



ESTIMATED POPULATION TOTALS

Estimating the populations of Egypt and the Israelites during the time of the ten plagues involves a combination of biblical records and historical analysis.

POPULATION OF THE ISRAELITES

The Bible provides specific numbers that help estimate the Israelite population:

Census Data: Numbers 1:46 records that the number of Israelite men aged 20 and above, able to go to war, was 603,550.

Total Population Estimate: Considering women, children, and the elderly, scholars often estimate the total Israelite population to be between 2 to 2.5 million people at the time of the Exodus.

POPULATION OF EGYPT

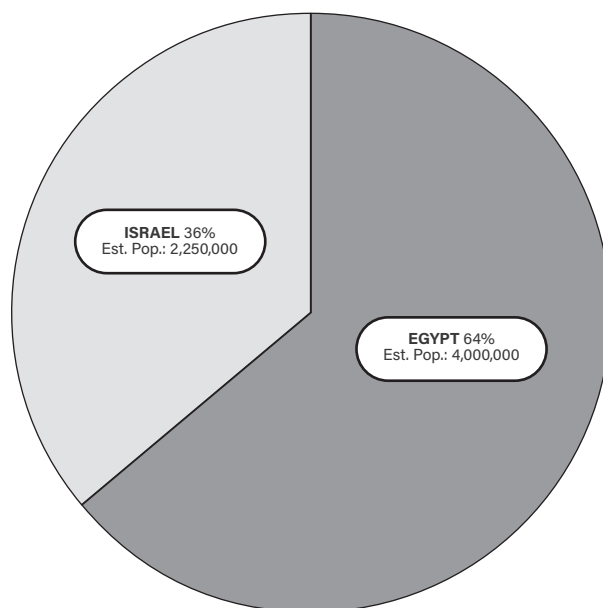
Estimating Egypt's population during this period is more complex due to limited historical records.

Scholarly Estimates: Some scholars suggest that Egypt's population during the New Kingdom period (which includes the likely time of the Exodus) ranged from 3 to 5 million people.

CONSIDERATIONS

- **Historical Records:** While the Bible provides detailed numbers for the Israelites, Egyptian records from this period are less specific, making precise population estimates challenging.
- **Scholarly Debate:** The exact timing of the Exodus is debated among scholars, which affects population estimates. Different proposed dates fall within various periods of Egypt's history, each with differing population sizes.

While the Israelite population is estimated to have been around 2 to 2.5 million based on biblical records, Egypt's population during the same period is approximated to be between 3 to 5 million, though these figures are subject to scholarly interpretation and debate.



OTHER PEOPLES

During the time when Egypt enslaved the Israelites, they likely also enslaved or conscripted other groups of people, though the Bible specifically focuses on Israel's oppression (**Exodus 1:8-14**). Historically and archaeologically, Egypt was known to enslave various foreign peoples through conquest, trade, and economic pressures. These groups included:

NUBIANS

The Nubians, from the region south of Egypt (modern-day Sudan), were frequently conquered and brought into Egypt as slaves. They were often used for hard labor and as soldiers.

The Nubians, were an ancient people from the region

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south of Egypt (modern-day Sudan and southern Egypt), were frequently subjugated during Egypt's New Kingdom period, the likely time of Israel's enslavement. Known for their rich natural resources, particularly gold, and their skill as archers, Nubians were often captured during Egyptian military campaigns and enslaved to work in gold mines, construction projects, or serve as soldiers and domestic servants. While the Israelites' enslavement in Egypt carried unique theological significance, Nubians also experienced oppression under Egyptian rule, reflecting Egypt's broader reliance on enslaved foreign populations to sustain its economy and monumental building projects.

CANAANITES AND SEMITIC PEOPLES

Besides the Israelites, other Semitic tribes from Canaan and surrounding regions were captured or subjugated during Egyptian military campaigns. These people were sometimes brought into Egypt as prisoners of war and used for labor.

The Canaanites and other Semitic peoples during the time of Israel's enslavement in Egypt were groups from the regions of Canaan (modern-day Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, and parts of Syria) and surrounding areas. These people often came under Egyptian control through military conquests, trade, or economic dependency, especially during the New Kingdom period. Many were captured as prisoners of war and brought to Egypt as slaves to work on large-scale construction projects, serve in households, or labor in agriculture. Like the Israelites, these Semitic peoples shared linguistic and cultural similarities and were part of Egypt's broader system of forced labor, which maintained its economy and imperial power. However, the Israelites' oppression was distinct due to their growing population and God's plan to deliver them as His chosen people.

LIBYANS

Egypt often engaged in conflicts with neighboring Libyan tribes to the west. As a result, Libyans were captured and enslaved to serve as laborers or soldiers.

The Libyans during the time of Israel's enslavement in Egypt were a tribal people living to the west of Egypt, in the region corresponding to modern-day Libya. They were often in conflict with Egypt, particularly during the New Kingdom period, as Egyptian pharaohs sought to defend their borders and expand their influence. As a result of military campaigns, many Libyans were captured and brought to Egypt as slaves, where they were forced into labor, served in households, or were conscripted into Egypt's military. The Libyans' subjugation reflects Egypt's broader practice of enslaving foreign populations to support its economy, strengthen its army, and complete large-scale construction projects, similar to the treatment of the Israelites.

OTHER FOREIGN CAPTIVES

Egypt's imperial expansion during the New Kingdom period (the likely time of Israel's enslavement) brought captives from regions like Syria, Mesopotamia, and even parts of the Mediterranean. These individuals were used as slaves, craftsmen, and servants.

While the Bible focuses specifically on the enslavement of Israel as God's chosen people, Egypt's widespread use of foreign slaves reflects its economic reliance on forced labor. The Israelites' oppression was particularly severe because Pharaoh sought to suppress their growing population through hard labor and cruel treatment (**Exodus 1:13-14**). This ultimately set the stage for God's intervention and their deliverance.

The precise numbers of Nubians, Canaanites and Semitic Peoples, Libyans, and other foreign captives are unavailable.