



Depressed, Oppressed & Suppressed

(When is enough, enough? - PART 1 OF 2)

October 16, 2017

EXODUS 2:23-24 NKJV – (23) Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. (24) So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. (25) And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged *them*.

Life has a way of building up, accumulating our problems and our pain. We attempt to camouflage our challenges through entertainment, drugs, business, and for some, even sleep. Despite our best efforts to hide our hurt, in quiet moments when the television is off and our friends have gone home - when we have to wake up, when the drugs wear off, we return to the real world and say to ourselves, "I am really not doing that well."

God's people (Israel) were going through a painful situation. They were in bondage. They were in bondage in a land called Egypt. We all know the general story. They were being held hostage by a situation that would not let them go. When I write about bondage or strongholds, I am speaking about being in a situation or in a circumstance as a hostage. You are in a situation and perhaps you feel trapped.

Egypt is a foreign land with a foreign king (Thutmose III). Egypt did not care about the Israelites; they were forced into a situation that caused them bitterness. (**READ 1:13**). **Verse 14** - To make bricks was dirty, difficult work. A great river called the River Nile flows through Egypt. Every year the River Nile floods. When the floods go down, the waters would leave plenty of mud. But the *Hebrew workers had to dig out the mud. Then they had to mix it with straw. They placed the mixture in wooden boxes. Then they dried these in the sun. In the city called Thebes, it shows people who are making bricks out of mud. Also there is a record from King Rameses' time. It gives details about the number of bricks that slaves must produce. It tells about 40 slaves, and each man had to produce 2,000 bricks. If only one man made only 1,360 bricks, they punished him.

The Israelites also **had to do** (involuntary) hard agricultural work. They had to bring water to the fields and probably dug canals to bring water from the River Nile...hard work. The Israelites had many difficulties. They were slaves to evil bondage!

Many are in heavy bondage today and you have become a slave to Satan. Maybe you have become complacent in his instructions and now you feel unworthy, have low self-esteem or may be in denial. Are you there? King Satan's foot has been on your neck, maybe for a long time. Are you ready? Ready like the Israelites to be free? **Verse 23** – This verse said they cried out to God. Their tears (crying) went up to God. Are you looking unto the hills for relief from your situation? The Israelites did and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. What does it mean that "God remembered?" Well, this phrase is not saying He forgot, but instead He finally paid attention to them. Why not before? God did not acknowledge their pleas in the past because of their rebellion and unwillingness to live without sin.

When we refuse to listen, live, reverence God as we were created to do, we will get our way. Many today are complacent, believing "I can survive this." How does this apply to us today? (See **1 CORINTHIANS 10**)

Next week we will look at the results, when God intervenes in our **Depressing, Oppressing & Suppressing status**.

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 8:34

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

You can't keep dancing with the devil and wondering why you're still in hell!