

- A. In a vivid way, the book of Exodus introduces to us the familiar biblical concept of *bondage*.
- B. The frequency and the emphasis on that bondage makes clear that this was a phase of Israel's history that was not to be forgotten.

I. The Reality of It

- A. The text introduces the dramatic change in the Israelites circumstances in Egypt.
- B. Pharaoh and Egypt made the Israelites lives bitter with hard bondage.
 - 1. What is meant by the idea of *bondage*?
 - 2. How did this bondage make their lives *bitter*?

II. The Reason for It

- A. The context gives us part of the explanation or reason that Pharaoh and the Egyptians began to oppress the Israelites with hard bondage: Jealousy, Fear, and Greed.
- B. There is, however, a deeper reason that explains Israel's bondage in Egypt: the sovereign working of God toward his own glorious purpose.

III. The Revelation in It

- A. A revelation of the *bitterness* and *rigor* of natural man's spiritual bondage.
- B. A revelation of the *power* of God's grace to redeem us from it.
- C. A revelation of the *sweetness* of belonging to and serving Jesus as our Lord.