

# Exodus 1

2026-05-11

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- The Pentateuch:
  - Genesis
  - **Exodus**
  - Leviticus
  - Numbers
  - Deuteronomy
- Moses
  - c. 1400 BC



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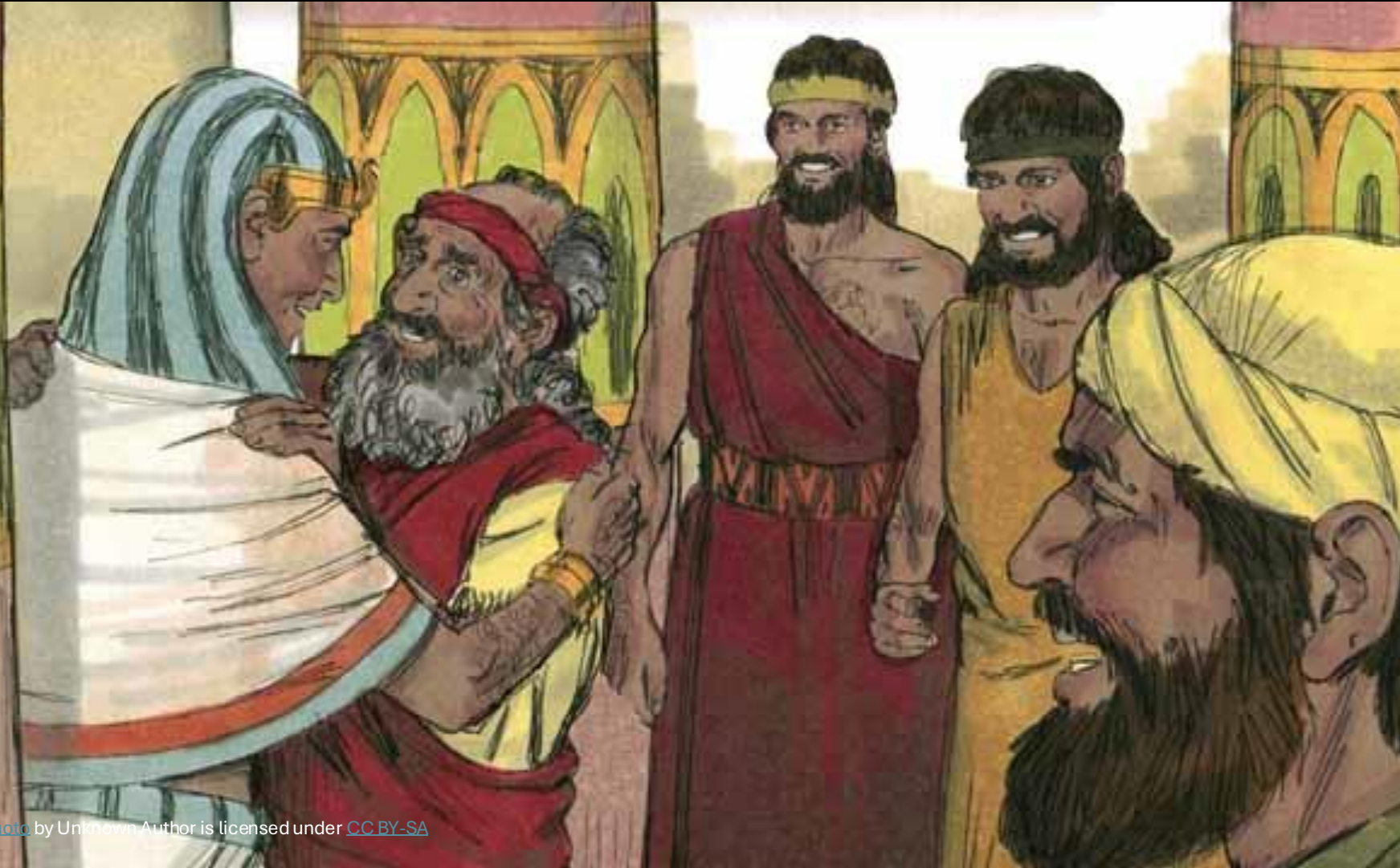
# The Exodus





- **1** These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to **Egypt** with Jacob, each with his family: **2** Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; **3** Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; **4** Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. **5** The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt.

# Joseph & Jacob in Egypt



- <sup>6</sup> Now Joseph and all his brothers and **all that generation died**, <sup>7</sup> but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

- <sup>8</sup> Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. <sup>9</sup> ‘Look,’ he said to his people, ‘the **Israelites** have become far too **numerous** for us. <sup>10</sup> Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our **enemies**, fight against us and **leave** the country.’
- <sup>11</sup> So they put **slave masters** over them to **oppress** them with forced labour, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh.

