

SPIRITUAL TASK – THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL AS GUESTS THEN AS SLAVES (Exodus 1)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story The Children of Israel were invited and honored guests when they first went down into Egypt. As time passed the reason for them being there was forgotten and the new Pharaoh committed them to slavery and set taskmasters over them. Their bondage was rigorous and their lives bitter.

Meaning Dwelling in Egypt represents scientific and natural learning, and pursuing human intelligence. It is important to spend time in Egypt. Everyone did (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Jesus). However, there is a point where it comes time to move on to move beyond merely learning and trusting in our own intelligence and to begin applying our knowledge to life and to begin pursuing higher, spiritual ideals. Pain and disorder arise from our not moving forward, and becoming dependant on ourselves instead of the Lord. We remain enslaved in our bad habits by false reasoning and toil to create brick after brick of lies to support our dysfunctional lifestyle.

Task If you have a behavior, thought pattern, or emotion that you think is destructive to your life, the only reason it can continue to exist is because you are fabricating lies to allow it to remain a part of you. Evil and disorder can only survive under a cloak of falsities and lies. Pick one thing you want to change about yourself, and go write down all the reasons (excuses) about why you have been unable to change this thing. Now write the word “lie” down next to each reason. Pray to the Lord for help and then write down three things you can do to help remove this negativity from your life. Now do them.