

# 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** (שְׁבָעִים, shiv'im nefesh)—The number **seventy** represents completeness in Hebrew thought (cf. seventy nations in Genesis 10, seventy elders in Exodus 24:1). **Souls** (נפש, 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

## 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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שְׁבַע יָמִים יָעַל בְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב  
H1961 H3605 And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy  
H5315 H3318 H3409 H3290 H7657

בְּמִצְרָיִם כִּי הִי וְיַעֲשֵׂה  
And all the souls for Joseph H1961 was in Egypt  
H5315 H3130 H4714

## 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.