# Slaves in Egypt

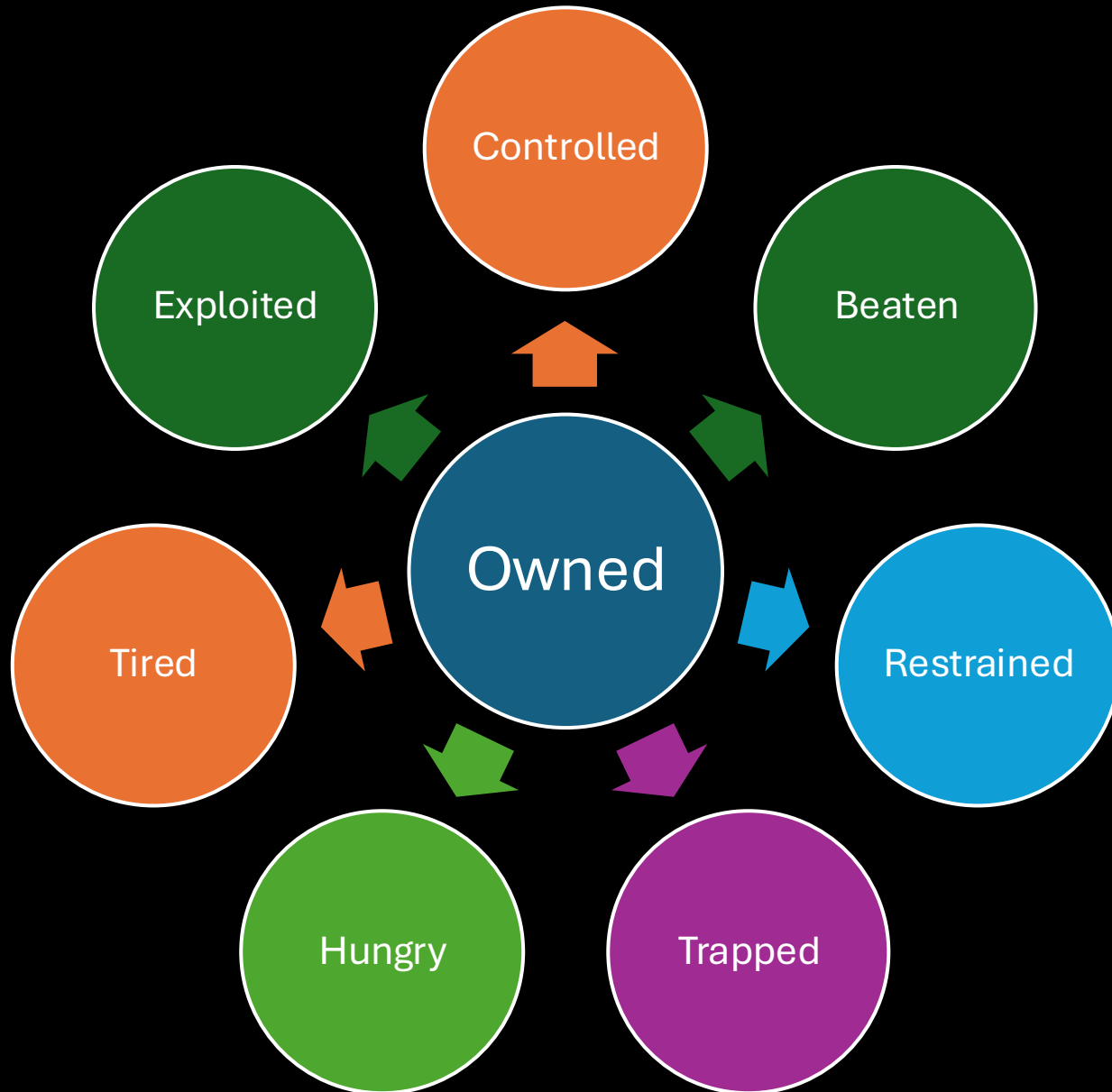


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# What does it mean to be a slave?

