Exodus 1

Right To Life

I. Slide1 Announce:
   A. Slide2-4 Lar: Sat Men’s. C@R. REAL.
   B. Slide5-9 Serving Opportunities: Visit our App/Website for this detailed listing. Complete your ministry application online and we will help get you connected.
   C. Prayer:

II. Slide10 Intro: Right To Life (title)
   A. Our Plot: Showcasing the Glory of God in a Story of Deliverance. [but the deliverer isn’t Moses in ch.1, hmmm]
   B. Again, why are we dusting off this old book? It has so much for us today.
      1. We want to know who our God is. Ps.66:5 come and see what God has done. context the Exodus. We'll see the nature & work of God.
      2. We want to know the Gospel better. a model of redemption.
      3. We want to know our Mission better. Great commission didn’t start in the NT
      4. We want to know how to deal with Practical Issues in our lives today. Taking care of the unborn, race issues, murder, how God uses and works through ordinary people, real community, relying on God, leadership/delegation, obeying God's word, idolatry.
   C. One more overview: Exodus main point is, We are saved to glorify God, which means worshiping him the way he desires to be worshiped. [link: exodus & Tab?]  
      1. Exodus ends w/the glory of the Lord filling the Tabernacle. 40:34,35
      2. The reason God tells Moses, to tell Pharaoh, why he is bringing them out of Egypt is to worship Him/His way.

III. Slide11a BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY (1-7) (start from Gen.50:22 - Ex.1:7)
   A. Slide11b Exodus starts with the word AND in Hebrew [Vey A-lay, Shem, ben-Yisrael] Thus tying the storyline together.
B. Remember it was a good thing for the children of Israel to be in Egypt (position of privilege during famine, provision during Joseph’s life). Just not the end of the 430 years (slavery).

C. The irony is that eventually the families of the men who sold their brother into slavery ended up in slavery themselves, toiling under the hot sun for Pharaoh.

IV. Slide12a REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE (8-14) (read)

A. The situation changed. A new dynasty came to power. In with the new, out with the old. And in power-politics it's all about who you know, the new Pharaoh didn't know Joseph. [not like the old Pharaoh knew Joe, Gen.41:38]

1. Slide12b The Egyptian started fearing the Israelites, then hating them, then wanting to subjugate them.

2. This part of Exodus is about Satan’s opposition to God’s plans and promises for his people. From it we learn how to remain faithful to God, even in times of tribulation.

B. Slide12c (8-10) I hear fear, insecurity, maybe paranoia in this new leader, who thought he had a problem (prob like most dictators). [they threatened to destabilize his entire gov]

1. Some have describe this as a, “thin skin of reason wrapped around a lie.”

2. Slide12d Blaming things on ethnic minorities is always convenient because racism is part of our sinful human nature.

   a) This is what made it so easy for Hitler to promote anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany. It is why the Afrikaaners were able to use the “black threat” argument to such deadly advantage in South Africa. And it is why each new wave of immigrants - from the Irish to the Indonesians - has faced prejudice upon coming to America.¹ [it’s also why 1 million Rohingya were forced from their homes in Myanmar to Bangladesh] (they have dark skin, they look like Bangali)

3. Playing the race card worked for Pharaoh too. His advisers were only too willing to agree that something had to be done about those Israelites.

4. **Slide13a** The new policy simultaneously **solved** both Egypt’s **immigrant problem** and its **labor problem**.

C. (10) **Let us deal shrewdly with them** - Pharaoh **unwittingly** becomes an obstacle to the covenant promises God gave to Israel.

D. **Slide13b** (11) **afflict them with heavy burdens** - The servitude described moves from **domestic slavery** (as was the case w/Joseph leading Egypt, Gen 39:1-5) **now to harsh oppression**.

E. (11) **built store cities** - the Hebrews were believed to have produced **the building materials**. Maybe only a few were in the **work gangs** on actual projects.

1. **Side facts**: the Israelites **did not** help build the pyramids (most were built centuries before the time of Moses). Organized groups of **skilled workers** - not slaves - **built the pyramids and temples**.

F. **Slide13c** (13,14) An interesting **literary feature** of Exodus is that **significant words often come in groups of seven**. (see vs.7 also)

1. Here, each of the 7 different Hebrew words were like **another crack of a slave driver’s whip**.

2. Yet Pharaoh was actually striking blow after blow **against the God of Israel**, **because ultimately this was a spiritual conflict**. **Pharaoh was fighting against God by resenting His people**.

3. Pharaoh tried to prevent them from **fulfilling their calling** to **work** and **play** to the glory of God.

4. **Satan** likes nothing better than to **torment God’s people**. He used Pharaoh to persecute the Israelites for their faith.

   a) **Slide13d** It is important to remember **both how much they suffered**, and also **how much they learned from their suffering**.

5. **Side Note**: In vs.10 Pharaoh says **pen-yirbe**, which means “**lest they multiply**”, but in vs.12 God says **ken-yirbe “the more they shall multiply.”**
a) The Bible uses this Hebrew pun to show that the joke was on Pharoah, who had always prided himself on being politically astute.

b) Pharaoh wasn’t a rebel without a cause, he was a rebel without a clue!

G. Also if God left them their in Egypt they would have been Egyptianized, melted right into their race, and lost their identity as God’s special people.

1. To a large degree, they began to adopt the superstitions, and idolatries, and iniquities of Egypt; and these things clung to them, many years later.

H. Slide14 It would be bad enough to be Political Slaves (8,9) they could not vote, they had no say, no rights whatsoever. They were immigrants, refugees, ethnic minorities, who had “0” political power. [Immigration: it seems everyone wants to help a few of “them”, but most don’t want a whole bunch of “those people” in our backyard]

1. But on top of Political Slavery, they were Economic Slaves (11) ultimately they were given land, but it hadn’t happened yet. For now it’s just being worked to death.

