

GOD'S CONCERN

Exodus 3:16

God cares about suffering saints.

I. ISRAEL'S CONDITIONS

A. A DISINTERESTED DYNASTY (1:8)

- A new king who was unfamiliar and/or uninterested in Joseph's era

B. A DISTRESSING BONDAGE (1:9-14)

1. The king's concern (9-10)

- Israel's number and potential

2. The king's plan (11-14)

a. Affliction (11-12)

b. Rigorous Labor (13-14)

3. Israel's bitterness (14)

C. A DIABOLICAL INFANTICIDE (1:15-22)

1. The midwife plan (1:15-16)

2. The national plan (1:22)

D. DESPERATE SIGHS (2:23)

1. The potential: The afflicting king dies!

2. The peril: No change ... they are still bound and burdened

3. The problem: Seeking a political remedy rather than a spiritual one

II. GOD'S CONCERNS

A. HIS CARE (2:24-25)

1. He hears their groans

2. God remembers His covenant - See Gen. 12:11-13, 15:18-21 and 17:3-8

3. He sees sons: The generations of Abraham

4. God notices them: He knows them to be His own and lovingly accepts them

B. HIS COMMITMENT (3:7-8)

1. Discovery (7)

a. Seeing their affliction

b. Heeding their cry (see v. 9 also)

c. Aware of their suffering

Over please >

2. Descent (8a)
 - Coming down, getting involved
3. Deliverance (8b)
 - From bondage to bounty

C. HIS COMMUNICATION (3:16)

1. The Revelation
 - a. Assignment: Gather the Elders
 - b. Appearance: God has shown Himself to Moses
2. The Report
 - a. God is indeed concerned about you
 - Whether you're suffering or celebrating ... God cares!
 - b. God is aware of your situation ... God's informed

III. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. GOD WAS WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES

1. Multiplying the people (1:7, 20)
2. Preparing Moses (Chap. 2)
3. Making His people hopeless (2:23)
4. Attentive but not always active (2:24)

B. OUR HELP COMES FROM GOD NOT OTHERS (2:23)

- See Jeremiah 33:3 and Psalm 121:1-2 along with II Tim. 4:16-17 and I Peter 5:7

C. GOD IS NOT ALWAYS ON OUR TIMETABLE

1. Israel wept and waited for at least 80 years before God stepped in
2. Consider Luke 1:13

D. GOD WORKS AMID AFFLICTION

1. His Plan
 - Without the difficult conditions, God's concerns would have remained unknown to Israel
2. His Purposes
 - a. To purge and purify His people
 - b. To unite the afflicted through a shared agony
 - c. To draw people closer to Himself - Read II Cor. 12:9 and James 1:1-5

CONCLUSION:

God cares for you and me ... Might we praise Him for His concern.

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