

**G R O W T H N O T E S*****M O T H E R S D A Y******TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Exodus 2:1-10*****TODAY'S MESSAGE:****“THE WOMEN WHO RAISED ME”*****Exodus 2:1-10 NLT: The Birth of Moses***

About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. <sup>2</sup> The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months. <sup>3</sup> But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. <sup>4</sup> The baby's sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup> Soon Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, and her attendants walked along the riverbank.

When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her. <sup>6</sup> When the princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This must be one of the Hebrew children,” she said.

<sup>7</sup> Then the baby’s sister approached the princess. “Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” she asked.

<sup>8</sup> “Yes, do!” the princess replied. So the girl went and called the baby’s mother.

<sup>9</sup> “Take this baby and nurse him for me,” the princess told the baby’s mother. “I will pay you for your help.” So the woman took her baby home and nursed him.

<sup>10</sup> Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh’s daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses, for she explained, “I lifted him out of the water.”

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- The women in my family—this congregation—my neighborhood—my community—my schools—  
AND—others—seldom get the credit they deserve—

- *AND—the same in your lives—who were the women that raised you?*
- BECAUSE—today we rise up to call them—which include many women never get the credit they deserve—
- Mothers and women have applauded us—birth us—cultivated us—disciplined us—elevated us—fortified us—graced us—held us—
- inspired us—justified us—kept us—loved us—molded us—nursed us—organized us—protected us—qualified us—raised us—stood with us—
- stood for us—taught us—understood us—vindicated us—worked for us—excused us—and called us—  
MOTHERS AND WOMEN RAISED US!
- AND A PRAISE TO GOD AND THANKS TO THE MOTHERS AND WOMEN WHO RAISED US GOES THERE!!!!  
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- The New York Times did a study that estimated the monetary value of the services that a typical woman provides in her home—services that include being a

chauffeur—counselor—cook—conciierge—cleaning woman—caterer—bookkeeper—decorator— dietitian—DoorDash—Uber—Lyft driver—AND— they estimated the collective value to be \$1.5 trillion a year!

- Doctor Cheryl Townsend Gilks—in her book— ***If It Wasn't for the Women: Black Women's Experience And Womanist Culture In Church And Community***—talks about how wise women have sagaciously built their homes—families—churches— and communities in the world—by their words—their witness—and their worship—
- Women like Harriet Tubman—Sojourner Truth— Fannie Lou hammer—Madam CJ Walker—
- Women like Mary McLeod Bethune—Bessie Coleman—Claudette Colvin—Catherine Johnson—
- Women like Shirley Chisholm—Ella Baker—Mae Jemison—Forever First Lady—Michelle Obama— and on and on!

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## ***SERMONIC & SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND***

- Women raised us—SO—it should come as no surprise as we trailed the tapestry of our text for today—that we're given more marvelous examples of women raising up what's needed—AND—whose next; BECAUSE—in this text—all of these women are mothers—some through proxy—others through advocacy—AND—one through biology—BUT—all of them are mothers;
- There are countless women who never physically birthed a child—BUT—who mentally—spiritually—socially—emotionally—AND—financially raise children every single day—AND—they too should be celebrated as mothers!
- The women and then our text are all captured in the same crisis—The Book Of Exodus begins with all of Joseph's family having been relocated to Egypt initially welcome in a foreign space;

- Things shifted when there arose a new king who did not know Joseph nor his historical contribution to the survival of Egypt;
- Disconnected from history—all this new Pharaoh could see was the prosperity that the people of Joseph enjoyed—with his insecurity triggered he concluded that he had an immigration crisis and that he needed to restrict the population;
- Without a change he concluded the Hebrews in Goshen would eventually outnumber the Egyptians in Egypt and what would happen then what would happen if the Hebrews sided with their enemies?
- What would happen if everybody decided that that everybody should have access to healthcare?
- That mass incarceration should end?—that education for everybody be fully funded?—that there should be laws that govern the distribution and availability of weapons—that everybody should have the right to vote?—What would happen then?

***PHARAOH SOUGHT TO DEMORALIZE,  
DECIMATE, & DESTROY GOD'S PEOPLE***

1. Pharaoh decided he had to do something to make Egypt great again—his nefarious strategy to address his imagined immigration crisis framed chapter one of The Book Of Exodus because first he would intimidate them economically by threatening their livelihood and keeping their wages so low that they couldn't afford anything; He pushed them down—BUT—God kept lifting them up!
  
2. *2<sup>nd</sup>ly—in what he considered to be a personal stroke of brilliance he proposed the additional hardship of forcing them to manufacture bricks without straw—*BUT—even this impediment was not strong enough to destroy their determination or shatter their spirit;
3. *3<sup>rd</sup>ly—he issued an executive order authorizing infanticide to kill the baby boys and let the little girls live;* Pharaoh gave strict orders to the midwives who were employees of the national government to euthanize the males but let the females live—BUT—*Shiphrah and Puah*—who were mothers—not by

biology—BUT—by proxy—refused to be complicit in the senseless slaughter of innocent children

4. **BUT**—pharaoh wasn't finished—he then militarized the police force—it's in the text—In Exodus, Chapter 1, Verse 22—he enacted A decree to have the police force drown all the boys of Hebrew descent in the Nile river;

### ***HOW DID GOD RESPOND?***

- ***The book of exodus begins with the oppression of the Hebrews—BUT—also with the intervention of almighty God—BECAUSE—God will intervene!***  
 God intervened and notice this intervention began not with a king—an army—OR—with weapons— BUT—with a woman who had a baby; In the book of Exodus, Chapter 2—her name is never called we simply know her by the tribe to which she belonged and the man she chose to marry—it's not until Exodus, Chapter 6, Verse 20—that we learned her name, Jochebed—(everybody say Jochebed)
- ***Shiphrah and Puah—mothers by proxy—engaged in acts of resistance—BUT—Jochebed's story—his mother by biology—opens with acts of***

resourcefulness; She was confident of the fact that God—not chance or circumstance—had provided her with a child her confidence was confirmed first by the rejoicing in her home;

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➤ *The writer of Hebrews 11/23 would later comment—“...By faith Moses parents hid him for 3 months after he was born because they saw that he was no ordinary child and they were not afraid of the King's edict—This mother recognized that there was something different about him!*

➤ Jochebed was faced with a critical decision—either she would escape with her new son and face potential execution herself—OR—she could cooperate with God and exercise her creativity and resourcefulness to protect her child; We don't have to wonder about her response because quickly we witness in the text her willingness to turn to God;

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<i>C O N C L U S I O N</i>
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➤ Jochebed trusted God with what she had—AND—we can trust God with what we have as well!

- BECAUSE—if you trust God with your family—  
God'll provide for them;
- If you trust God with your finances—God'll use them  
to meet all of your needs—AND—some of your  
wants;
  
- If you trust God with your future God'll order your  
steps and lead you in the paths of righteousness for  
the Lord's namesake—***BUT—only when you trust  
God enough to try God—AND—try God enough to  
trust God—you gotta turn it over—AND—turn  
them over and let God work it out;***