise to Abraham

“I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me”.

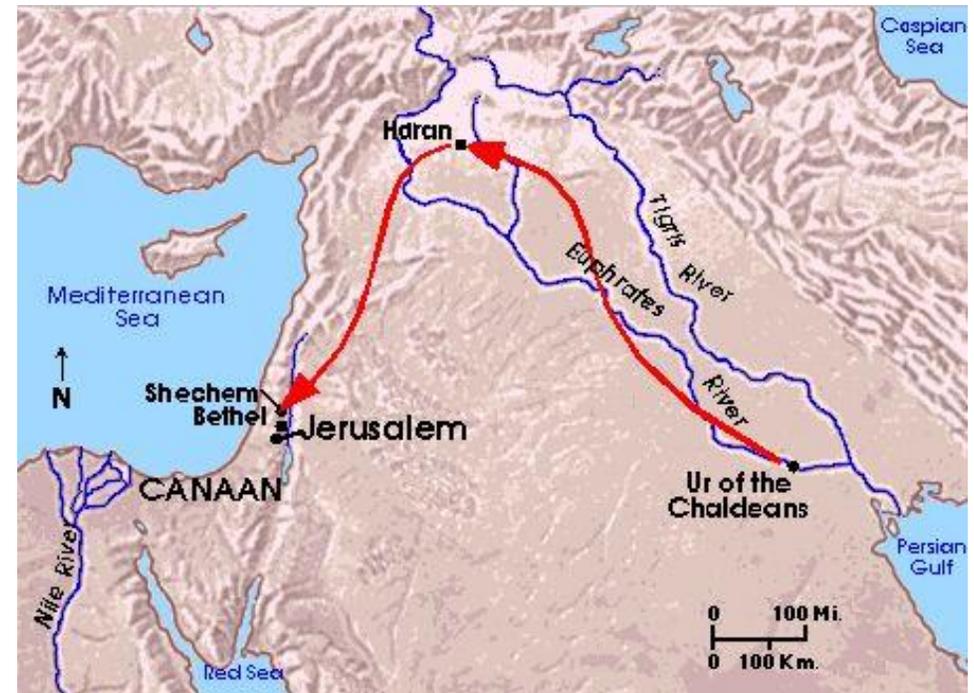
(Genesis 22:17-18)



BACKGROUND

God's promise to Abraham

- The children of Israel are settled in Canaan, but they have not taken possession of the land.
- They are a family, but not a nation.



BACKGROUND

The story of Joseph

- Joseph is taken to Egypt as a slave
- God is with him and he finds favour with Pharaoh
- Joseph supports Egypt and surrounding areas through seven years of famine



BACKGROUND

The story of Joseph

- Jacob and his family move to Egypt
- *“I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again.”* (Genesis 46:3-4)



BACKGROUND

The story of Joseph

- Jacob and his family settle in Goshen, one of the most fruitful parts of Egypt.
- It is here that the children of Israel start to grow into a nation.
- This is where Exodus 1 starts



BACKGROUND

God's purposes will always prevail...

- Nothing can stand in the way of God's purposes
- The children of Israel are flourishing in Egypt, as promised by God.
- However...

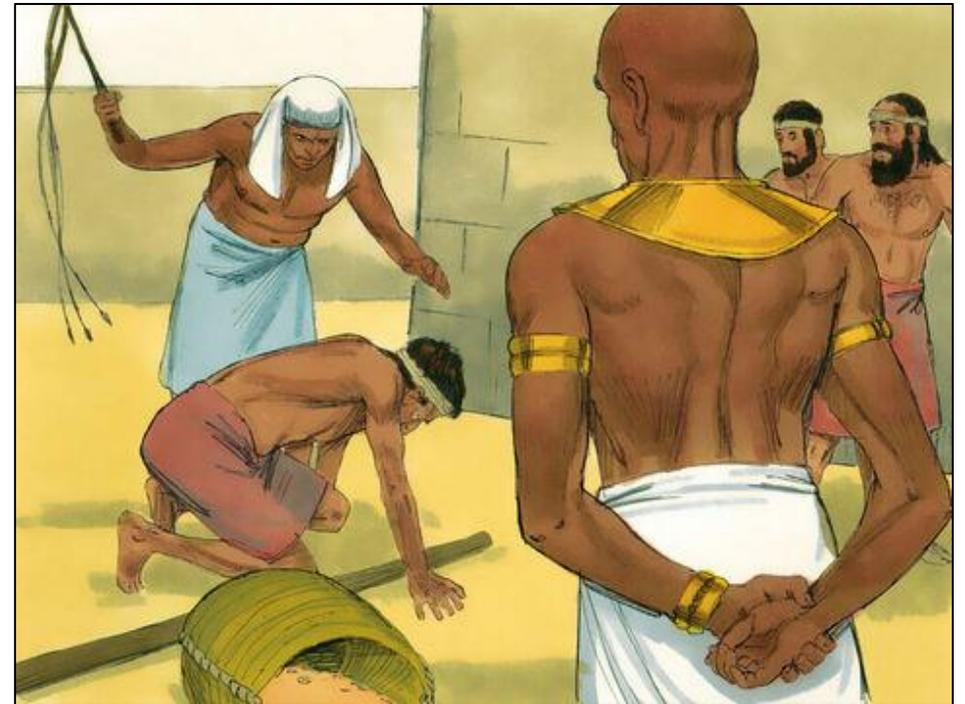


BACKGROUND

...but the journey might not always be easy

Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.