2. On top of Political & Economic Slavery, they were Social Slaves (15-22). Now enters a state sponsored genocide.

V. Slide15a RIGHT TO LIFE (15-22) (read) Pro-Life Resistance. From Slavery to Slaughter

A. (15) Shiphrah (beautiful) & Puah (fragrant/flower) - dedicated their lives to medical care. The original Florence Nightingales. [their goal was to preserve & protect life]

B. Human life is only sacred because: God Originated it, He Sustains it, He has Stamped it in His image & has given a Plan for it. Slide15b There is only a Sanctity to Human Life IF there is a God.

1. If God is pulled out of the equation (or never placed in it) the non-theistic stance cannot start, go toward, or end w/ a sanctity of life idea, because there is no reason to think life is sacred.

   a) Sanctity/sacred = consecrated to or belonging to a god or deity.
b) Whether the **Sacred** beetle of Egypt, or the **Sacred** cows of India, for something to be deemed *sacred*, there must be a *deity* involved.

C. **Slide15c** 3 reasons why the unborn are so important: *they’re LIVING, HUMAN, BEINGs*

1. **Living** – *the state of existing.* We know an unborn child *exists.* See **4D-ultrasound**.

2. **Human** – of, or characteristic of a person or persons, such as people have. DNA – show us this unborn child is **fully human.** At conception the whole genetic code is there.

3. **Being** – an *individual Human person.* Especially distinguished from a thing or lower animal. Allowed to grow full term there is not the possibility that it might be a *dog or cat, or something else.* [Hunny, it’s gonna be a human]

a) They are thus **Living Human Persons. A Person’s a Person no Matter How Small**

4. **Slide15d** I’m actually **Pro-Choice.** I believe that *the unborn child* has a right to choose. - The problem is, a recent survey suggested that, “**most people who favor abortion have already been born.**”

5. **Oh the slogans change, but the sin remains the same.** Whether it is Adolf Hitler and his “final solution” for eliminating the Jews, or China and its “one family, one child” policy, or the “abortion-rights” movement here in the West, or Pharaoh’s “male slaughter” initiative here, opposition to *life* always fly’s in the face of the Creator. [choose life! Deut.30:19]

D. **Slide16a (17)** The Hebrew midwives were motivated by their *loyalty to God, and a sense of moral rightness* derived from their faith in Yahweh.

E. **A lie?** [A great deal of ink has been spilled over this vs, with many commentators *taking the midwives to task* for telling a *lie*] (but *God dealt well w/the midwives*)

Think about it: If what the ladies said was *literally true* (*they are vigorous & have the babies b4 we get there*), then *why would the Hebrews even need midwives?*

1. I think this is one of the places where understanding the Bible requires *a sense of humor.* Speaking tongue-in-cheek, the midwives were making sport of Pharaoh by suggesting that the Hebrews were harder than the
Egyptians. What they said was more a joke than a lie. Thus Pharaoh was mocked as well as deceived.

F. Slide16b 2 women God blessed with Motherhood.

1. Who was the 1st deliverer of Exodus? No, not Moses. No, not a man. And it's interesting that the new king/pharaoh of Egypt isn't even named, [oppressors don't deserve to be named]

2. But 2 people are named. They were the 2 who started the Exodus. They become the heroes of the story. & they were nobodies. Not royalty. Not rich. Not famous. Just 2 midwives that were brave and courageous.

   a) The no named king of Egypt commanded them to kill all baby boys birthed to the Hebrew women. But they feared God & couldn’t do it.

      (1) Later, what's God's 10th plague against Pharaoh? death of their 1st born boys.

   b) Slide16c These 2 women said, No to Pharaoh. No to power. No to oppression. No to injustice. No to the killing of babies. So they could say Yes to God.

   c) This is where courage begins. And because they feared God, He provided families for them. (God rewarded them w/the gift of Motherhood)

G. I know the story doesn’t always end with vs.21. (Or maybe it does, just in different ways? Like: adoption, foster care, nanny, babysitting)

1. Mother=A woman who conceives, gives birth to, or raises & nurtures a child

   a) Sydney J. Harris, “The commonest fallacy among women is that simply having children makes one a mother—which is as absurd as believing that having a piano makes one a musician.”

2. I know some women who have not conceived a child of their own, but who have been a mother, by every description of the word, to many children.

H. Keywords: Right To Life, Exodus, Pharaoh, Shiphrah & Puah, racism, immigrant, slavery, unborn child, Pro-Choice.
WARM-UP QUESTION:
Spring in many cultures represents new life. What’s your favorite part of Spring?

“Be Fruitful and Multiple” - (Exodus 1: 1-7)
As a sign that God was with the Israelites was that their population multiplied. What are other signs of God producing fruit in a group or area?

“Rebel Without a Clue” - (Exodus 1: 8-14)
Fear of different people led the Egyptians to treat the Israelites harshly and to use them. How do we see fear of others cause injustice in our society today?

“Right to Life” - (Exodus 1: 15-22)
The Pharoah’s fear of immigrant minorities lead to injustice, which is contrasted with Shiprah’s and Puah’s faith leading to courage to protect life. What are ways God’s people today can sacrifice to show life is sacred in all its forms?

REFLECTION QUESTION:
Shiprah and Puah favored God and disobeyed Pharoah’s orders to kill the babies, which could have cost them their jobs and even their own lives. Focus on God instead of outcomes led to courageous sacrifice, unlike the fear of Pharoah which led to hate and abuse. Lately, what’s been motivating your actions: fear or faith? What are ways God has revealed to you that help you choose faith over fear?