

Exodus 2

Well, we began our study through the book of Exodus last week and just so you have it in your minds we'll probably just be doing 1 chapter each week for the first several chapters of this book of the Bible, and then later on we'll begin to pick up the pace.

Just to remind you where we are in the narrative we should keep in mind that the book of Exodus begins kind of where Genesis ended. The first 6 or 7 verses of chapter 1 of Exodus really give us the details of Jacob (who is also known as Israel) and his family and how they moved to Egypt.

If you remember Joseph was the favored son of Israel and his family had turned against him eventually landing Joseph as a prisoner in Egypt. And then through a series of events Joseph actually ended up being one of the most powerful men in the kingdom. He was placed in charge of gathering and storing the crops in the land of Egypt for God had revealed that there would be 7 years of blessing on the land followed by 7 years of famine.

During the times of famine Jacob and his sons found themselves with little sustenance and they had heard there was grain over in the land of Egypt...and so they as a family eventually ended up moving to the land of Goshen which was known to be a great place to have livestock.

Joseph eventually revealed himself to his family and they for quite a while were blessed while they lived in Egypt. We learned last week that they as a people group had grown and multiplied exceedingly to the point that they had filled the land.

Then we saw Joseph and his brothers all die and we were told there was a new king in the land, and this new king either knew nothing about Joseph or didn't care about what he had done. Instead of seeing the people of Israel as a blessing he instead saw them as a burden and he was worried that if another nation came against them that the Israelites might join forces with them and try to leave.

In response to this the king put the Israelites into hard labor...remember they were taking care of their herds but now they are seen constructing cities for the Egyptians and they made brick and mortar as they did so.

As time progressed the Pharaoh commanded that all the male children would be killed and he tried to implement this first by having the midwives who were helping deliver the Hebrew babies kill them...after that didn't work the command then became that all the male children were to be thrown into the Nile.

I want to remind you of just a few scriptures so you can have them in mind as we work through these first several chapters of Exodus. The first was found over in Genesis 15:13-14 which says ¹³**Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴ And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.** God had been clear that they would be in a land that was not theirs, that they would be afflicted for some 400 years and that afterwards the nation they were in would be judged and they would be blessed.

And then the second scripture is found in Genesis 46:3-4 which says **³So He said, “I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. ⁴I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes.”** This promise was given many years later...The first one was given to Abram and this second one to Jacob as he was getting ready to move to Egypt.

So God had a plan and now in our narrative we are beginning to see that plan unfold...The people of Israel are in trouble at this point...Life is difficult and you know when things are good in life we can become complacent or even content with where we are...when hardship shows up on the scene though individuals and even the nation of Israel we will see in our narrative begin to cry out to God for deliverance and that's what we will see as chapter 2 develops.

Ok with that in place let's go ahead and look at verse 1 which says the following **And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi.** So here we have a family that is spoken about...If you remember Israel had 12 sons and the third born son was this man whose name was Levi...Levi will become the tribe that takes care of the priestly duties in the future in our study of the Bible.

I'm going to get ahead of the text here by a verse or two but this man and his wife from the tribe of Levi are going to be the parents of a boy whose name would be Moses.

It's interesting in looking at this that we don't get the names of these parents here in this section of scripture...It's not until Exodus 6:20 that we get this information and I'll read that to you. It says ²⁰**Now Amram took for himself Jochebed, his father's sister, as wife; and she bore**

him Aaron and Moses. And the years of the life of Amram were one hundred and thirty-seven. So we learn here that the father of Moses was a man by the name of Amram and his mother was a woman by the name of Jochebed...You might notice in this verse that we are told that Amram essentially took his aunt as his wife...and we might look at that and say wait a minute that is really against what God's law says and you would be right about that but understand that at this point in history there was no prohibition against this...and really if you think about it all the way back to Adam and Eve who were their kids going to marry back in the beginning? Brothers and sisters right? So at this point in history this was not considered sinful.

Now I want you to now that these two parents are actually recorded as having 3 children and Moses was actually the youngest one. He also had a sister whose name was Miriam and we'll see her in just a minute or two in the text. And then he had an older brother whose name was Aaron and we learn over in Exodus 7:7 that Aaron was actually 3 years older than Moses was.

Now there is a question that comes up...And the question is if the King of Egypt had commanded all the male children to be killed why was Aaron seen to be living as the text develops? A simple answer to this may be that Aaron was actually born before the command that all male children were to be killed was put into place, so it would not have applied to him. That's probably what took place.

