God
Israel and Egypt

Introduction

For the gospel of redemption in Exodus there must be a consideration of the providential movings of God in love for the children of Israel, the deep seated sinfulness of Israel, the change of the political government in Egypt, and the moral conditions of the Amorites.

Israel and Egypt

1) For four hundred years the children of Israel were slaves to a pagan idolator, Pharaoh. For whatever reason, the Israelites began to get curious about the news gods and idolatry was rampant in Israel. They were not as Abraham had been, a worshipper of the true God. Ezekiel 20:2-10 records how they had abominations, defiling images, and they did not forsake the gods of Egypt.

2) From the rational reasoning Pharaoh became alarmed at the growth of the children of Israel numerically and the fear they would join with other nations to fight against Egypt.

3) It would seem a last resort or perhaps the godly among them began to cry unto the Lord for deliverance. Knowing the pledge of God to Abraham, there would have been a recognition the time was nearing for the fulfilment of that promise.

Why did God not act sooner?

One would think if God was so powerful, able to control nations and their attitudes to His people, why did He let them suffer for 400 years? There are some questions that cannot be answered but one must never question the rights of the Almighty. Nevertheless, there is at least one specific reason and other suggested reasons:

a) God waited until the iniquity of the Amorites was full. God always demonstrates his abundant mercy for it is not His desire that any should perish. However, there comes a point when there is no hope of any recovery from any individual and then God will judge.
b) One possibility. When the children of Israel went into Egypt, they were 70 people and even a generation later they would never have been a nation to rouse the concerns of Pharaoh. Things must develop naturally and after 430 years they had developed from a family into a nation. They were now apparently two million individuals.
g) The difficulty of life in Egypt with its long blistering days and slavery would have developed a longing to be free, a wondering if there would ever come a time of relief and a promised land. Spirits would have been low as parents thought of their children with nothing but the slavery of the parents for the future. Surely they would have longed for a deliverer as when having killed the Egyptian Moses thought his people would understand.

In the process of delivering the children of Israel from the land of Egypt and the power of Pharaoh, there were a number of decisions to be made and promises to be fulfilled. There was:

a) The promise of God to Abraham that his people would be released after 400 years of bondage.
b) The preparing of Moses to be the shepherd and the strategy for these people in the wilderness.
c) The ancient Israelites had to hear and understand, accept as truth and belief that Moses had been sent from God and had a message of deliverance from God.
d) No one else who had a message of deliverance.
e) The plagues to subdue the Prince of Egypt and the Egyptians.
f) The Passover itself and the redemption could this really work? It is such an outlandish idea.
g) When in the Palace Moses would have been educated with all its wisdom which was earthly, therefore would have been given instruction in these various gods.
h) It must remember that the children of Israel were not a God fearing people, they were idolaters (Ezek. 20:5-31). When God set them free from the power of the Egyptians, they were liberated potentially from

the adherence to the gods of Egypt (Ex. 12:12; Num. 33:4). I say potentially for Jeremiah records that they were idolaters when in the wilderness and in the land. "And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?" (2 Sam. 7:23)

1. "For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods" (2 Kgs. 17:7).

The possibility is we in this age, who are redeemed with a perfect sacrifice, can find idols in our hearts. An idol is anything or anyone we place more trust in, which takes priority in time or energy that comes before God.

a) "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." (1 Jn. 5:21)
b) "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry." (1 Cor. 10:14)
c) "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry." (Col. 3:5)

May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13

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