

I'd like to look at the last ch. of the book of Genesis. In the last ch. of Genesis, ch. 50 we will read vv.20-21. "Joseph said to his brothers You intended to harm me but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.\* So then, don't be afraid, I will provide for you and your children." And after that Joseph lived many years and the children of Israel were free and happy and everything seemed to be going very well.

Thus the book of Gen. ends, and the book of Exodus follows it immediately. In Ex. 1:8 we read, "Then a new king who did not know about Joseph came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. ~~Comem we nyst deal sxxvdkxxvdk~~ shrewdly with them . . . v. 111 so they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Ramases as store cities for Pharaoh." One of the great stories of the Bible is the story of the deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage.

This morning I'd just like to call youra attention to the change that took place. There were the Israelites with Joseph. Everything was going well. They were happy. They were prosperous. Joseph was at the very summit of power in Egypt right next to the Pharaoh. Then the next book begins, we don't know how many centuries later, but it begins with a situation in which they have a Pharaoh who did not know about Joseph. We have people suffering oppression, being put under terrible treatment and a tremendous change had taken place in between.

Why did this change take place? Changes do take place in life constantly. Tremendous changes take place in nations. Sometimes these changes take place suddenly. We do not know whether that was the case there. There was a Pharaoh who did not know about Joseph. That of course is one of the things about a nation that has autocratic rule. There is often the possibility that a new ruler has entirely different ideas x from his predecessor and a tremendous change can take place. But more often these changes take place gradually. Little by little forces move ahead that ultimately make tremendous changes in nations.

I think of our own country. Three centuries ago it was a haven of freedom. People came from all over Europe, people who were oppressed. Particularly people who were forbidden the free exercise of their religion. They came from many countries of Europe to this country in order to have a place where they would be free, where each family, each group would be free to worship the Lord as they felt the Bible called them to do. Where they would be free to build up a nation without the oppression of a tyrannical government.

A little over two centuries ago we had a great revolution which we considered as the beginning oof this nation. In that revolution, the great slogan with which it began was "taxation without representation is tyranny." Now by this statement of course they did not mean simply that if you will give us a few men who will represent us then we can be oppressed in any way the bodies to which they go may feel inclined to do. What they meant was that being forced to give money without having an opportunity to consider whether the objects to which it is going