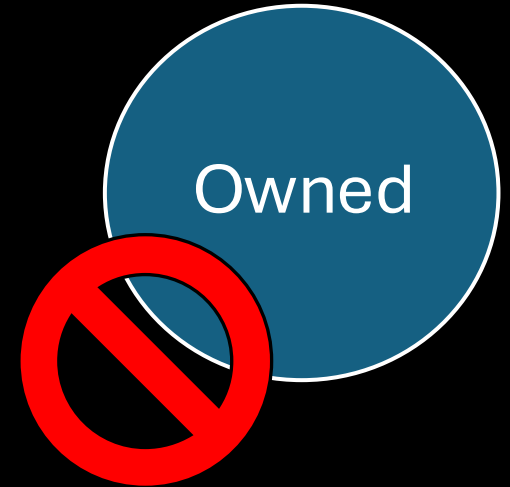
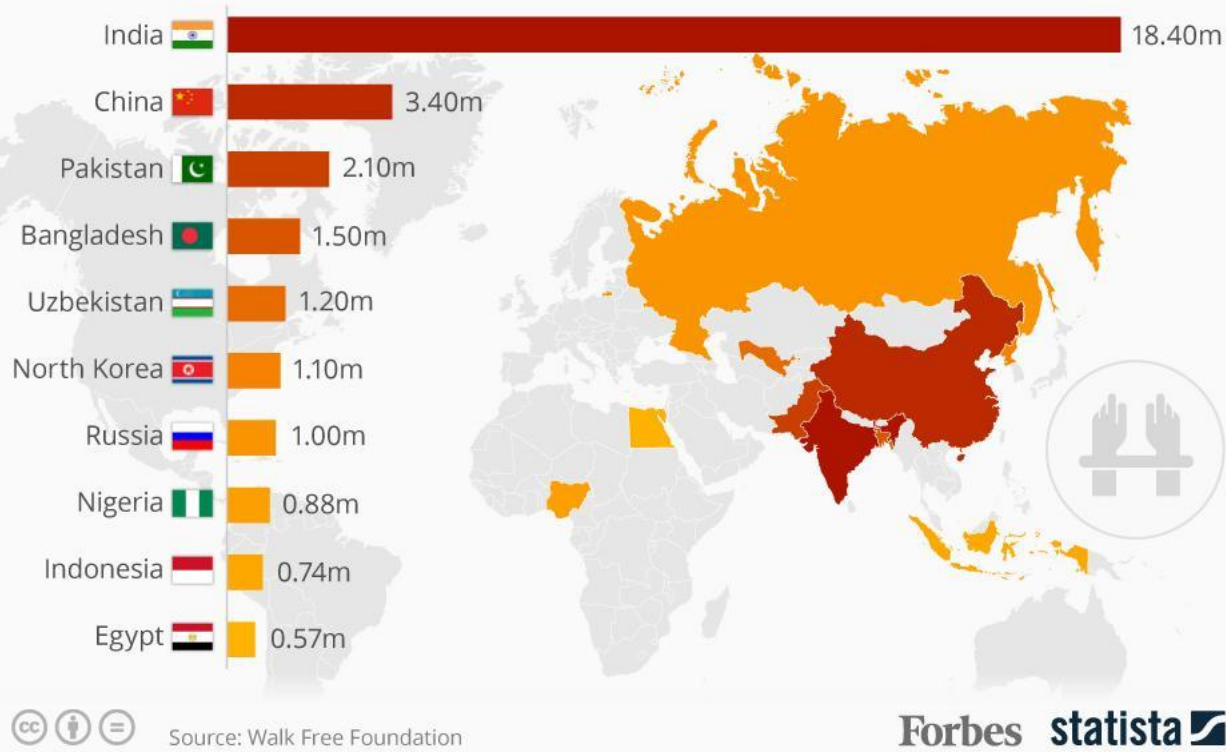


# What does it mean to be a slave?



# Modern Slavery Is A Brutal Reality Worldwide

Estimated number of people living in modern slavery in 2015



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Are we complicit?

# What are we slaves to?

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who **sins** is a **slave to sin**. – John 8:34

Entertainment  
& distraction

Controlled

Exploited

Beaten

Expectation

History

Image

?

