

THE HOUSE OF BONDAGE Egypt as Model of Oppression

Exodus represents more than the story of Israel's beginnings or the historical curiosity of an oppressed people breaking free from a dominion system. It presents a paradigm of oppression (and liberation). Here are several elements in oppression as presented in Exodus.

1. Population control: There is an odd state intrusion into the natural process of reproduction.
2. Racism: The oppressed group is set apart by ascriptive qualities.
3. Alienated Work: The fruits of labor are controlled by the dominion system.
4. Domination of Time: The oppressed do not control their time. Leisure, culture, faith, and rest are excluded because of the perpetual time crunch.
5. Deified Power System: There is a spiritual element where the dominion system takes on divine pretensions and competes with God for worship.
6. Unrestrained Power: The dominion system has unregulated power over the oppressed.
7. Leaderlessness: The oppressed have no visionary leaders.
8. Limited Idea of Freedom: The oppressed have no vision of deliverance or an alternative mode of living. There is no language of liberation.
9. Attractiveness: The dominion system provides attractions and some comforts to the oppressed.
10. Paranoia: The dominion system is anxious about enemies and uses this to control the oppressed.
11. Inflexibility: The dominion system refuses to modify its oppression and is impervious to negotiation with the oppressed.

Places where this paradigm is operative

1. debt slavery and consumer culture
2. dictatorship
3. addiction
4. oppressive corporate cultures
5. dysfunctional families
6. under dominion of sin