

Divine Romance - Spiritual Warfare

Week 5 – Thursday

Exo. 1:6-14 – Footnote 6¹

I want us to pay attention to the first section of Exodus. Chapter 1, verses 8 and 9 say, “And a new king rose up over Egypt, who did not know of Joseph. And he said to his people, The people of the children of Israel are now more numerous and stronger than we.” If you go back one page in your Bible, how many children of Israel were there in Genesis 50? Seventy, sixty-six came out of the good land. There is the touching story of the brothers coming to Egypt to buy food and meeting Joseph. Then he told them to bring their brother and eventually they all come to Egypt. Joseph also gained a wife and two children in Egypt to make a total of seventy. When you turn the page, there are about two million children of Israel. Four hundred years had passed with no record of what happened during that time. Do you know what happened? Increase, lots of children, children having children. By then Pharaoh was threatened by the children of Israel because he realized that they were more numerous and stronger than the Egyptians. Then he made a plan because he was threatened by their increase: “Come, let us deal wisely with them, lest they multiply and, when some war occurs, they also join themselves to those who hate us and fight against us and go up from the land. So they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens.... But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and the more they spread out so that they came to dread the children of Israel. And the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with harshness” (vv. 10-13). This is just the first part of the plot. Pharaoh wanted to put down the children of Israel so he decided that he would do this in two steps. The first step was to wear down the older generation, to make the ones who work, work even harder to get them exhausted so that they don’t have any energy left for the worship of God nor to fight. They wouldn’t have strength to worship or to fight.