

“In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation. But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land.

Exodus 1:6-7 NLT

lectio // Exodus 1:1-7

Just living and raising their families, they became a powerful force. That alone threatened the new ruler. “Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done.” This always fascinated me. Joseph had become such a powerful man in the country, he had even married an Egyptian woman and raised Egyptian children. He had heroically saved both Egypt and Israel through a dream and gifts of leadership and managing resources, yet still the new ruler knew nothing about him or their own history. Some have speculated that the new ruler wasn’t even born in Egypt, thus had not cultural understanding of their history. What happened to all the great sons of Pharaoh? Archeologists have still not found this new ruler’s existence nor any of the details mentioned in Exodus. The great country of Egypt did not continue in power throughout world history. All that is left is some amazing pyramids, writings, artifacts and tombs of Pharaohs past. Here I am reminded that in every season (or era) of life there will be a new ruler who does not know about the past - succession! New leaders bring new plans, new cultures, new opportunities, and most are focused on making a name for themselves. Can you blame them? It’s their time to flex their knowledge, their skills and abilities. It’s their time to build a whole new kingdom that reflects who they are in this vast span of time we call history. They only have a few decades if they’re lucky, maybe more if nepotism works for them and not against them. But God had big, bigger and biggest plans for Israel. A plan that would eventually effect the entire world. A plan that had its roots, its core foundation in the special relationship God had with Abraham that would multiply (as God said it would) to bless the entire human race. Israel was the caretaker for his plan for thousands of years. Then, at the right moment in time, God physically came to earth to fulfill God’s desire for all humans and the whole earth. But it would take a very long time and many, many, many rulers, kings and leaders to get the story to its climatic end.

Dad,

I have said it and written about it dozens of times. Your stories are VERY LONG. And just when people begin to lose heart and hope, you do spectacular things to remind us that your plans are good and assuredly will happen. My part is to cooperate with you, not struggle and fight to get my own way. It is to hear and see what you are doing and join with you, and lead others to do the same.