

# Exodus 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls: for Joseph was in Egypt already.

## Analysis

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**All the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls** (שבעים וְנֶפֶשׁ, shiv'im nefesh)—The number **seventy** represents completeness in Hebrew thought (cf. seventy nations in Genesis 10, seventy elders in Exodus 24:1). **Souls** (נֶפֶשׁ, nefesh) emphasizes living persons, not mere statistics. From this small clan God would multiply a nation—fulfilling His promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:5). **For Joseph was in Egypt already** shows divine providence: the one sold into slavery became the savior who preserved the covenant family. This verse sets up the miraculous multiplication to follow.

## Historical Context

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The seventy count matches Genesis 46:27 and Deuteronomy 10:22, providing historical verification. This small immigrant group arrived during the Hyksos period (c. 1700 BC) when Semitic rulers controlled Egypt, explaining their favorable reception. The population explosion that follows (v. 7) spans approximately four centuries.

## Related Passages

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

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

### Study Questions

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1. How does God's ability to build a nation from seventy people encourage faith when resources seem insufficient?
2. What does Joseph's prior presence in Egypt teach about God's providential preparation in your circumstances?

### Interlinear Text

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וְיָהּ י' H1961	כָּל H3605	וְכָל H5315	שָׁמַע י' H3318	וְיָצָא י' H3409	וְיָצָא י' H3290	וְיָצָא י' H7657
		And all the souls	that came out	of the loins	of Jacob	were seventy
		וְכָל H5315	וְיָצָא י' H3130	וְיָצָא י' H1961	וְיָצָא י' H4714	
		And all the souls	for Joseph	was in Egypt		

### Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 10:22** (References Egypt): Thy fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons; and now the LORD thy God hath made thee as the stars of heaven for multitude.

**Judges 8:30** (Parallel theme): And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten: for he had many wives.