

The title of this book in the Hebrew tradition is *Ve-elleh Shemoth*, which simply means, "Now these are the names." I love that. To the world, these people were becoming a "problem" or a statistic, but to God, they were individuals with names.

I. The God Who Remembers Names (Exodus 1:1-7)

The book opens by listing the sons of Israel who came into Egypt. It's a reminder that God's work always begins with people. We see a transition here: the seventy souls that went down with Jacob have multiplied into a great multitude.

"But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them." (Exodus 1:7)

Between the end of Genesis and the start of Exodus, centuries have passed. Sometimes it feels like God is silent during the long gaps of our lives, but silence is not absence. He was busy fulfilling His promise to Abraham to make him a great nation. He is the Good Shepherd who, as it says in John 10:3, *"calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."* He knows exactly where you are today.

II. The Strategy of the Enemy (Exodus 1:8-14)

A new king arose over Egypt who "did not know Joseph." This Pharaoh represents the world system and the enemy of our souls. He looked at God's blessing on the Israelites and saw it as a threat.

His response was twofold: affliction and bondage. He set taskmasters over them to afflict them with burdens, hoping to crush their spirit. But notice the divine irony in Exodus 1:12: *"But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew."*

This is a spiritual principle: The enemy tries to use pressure to break you, but God uses that same pressure to build muscle in you. Pharaoh meant the bricks and mortar for evil, but God was using the hardship to wean Israel off the comforts of Egypt and prepare them for the Promised Land.

III. Faith Over Fear (Exodus 1:15-22)

When hard labor didn't work, Pharaoh turned to a darker scheme: infanticide. He commanded the midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, to kill the male Hebrew children.

These women stood at a crossroads—obey the most powerful man on earth or obey the King of Kings. Exodus 1:17 tells us, *"But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them."* Because they honored God, God provided for them and gave them households of their own.

Pharaoh's final decree was for all his people to cast every Hebrew son into the river. This was a direct attack on the Messianic line. Satan has been trying to stop the "Seed of the Woman" since the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15). Whether it was Pharaoh, Athaliah in 2 Kings 11, or Herod in Matthew 2, the enemy has always sought to destroy the Savior.

Practical Application: "But God..."

We often find ourselves in "Egypt" of our own making or by circumstance—places of pressure, routine, or even spiritual bondage.

- **The World's View:** You are a number, a worker, or a nuisance.
- **God's View:** You are a "name" written in the Book of Life.

When you feel the "taskmasters" of anxiety, debt, or sin pressing down on you, remember that growth often happens in the "thick" of the affliction. Do not fear the king; fear the Lord.

A Challenge for the Believer

Are you trying to find comfort in Egypt, or are you ready to be led out? Often, we pray for God to take away the burden, but God is using the burden to make us ready for the journey. Stand like Shiphrah and Puah. Choose to fear God more than you fear the consequences of the world. Integrity is doing what is right when the highest authority on earth tells you to do what is wrong.

An Invitation to New Life

Maybe you feel like those Israelites today—enslaved to a life that offers no hope, building "store cities" for a world that doesn't care about your soul.

The Bible tells us that we have all been in bondage to sin. But there is a greater Deliverer than Moses. Jesus Christ came to this earth and shed His precious blood on the cross to pay the debt for your sins. He didn't just die; He rose again, and His resurrection declares to the entire universe that He is God, Savior, and Lord.

You don't have to live in bondage anymore. If you will turn from your way and put your trust in Him, He will call you by name and lead you into a life of true freedom. Will you give your life to Him today?

The Gospel is so simple a child can understand it, yet so profound that we will spend eternity marveling at it.

Becoming a follower of Jesus isn't about joining a religion or checking off a list of rules; it's about a restored relationship with the God who created you and loves you.

Here is the "Roadmap" from the Scriptures, using what many call the ABC's of Salvation:

1. Admit You Are a Sinner

The first step in any real relationship is absolute honesty. We have to be willing to look in the mirror of God's Word and admit that we have all "missed the mark." The Bible tells us plainly in Romans 3:23 that *"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

Think of sin not just as "doing bad things," but as a rejection of the very design specifications God established for us when He created us. He is the Architect of life, and when we choose our own way

over His, we break that design. Because God is perfectly holy and perfectly just, our sin creates a gap that we cannot bridge on our own.

It is a hard truth to swallow, but a necessary one: we must realize that we cannot save ourselves by being "good enough." No amount of religious effort or moral "patchwork" can fix the separation. We don't need a self-help plan; we need a Savior who shed His blood to wash us clean. The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate proof that He has the authority to bridge that gap, declaring once and for all that He is God, Savior, and Lord.

2. Believe in Jesus Christ

This is the absolute heartbeat of the Gospel. It isn't just about head knowledge or acknowledging historical facts; it is about a deep, personal trust in the person of Jesus Christ.

To truly follow Him, you must believe that Jesus is exactly who He claimed to be—the eternal Son of God, the Great "I AM." But that belief must move from your head to your heart as you place your life entirely in His hands.

The Bible tells us that when Jesus went to the cross, He shed His precious blood to wash away every one of your sins. He took your place so that you could take His. And when He rose from that grave three days later, the resurrection stood as the ultimate proof that He is indeed God, Savior, and Lord. Placing your trust in Him means letting go of your own efforts and resting completely in His finished work.

- **His Sacrifice:** He went to the cross and shed His blood to pay the penalty for your sins. He took the judgment you deserved so you could receive the mercy you didn't deserve.
- **His Resurrection:** He didn't stay in the grave! The resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord. It proves He has victory over death and the power to give you eternal life.

3. Confess Him as Lord

To "confess" means to agree with God. You agree that your sin is wrong, and you turn away from it (this is called *repentance*). You then publicly acknowledge that Jesus is now the "Boss" or the Lord of your life. Romans 10:9 says, *"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

A Simple Prayer of Faith

If you are ready to follow Him, you can speak to God right now. There are no "magic words," but you can pray something like this from your heart:

"Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and I need Your forgiveness. I believe that You shed Your blood on the cross for my sins and that You rose from the dead to give me life. I turn from my sins and I invite You to come into my heart. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me. Amen."

Your New Life Starts Now

If you prayed that and meant it, the Bible says you are a new creation. Here is how to grow in this new relationship:

- **Read the Word:** Start in the Gospel of John. It's God's "love letter" to you.
- **Talk to God:** That's all prayer is—talking to Him like a friend.
- **Find a Fellowship:** Get plugged into a Bible-teaching study group where the Word is taught verse-by-verse so you can grow deep roots.