So this family had 3 children Miriam the oldest who was a daughter, Aaron who was their oldest son and Moses who was their youngest boy...and it's interesting to note that these three individuals are going

to be very important people in the history of the people of Israel...so a blessed family is what we have here before us.

Let's look at verse 2 which says the following ²**So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months.** So in the course of time Amram and Jochebed had a child and when this child was born his mother knew that he was a beautiful child...I might mention that every child that comes into this world is beautiful indeed and special in the eyes of God and we should remember that God has a plan for every life that comes from the womb. Of Jeremiah the prophet God said this in Jeremiah 1:5 which says **“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”**

And then in Psalm 139:13-14 the Word says **For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.**

Can you imagine being the Israelites as they were in Egypt during this time. Here they are being oppressed, beaten we will see here shortly and everything around them seems to be against them and yet life moved forward and children were conceived.

I wonder how many families with great horror in their hearts chose to be obedient to the King's command and had their child killed by throwing them in the Nile? I can't imagine the heartache they as a people must have felt to have such horrid commands placed upon them.

It's so sad to me and I know it is to you as well when the world discards life as if it is nothing. My heart breaks for the little children whose lives are taken from them and my heart hurts for those parents who are lied to and blinded by the enemy leading them to the decision to terminate a life. I want you to know tonight if you have been involved in an abortion whether you are a mom or a dad that there is forgiveness in Christ, that there is restoration, that there is blessing even in the failures that we may have engaged in. God does remove our sins as far as the east is from the west.

So, This mother of Moses whose name was Jochebed just couldn't bring herself to terminate the life of her child, he was so beautiful to her, so full of life, so full of potential and she made the choice to refuse to throw her child in the river but instead kept the child for 3 full months taking care of him.

Now you might write down in your notes or in your Bibles two passages of scripture that go hand in hand with Exodus chapter 2...the first is Hebrews 11 and the second is Acts 7 and we'll refer to both of these in our study this evening.

I want you to see the detail we get about the parents of Moses over in Hebrews 11:23 which says this ²³**By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.** Notice the boldness of the parents of Moses as they were not afraid of what the king said choosing to hide their child.

So you can imagine this child Moses is born to his parents and they are keeping it quiet and refusing to be obedient to the king's

command and you can imagine there was some nervousness as they went about taking care of this child for 3 months.

It's not like the Egyptians had houses with windows and insulation to keep the sound down. My wife and I when we lived in the Dominican Republic lived in a society that was an open-air society meaning there were no glass windows and as you went about your night you could hear everything happening in the community including little babies that were crying in the night. When Eliana our firstborn was born in this country we were immediately up in the night when she started to stir and cry because we didn't want the neighbors to wake up.

All that to say that the parents of Moses were probably on high alert as this took place.

Look with me at verses 3-4 which say this ³**But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. ⁴ And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.**

If you have been a parent you know as a child gets a little older that their little lungs develop and become stronger and when they are hungry or something is wrong they become very good at getting your attention as they scream and cry.

And so as Moses was getting a little older it became obvious that having him in the home was becoming a more and more difficult task to perform...And the mother of Moses was one of those people that is able to find a loophole as she went through life...and so she thought to herself that the king has commanded the babies be thrown into the

Nile and that's what I'll do but as I do so I'll make a little raft or a boat for the child to be protected in.

We learn here that she took some bulrushes or some reeds and she probably wove those together like a wicker basket and then she applied asphalt and pitch to it and when that hardened it would have made the basket water proof...and then she took the child and put him by the river's bank in this little ark and we are told his sister was there watching to see what would happen.

Just a couple of side notes here and we'll move on. First, the word for ark is the same word that is used of the ark that Noah constructed...in both cases what was built was used by God for the protection of life.

The second thing I would like to just mention here is that it took a lot of faith for this mother to set her child down and walk away...I'm sure that Jochebed was filled with sorrow in her heart but at the same time I believe this was a woman that knew that God was big enough to cause something to happen for the benefit of this child Moses to protect his life.

Jochebed didn't know what would happen with the child but she trusted the Lord to work. Parents, each of you will experience what this woman did in her life. Thankfully each of you have many years with your children and you can train them in the ways of righteousness and really it should be your biggest ambition in life to set an example of what it means to follow Jesus and to teach your kids the ways of the Lord.

But there does come a time when you will have to let your children go that they might become adults and boy I don't want that day to come

anytime soon but there does come a time where you kids must begin to make their own choices in life. I'm not saying you just let them go and have nothing to do with them and you give them no advice but you do have to release them unto the Lord and allow Him to work in them.

