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Q1: What aspects of this narrative help to situate it as a sequel to Genesis? What are the recurring motifs, the continuities and disruptions in tone?

Q2: What about Israel makes Pharaoh afraid? Why? What are the stages of Egypt's oppression of Israel, and what are their motivations?

Q3: What is the relationship between oppression and fertility?

Q4: The baby Moses is saved by an almost miraculous act of compassion and bravery by Pharaoh's daughter. Are his mother's actions comprehensible if she didn't know that he would be saved? What did she think she was doing for her son?

Q5: What notion does Moses have, raised in Pharaoh's house, of his connection to the Israelites?

Q6: What does Moses learn from his two encounters with violence in Egypt? When he leaves, does he expect to ever return?

Q7: What does it mean for God to know the people's suffering?

Q8: Why does God appear to Moses from within a burning bush? Why is this divine revelation so different from the ones we've read about before?

Q9: What is the role of signs in this story? Are signs more or less compelling than explicit (but verbal) divine promises?

Q10: What are the key differences and complementary qualities of Moses and Aaron?

Q11: Why did Tziporah circumcise her son at the inn? What is the source of this strange divine hostility?

Q12: What intrigues you about this story?