

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 בָּמִינִים קָרְבִּים כַּהֲמִינִת יְמִינָה) vayehi vayamim harabim hahem vayamat melekh Mitsrayim vaye'anechu venei-Yisra'el min-ha'avodah vayiz'aku)—**In process of time** (בָּמִינִים קָרְבִּים) "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** (וַיַּעֲלֵל שׁוֹעֲלָתָם אֶל-בָּהֳלָה) 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

וְלֹא	וְמֵת	תֵּלֶךְ	בְּמִתְּמִימָה	בְּרִכְבָּה	יָמִים	וְיָמִים
H1961	of time	H7227	And it came to pass in process	H1992	died	that the king
	H3117				H4191	H4428
מִצְבָּח	וְיָמִים	בְּנֵי	וְיָמִים	וְיָמִים	וְיָמִים	וְיָמִים
of Egypt	sighed	and the children	of Israel	by reason of		
H4714	H584	H1121	H3478	H4480		
בָּעֲבֹדָה:	וְיָמִים	וְיָמִים	וְיָמִים	וְיָמִים	וְיָמִים	וְיָמִים
by reason of the bondage	and they cried	came up	and their cry	unto God		
H5656	H2199	H5927	H7775	H430		
מִן	מִן	מִן	מִן	מִן	מִן	מִן
by reason of	by reason of the bondage	by reason of	by reason of	by reason of	by reason of	by reason of
H4480	H5656					

Additional Cross-References

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 hearest 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.