(Genesis 15:13-16)



THE WORLD IS CHANGING

- At the start of this story the children of Israel are welcomed visitors to Egypt
- Now they have become despised and suppressed, even in danger for their lives



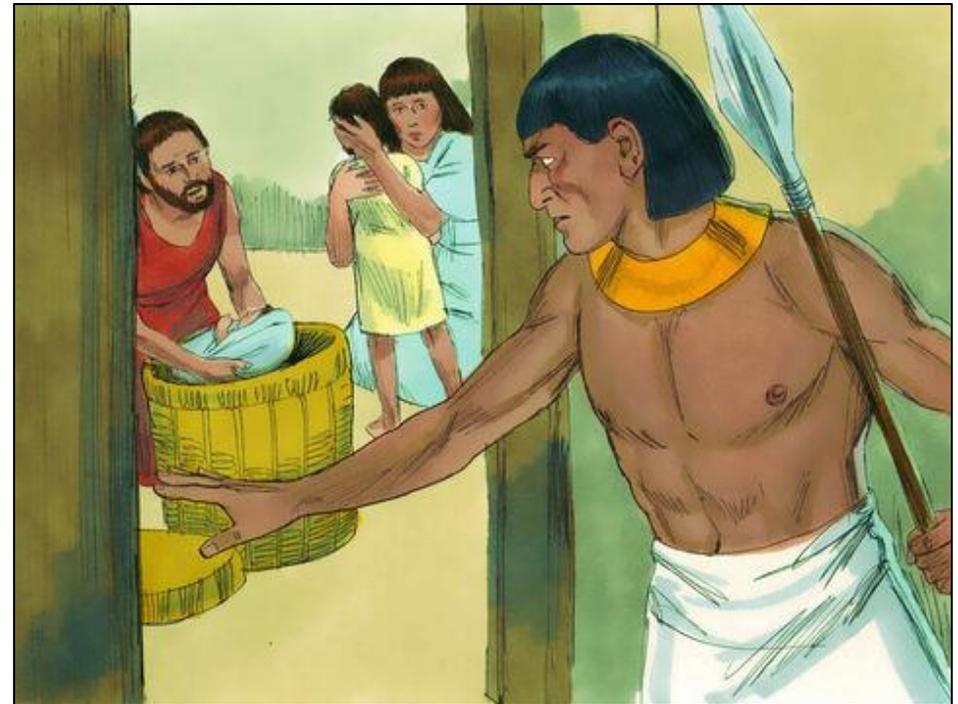
THE WORLD IS CHANGING

- Christianity used to be a pillar in society
- Today it is being relegated to the side lines
- The church is struggling to speak the truth



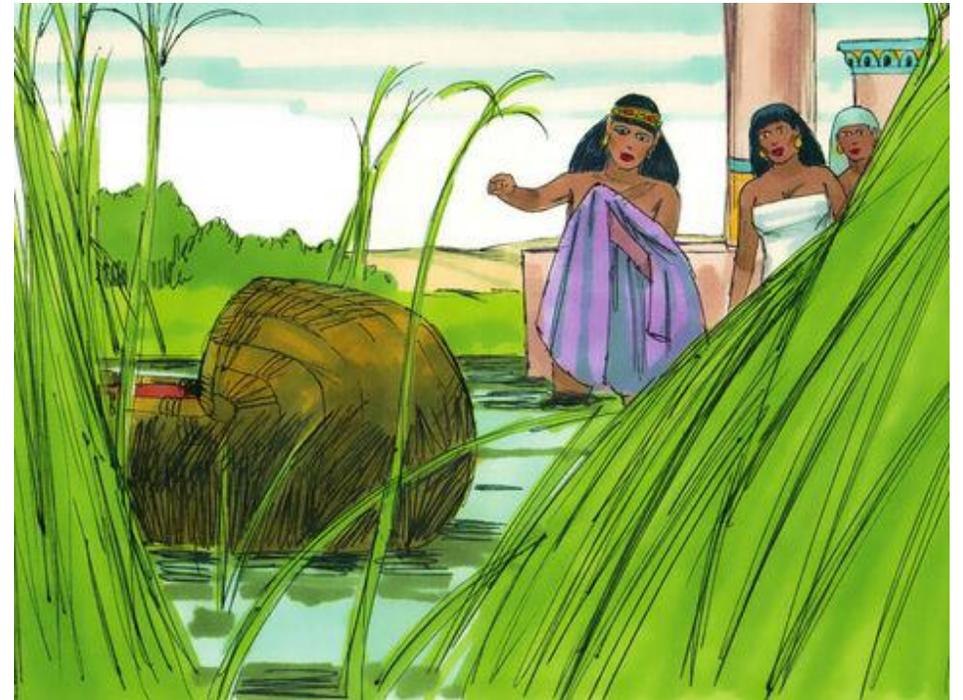
IS THERE ANY HOPE TODAY?

- Is there any hope for the church today?
- Do we have a message that people will listen to?
- How do you feel about bringing a child or grandchild into the world right now?



THE STORY OF HOPE

- No matter how hard Pharaoh tried to suppress the children of Israel, they continued to grow
- In spite of the suppression, Moses is born and is kept safe.
- Jesus was born in similar circumstances and was kept safe in Egypt.



THE STORY OF HOPE

- No matter what we might be facing today, if we remain in God's purposes we cannot fail.
- As we travel with Moses on this journey, what does God want us to learn?
- Unless you go with us...

