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# GOD'S UNBREAKABLE PROMISE TO THE BROKEN

## EXODUS 1



There have been times when I've found it especially hard to trust God. One time was when the opposite of what God promised seemed to be happening. I've also struggled when opposition to the Gospel was especially intense and the wicked seemed to be winning. Another time was when there were no church leaders in a time of great crisis.

These were hard times when I found it hard to trust. I'm sure you identify with this. There are times when we feel broken and God's promises feel broken. That's when we need help to believe God's unbreakable promises to the broken. We find that help in Exodus 1 where God gives us three helps to trust his promises in hard times.

- **GOD'S PROMISE IS FULFILLED IN SURPRISING WAYS**
- **GOD'S PROMISE IS ALWAYS OPPOSED**
- **GOD'S PROMISE USES WEAK PEOPLE**

### LEARNING

#### **GOD'S PROMISE IS FULFILLED IN SURPRISING WAYS (1-7)**

Exodus 1 opens with God's people in Egypt, far from the land God had promised them. Jacob's sons and their families enter Egypt (1-5). Joseph has already been there many years (5). Then Joseph dies together with all his brothers (6). What a disaster! What about God's repeated promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob of a multiplied people in the Promised Land? They're all dying in Egypt.

Notice the surprising next verse. **But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them (7).**

**GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES,  
EVEN WHEN WE CAN'T KEEP OUR FAITH.**

So, they all lived happily ever after? No, God's promise is always opposed.

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## GOD'S PROMISE IS ALWAYS OPPOSED (8-14)

Israel is growing but so is opposition. The new Pharaoh had hard thoughts towards Israel, imposed hard bosses on Israel and demanded hard work from Israel (8-12). **So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves and made their lives bitter with hard service...In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves (13-14).**

GOD'S PROMISES WILL BE BATTERED,  
BUT THEY WILL NEVER BE BROKEN.

So, does God raise up a mighty leader at this point? Sometimes, but not always.

## GOD'S PROMISE USES WEAK PEOPLE (15-21)

God's promise is overcoming this opposition as Israel continue to multiply. Pharaoh therefore commands the midwives to murder all Hebrew baby boys as they are born (15-16). This looks desperate again. Israel is finished, the Messianic line is ended, salvation is lost, and the devil is victorious. If only there was another powerful person like Joseph to deliver them. Instead God went to the other end of the scale. He used Egyptian midwives to protect his people and his Gospel. **But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live (17).** As a result of their courageous faith, God protected the midwives from Pharaoh and provided families for them (18-22).

GOD USES WEAK PEOPLE TO  
FULFILL HIS STRONG PROMISES.

LOVING

God kept his promises in the most surprising way in the birth of Jesus to a poor family. God's promise was so opposed in Jesus that it culminated in his murder. But Jesus defeated all opposition, including death, and then used weak disciples to fulfil his promises in the New Testament church. I love this promise-making promise-keeping God in Joseph's time, in Jesus's time, and in our time. I love the God who makes unbreakable promises to the broken.

LIVING

In hard times, let's trust God's unbreakable promises to the broken and God will provide and protect.

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