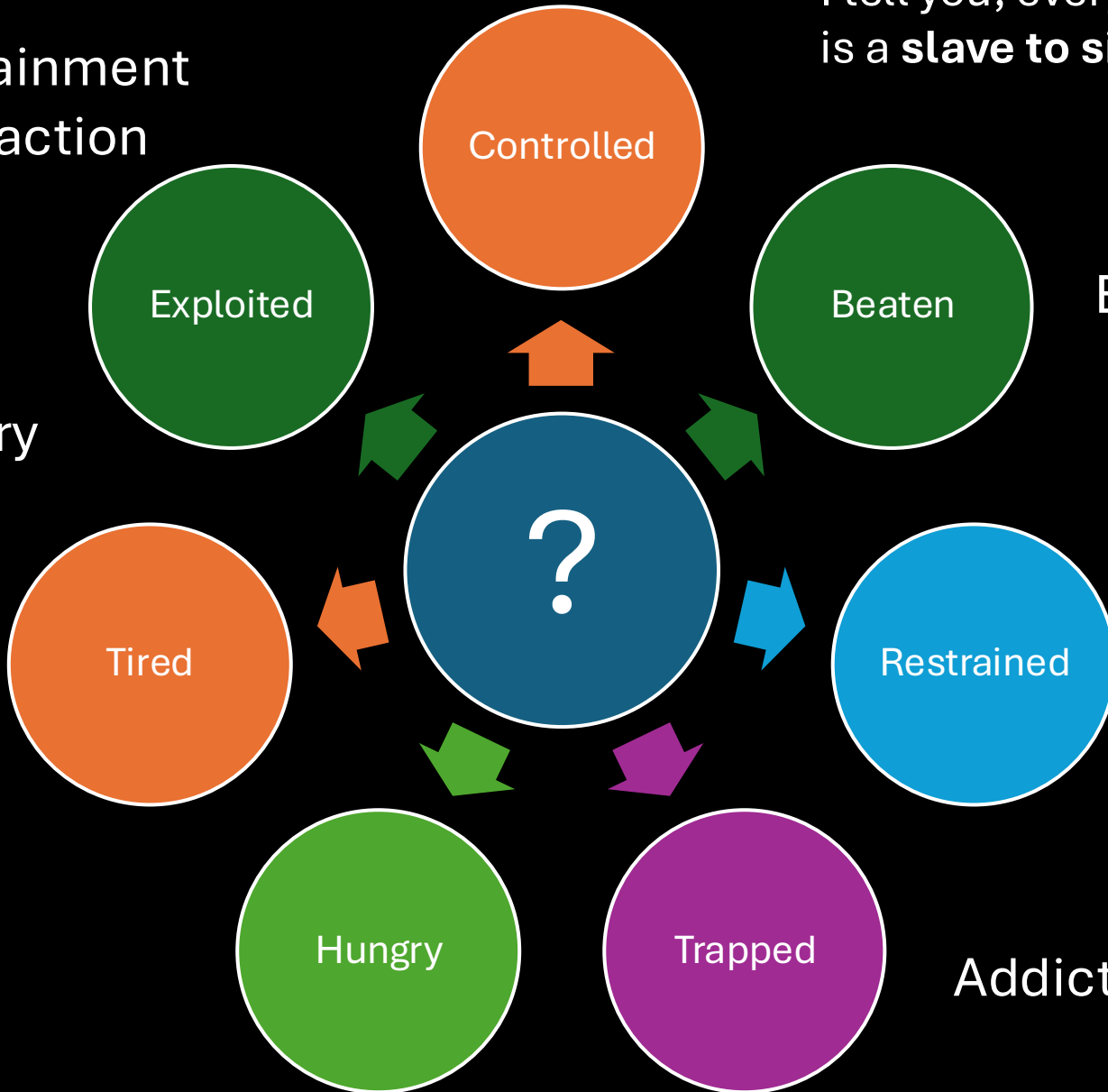
Tired

Restrained

Hungry

Trapped

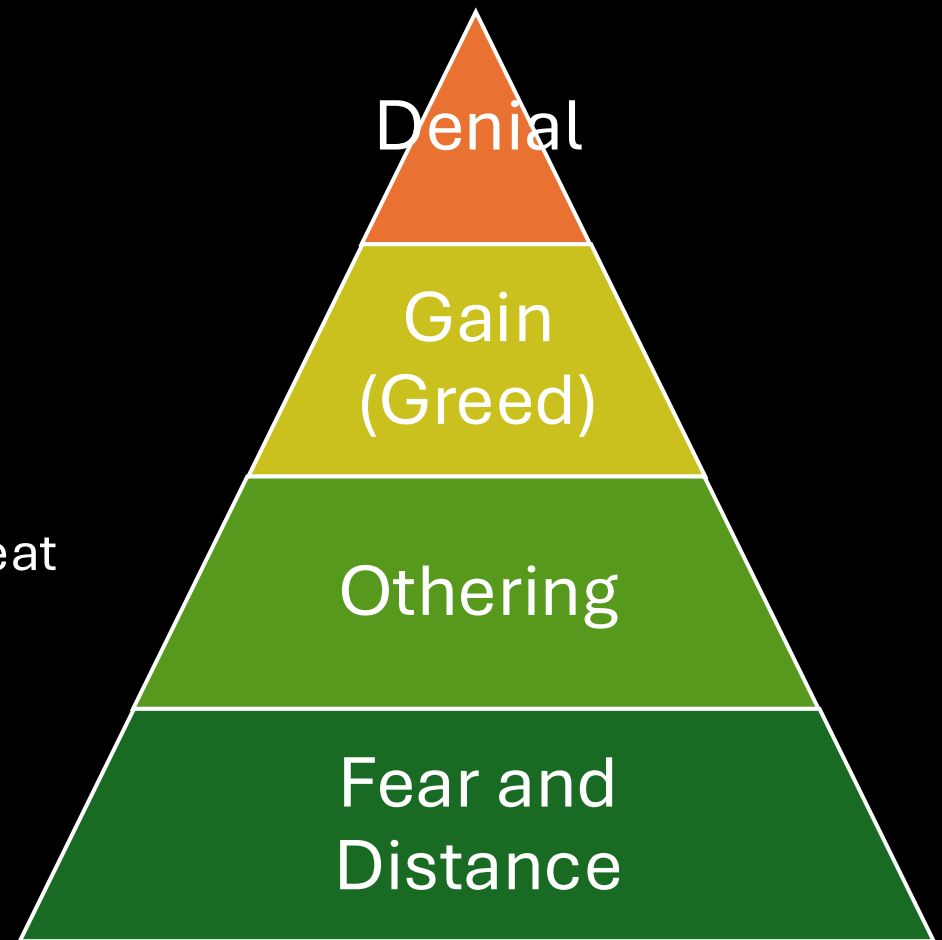
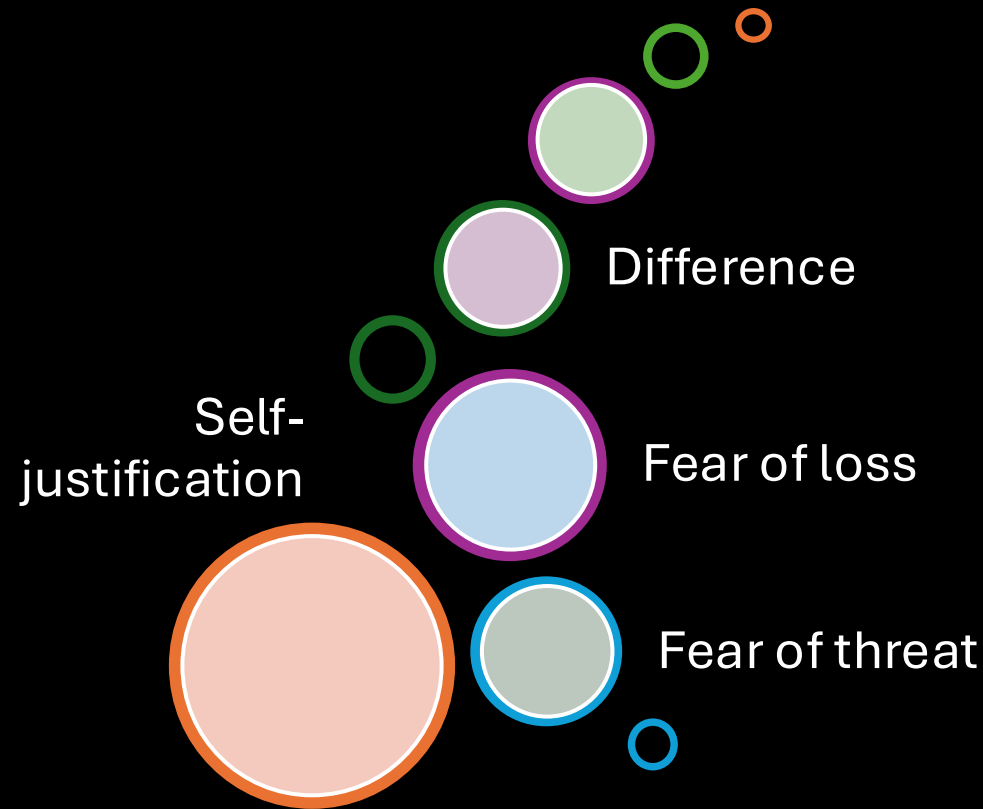
Addiction



# What drives exploitation & oppression?

- <sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more **they multiplied and spread**; so the Egyptians came to **dread** the Israelites <sup>13</sup> and worked them **ruthlessly**. <sup>14</sup> They **made their lives bitter** with harsh labour in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labour, the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

# What drives exploitation & oppression?



- <sup>15</sup> The king of Egypt said to the **Hebrew midwives**, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, <sup>16</sup> ‘When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a **boy, kill him**; but if it is a girl, let her live.’

