

Exodus 1:6-15 New International Version

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.

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."

¹¹ So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, 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 labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them **ruthlessly**.

Having Jesus is enough in a Season of Waiting Refuse to give up, give in and give

The Pain of Waiting In the midst chaos, confusion I lose control.

I believe in Christianity because it is true not because it is easy.

What do you believe? Is God good? Am I being punished?

Sermon Note

Where is God?

A Study on the Life of Moses

There are moments in life when all you can do is wait.

The **PROBLEM** with Waiting

There are important questions to be answered...

MATERIALISM – do it yourself, get started, make it happen

<u>SPIRITUALISM</u> – things are improving, evolving

BIBLICAL THEISM – God's Plan, God's Time, God's Way

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Prov 3:5-6

The **<u>PURPOSE</u>** of Waiting

Our willingness to wait reveals the **VALUE** we place on what we're waiting for.

Be Still and KNOW

The **PROMISE** of Waiting

God sees those who hurt God strengthens those who trust God delivers those who wait

Those that **wait** upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. Isaiah 40:31



He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:29-31 ESV)

This whole idea of waiting goes against what we naturally and culturally do. When our natural inclination is to step on the gas, God is often telling us to hit the brakes. Waiting is often difficult because we equate it with inactivity. But waiting, which can also be translated as hoping, means to wait with expectation, to look for. The implication is that we are waiting and watching with expectation towards what God is going to do.

During these periods of waiting, God is often refueling and refining us for what He has in store. Everything around you needs to be refueled after much use. Your car has to stop for gas, your body needs to sleep, and your cell phone needs to be recharged. So, why can't this be the case with our spiritual life as well? What may seem like inactivity from our perspective is often purposeful preparation from God's perspective. Be encouraged that those who wait end up even stronger after the Lord renews them.

If you are in one of those seasons...

-Are you allowing God to refuel you?

-Are you tuning into His voice?

-Are you recognizing His activity around you?

During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. ²⁴ God **heard** their groaning and he **remembered** his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. ²⁵ So God **looked** on the Israelites and was **concerned** about them. Exodus 2:23-25

The Israelites groaned under their slavery and cried out. Their cries for relief from their hard labor ascended to God:

²⁴ God **listened** to their groanings.

God **remembered** his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

²⁵ God saw what was going on with Israel.

God understood.