

## God's People Grow Through Suffering Exodus 1:1-14

Main Idea: Although God's people are suffering they are also growing.

I. God multiplied his people (Exodus 1:1-7)

II. In fear, Pharaoh enslaved the Israelites but they only multiplied more (Ex. 1:8-14)

III. Why might God have allowed his people to suffer?

A. To \_\_\_\_\_ them as a people and to minimize \_\_\_\_\_.

B. To prepare them for the \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ the land of Palestine.

C. To prepare the Israelites to \_\_\_\_\_ Egypt and to \_\_\_\_\_ God.

IV. Application:

A. Realize you have a choice to grow through suffering or to grumble about it.

B. Feel encouraged that your suffering is part of God's plan.

<sup>13</sup> *God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. <sup>14</sup> "But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. <sup>15</sup> "As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup> "Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete." Genesis 15:13-16 (NASB)*

<sup>11</sup> ~'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11 (NASB)

C. Trust in God's goodness even when you don't understand his ways.