

# Exodus 2:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

## Analysis

**And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage** (וַיְהִי בַיָּמִים הָרַבִּים הָהֵם וַיָּמָת מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם וַיֵּאָנְחוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִן־הָעֲבֹדָה וַיֻּעָקְוּ, vayehi vayamim harabim hahem vayamat melek Mitsrayim vaye'anechu venei-Yisra'el min-ha'avodah vayiz'aku)—**In process of time** (בַּיָּמִים הָרַבִּים, "in many days") covers decades. Pharaoh's death doesn't end oppression. **Sighed... cried**—two Hebrew verbs (אָנַח, anach, groaning; זָעַק, za'ak, crying out) intensify their desperation. **Their cry came up unto God** (וַתַּעַל שְׁוַעְתָּם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים, vata'al shav'atam el-ha'Elohim)—God hears covenant prayers. This verse transitions from Moses' story to God's response, setting up the burning bush encounter.

## Historical Context

If Moses was 80 at the call (Acts 7:30) and 40 at exile (Acts 7:23), this covers ~40 years. The pharaoh who sought Moses' life died (4:19), but oppression continued under his successor. Israel's cry echoes earlier cries (Genesis 4:10, 18:20-21) that moved God to action. The narrative emphasizes that deliverance comes not from human timing but divine response to covenant people's prayers.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Israel's cry after decades of silence encourage you when God seems to delay His response to suffering?
2. What does this verse teach about prayer as the catalyst that moves God to fulfill His covenant promises?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיְהִי H1961	בְּמֵ יָם of time H3117	הָרַב יָם H7227	וְהָיָה And it came to pass in process H1992	וַיָּמָת died H4191	מֶלֶךְ that the king H4428
מִמִּצְרַיִם of Egypt H4714	וַיִּשָּׁח sighed H584	וְהַבָּנִים and the children H1121	לְיִשְׂרָאֵל of Israel H3478	מִן by reason of H4480	
הַעֲבָדָה: by reason of the bondage H5656	וַיִּזְעוּ קוֹל and they cried H2199	וָתָּעַל came up H5927	שִׁוְעָתָם and their cry H7775	אֶל H413	הָאֱלֹהִים יָם unto God H430
מִן by reason of H4480	הַעֲבָדָה: by reason of the bondage H5656				

## Additional Cross-References

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**James 5:4** (Parallel theme): Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

**Acts 7:30** (Parallel theme): And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.

**Psalms 18:6** (References God): In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

**Psalms 12:5** (Parallel theme): For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.

**Nehemiah 9:9** (References Egypt): And didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heardest their cry by the Red sea;

**Genesis 16:11** (Parallel theme): And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction.

**Genesis 4:10** (Parallel theme): And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

**Isaiah 19:20** (References Egypt): And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.

**Exodus 4:19** (References Egypt): And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life.

**Deuteronomy 24:15** (Parallel theme): At his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it: lest he cry against thee unto the LORD, and it be sin unto thee.