

Exodus 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

Analysis

And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows (וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה רָאֹה רָאִיתִי אֶת־עַמִּי אֲשֶׁר בְּמִצְרַיִם וְאֶת־צָעָקָתָם שָׁמַעְתִּי וַיֵּדַעְתִּי אֶת־מַכָּאֲבֵי בְּמִטְרַיִם וְעַתְּסָאֲכָתָם שָׁמַטִּי מִפְּנֵי נֹגָסָם כִּי יָדַעְתִּי אֶת־מַכָּוָתָם) —
The emphatic Hebrew **surely seen** (רָאֹה רָאִיתִי, ra'oh ra'iti, infinitive + perfect) intensifies: "seeing I have seen" or "I have most certainly seen." **My people** (עַמִּי, ami)—God claims covenant relationship. Three verbs—**seen**, **heard**, **know**—show God's comprehensive awareness. **Affliction** (עָנִי, oni), **cry** (צַעֲקָה, tsa'akah), **sorrows** (מַכָּאֲבֵי, makh'ov, "pains") describe Israel's suffering. God's compassion motivates the Exodus—not mere humanitarian concern but covenant faithfulness to His chosen people.

Historical Context

This verse echoes 2:24-25 where God "heard," "remembered," "looked," and "knew." The repetition emphasizes that the Exodus springs from God's initiative, not human merit. Israel's cry has reached God (2:23); now He responds. The phrase "my people" establishes the relationship that will be developed through Sinai covenant: "You shall be My people, and I will be your God" (Exodus 6:7, Leviticus 26:12).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's emphatic 'I have surely seen' encourage you that He is aware of suffering even when He seems silent?
2. What does God calling Israel 'My people' before they've done anything to earn it teach about the basis of His covenant love?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּן אָמַר	יְהוָה	כִּי יָדַעְתִּי	כִּי יָדַעְתִּי	אֶת	עֲנִי
said	And the LORD	I have surely	I have surely	H853	the affliction
H559	H3068	H7200	H7200		H6040
עַמִּי	אֲשֶׁר	בְּמִצְרַיִם	וְאֶת	צַעֲקָתָם	שָׁמַע עֲנִי
of my people	H834	which are in Egypt	H853	their cry	and have heard
H5971		H4714		H6818	H8085
מִפְּנֵי	נִגְשָׁיו	כִּי	יָדַעְתִּי	אֶת	מַכְאֲבֵיהֶם
by reason	of their taskmasters	H3588	for I know	H853	their sorrows
H6440	H5065		H3045		H4341

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 145:19 (Parallel theme): He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

Psalms 106:44 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry:

Psalms 34:6 (References Lord): This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

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

Exodus 22:23 (Parallel theme): If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry;

Isaiah 63:9 (Parallel theme): In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

Psalms 34:4 (References Lord): I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Exodus 1:11 (Parallel theme): Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.

Genesis 29:32 (References Lord): And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me.

1 Samuel 9:16 (Parallel theme): To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.