

# Exodus 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:

## Analysis

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**And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour** (וַעֲבָדוּ וַיַּעֲבִדוּ, vava'avidu Mitsrayim et-benei Yisra'el befarekh)—**Rigour** (פָּרַךְ, farekh) denotes brutal, crushing, ruthless oppression. This intensified cruelty follows the failure of forced labor to suppress population growth. The verb **made to serve** (וַעֲבָד, avad) will become thematic in Exodus—Israel exchanges service to Pharaoh for service to YHWH (3:12, 4:23). The escalating harshness prepares for Israel's desperate cry (2:23) and God's compassionate response (2:24-25).

## Historical Context

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Egyptian sources rarely document harsh treatment of laborers, but archaeological evidence and comparative ancient Near Eastern practices confirm brutal conditions for state slaves. The Hebrew text's emphasis on "rigour" suggests treatment exceeding normal forced labor—deliberate cruelty intended to break the people.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How do you maintain spiritual identity when external forces seek to crush your dignity and humanity?
2. What does the escalation from forced labor to brutal oppression teach about the nature of sin and tyranny?

## Interlinear Text

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וַעֲבַדוּ	מִצְרַיִם	אֶת	בְּנֵי יִ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּפָרֹךְ:
<b>made</b>	<b>And the Egyptians</b>	H853	<b>the children</b>	<b>of Israel</b>	<b>with rigour</b>
H5647	H4714		H1121	H3478	H6531

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