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**Pastor's Bible Study**  
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## **Exodus**

### **THE EXODUS!** **Exodus 11-14**

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#### The Exodus

Exodus 11 is the account of Moses' final warning to Pharaoh. The LORD revealed to Moses the details of the last plague --- the death of the firstborn.

#### The Plan

The LORD devastated Egypt with the final plague. He also gave specific instructions to the Children of Israel to protect them from the destroyer who would be His agent of judgement.

#### The Plunder

The LORD had led many Egyptians and their officials to have a favorable view of Moses and Israel (Exodus 11:1-3). Consequently, Israel plundered the Egyptians (Exodus 12:33-36).

#### The Power of Yahweh

The LORD demonstrated His power through both His judgment of the Egyptians and His miraculous deliverance of Israel. Here is how it happened:

- Israel was instructed to have each household kill a lamb for a final dinner and place its blood on the doorframes of their homes.
- On that fateful night, at midnight, the destroyer made his way through Egypt and slayed all the firstborn of the Egyptians.
- Pharaoh relented from his rebellious actions and gave Moses and Aaron permission to lead Israel out of Egypt.

- Moses prepared the people to leave Egypt. He gathered the bones of Joseph to take them with them.
- The LORD manifested His guiding presence for Israel via a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
- The LORD led Israel eventually to the edge of the Red Sea. Meanwhile, Pharaoh changed his mind (shock!) and charged his military to pursue the escaping slaves and return them to Egypt.
- The LORD parted the Red Sea and Israel crossed on dry ground!
- The LORD destroyed the army of Pharaoh in the crushing waves of the Red Sea.
- Israel had been delivered by the mighty hand of the LORD!

How many Israelites were delivered through the Exodus? The answer hinges primarily on the understanding and translation of the Hebrew word, *'eleph*.

*'eleph* -Exodus 12:37 --- the NIV translates as “thousand”

*ragli haggebarim* -the NIV translates as “men on foot”

Many scholars disagree with this translation. Douglas Stuart argues that this phrase should read something like this, “there were 600 chieftain (or young) foot soldiers.” This would be about 7200 young, able-bodied men. Add those who were older --- and families --- and the approximate number of Israelites would be around 30-35,000.

If we use the traditional translation of “thousand” - then there were between 1.5 - 2 million Israelites.