# Traitors?



# Why boys?



- <sup>17</sup> The midwives, however, **feared God** and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys **live**.

# Non-violent resistance



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# Do we need to resist?



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- <sup>18</sup> Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, ‘Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?’
- <sup>19</sup> The midwives **answered Pharaoh**, ‘Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.’

Aside: Is it wrong to lie?



**Who/what  
is God?**



Thoughts  
& feelings



Behaviour

Reference



Values &  
principles



**Rules**

**Compass**



**Map**



**Direction &  
Warning Signs**



- <sup>20</sup> So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.
- <sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh gave this order to **all his people**: ‘Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.’

# Does non-violence “work”?



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## Should it work?



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# Escalation!



# CYCLES OF OPPRESSION

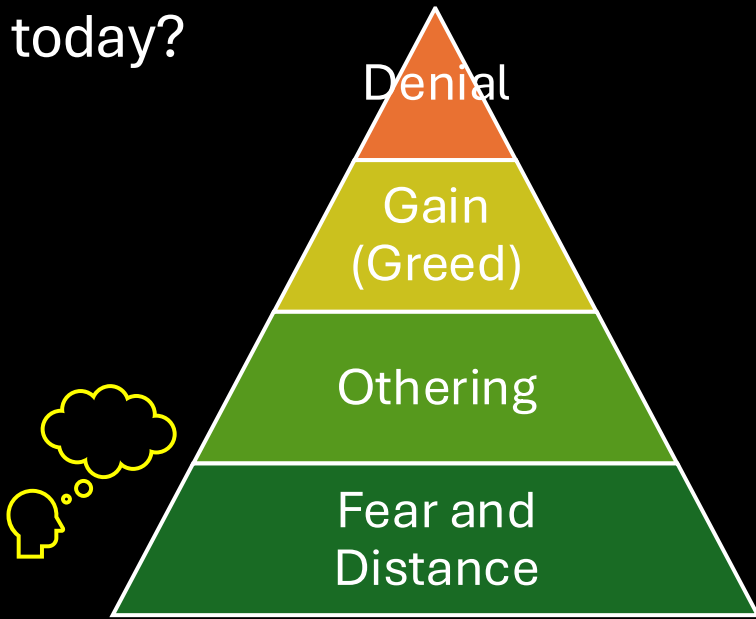


Ricky Shimizu-Marcus  
Adapted by Gloria Yessou-Sep '91  
Graphics by Rosendo Leyva-Pu'Na/Sep '94

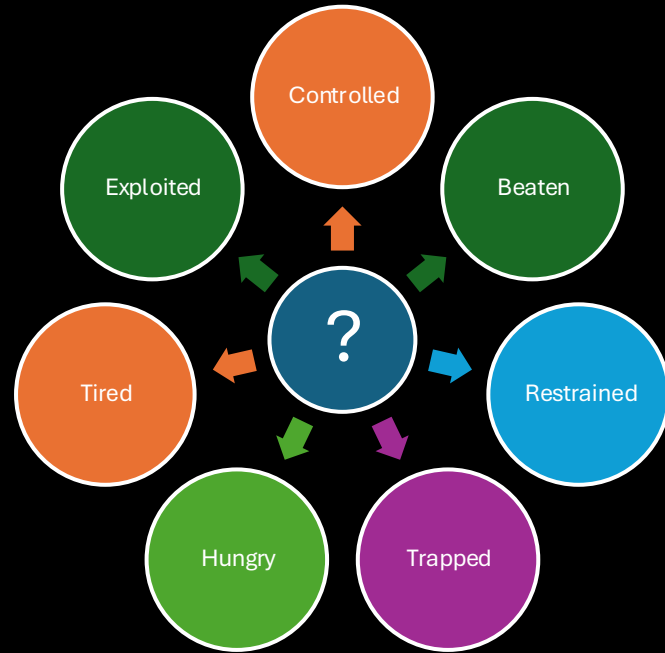
# Where is God's plan going? (from slavery to freedom!)



Are we complicit in exploitation and oppression today?



# What are we slaves to?



Are there things we need to non-violently resist?