To the parents in our congregation I would simply say cherish the time you have with your kids and make it your ambition to point them to Christ on a regular basis.

So Miriam is watching as this scene unfolds and you know she is just watching to see what will happen to her little brother and then we have verses 5-6 which say **⁵Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. ⁶And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."**

Here we have one of the daughter's of the Pharaoh and she comes to the river to bathe. The Egyptian culture was a polytheistic culture which means they had a multitude of god's and one of these gods was actually over the annual floods of the Nile whose name was Osiris...Later on in our study we are going to see 10 plagues come upon the Egyptians and these plagues are going to be coming against the gods the Egyptians trusted in.

So this daughter of Pharaoh was down in the water bathing and God took her eyes and directed them towards this little ark and as she saw the ark she sent a maid to get it and quickly realized that this was one of the Hebrew babies...and notice that when she opened it the baby began to weep...if you want to pluck the heart strings of a person

place a weeping baby before them and they will be moved with compassion and this is precisely what happened in this situation.

This daughter wasn't like the king, she had a place in her heart for life and here you can see that she was moved to protect this child's. The culture of the Egyptians was decidedly against the Jewish people but the cry of a baby melted her heart.

Verses 7-9 say this ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"

⁸And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. ⁹Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

Miriam is watching all this unfold and she boldly at this point came forward and got involved in the situation. She even had a suggestion that a nurse might be brought from the Hebrew women to take care of the child for her.

That seemed a good idea to the daughter of the king and so she gave permission...and probably the idea here is that the Egyptians would have wanted nothing to do with any Hebrew child so it had to be a Hebrew woman that would take care of him and raise him up.

Miriam knew just who to call on to take care of this child and she actually went and got her mom and the daughter of the king said to her that she was to take and nurse the child for her and as an added bonus she said by the way I'm going to pay you to do this.

Can you imagine being Jochebed at this point? Oh man what a blessing that this child that you chose to raise behind the back of the king's command has now been returned to you to take care of...It was only for a time of about 3-4 years until the child was weaned but still think of all that time she got to have with her little boy and to be paid for it on top of that was just the icing on the cake.

It's funny how God can work things out in life. Sometimes we can feel like we are in impossible situations and yet the Lord somehow manages to work things out in our favor.

Look at verse 10 which says this ¹⁰ **And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."**

It is said that the Hebrews would take about 3-4 years to fully wean a child and when that time had ended a sad day came in the life of Jochebed in that she had to again release her child by faith allowing him to be taken into the home of the daughter of the Pharaoh...We are told here that the daughter of the Pharaoh then essentially adopted Moses into her household and he became her son.

We learn the following over in Acts 7:20-22 which says this ²⁰ **At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father's house for three months.** ²¹ **But when he was set out, Pharaoh's daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son.** ²² **And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.** As a son of the daughter of the king Moses was a man that was privileged in many ways. He would have had access to all of the knowledge of the

Egyptians and he learned their customs and the Egyptians were known to be an extremely intelligent society so he would have had access to the very best education that the world had to offer. He also would have been well taken care of as far as the goods of this world and his access to them and he would have had a lot of authority as a son of this woman...servants would have been at his disposal.

The name Moses means “drawn out” and certainly this child was drawn out of the waters and he was drawn out from his people by the Lord and we’ll see it was for a very specific purpose.

Now the life of Moses can be broken down in 3 sections of 40 years each. The first 40 years of Moses could be said to be the years of privilege, prestige and pampering.

The second 40 years could be said to be the years of nothingness for Moses and we’ll see that develop here in the next section we go through. Moses had to learn to be humble, he had to learn that though he had a lot in life that was given to him, that in reality he had nothing without God Almighty being at work in him and through him.

And then the 3rd section of 40 years are really 40 years of God using a man who knew he had nothing. That’s where we want to find ourselves for God will use a man or woman who is full of humility for His glory rather than a person that thinks they have it all together.

So let’s see what happens here as Moses is a blessed man at this point in his life if you look at verses 11-15 which say this ¹¹**Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren.** ¹² So he looked

this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³ And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, “Why are you striking your companion?”

¹⁴ Then he said, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?”

So Moses feared and said, “Surely this thing is known!” ¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

Moses had a heart for his people. He could have easily written them off and walked away but for Moses when everything was said and done he couldn't help but think of the oppression his own people were experiencing.

In Hebrews 11:24-26 we learn this of Moses when it says ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. We can see here that Moses made the choice to associate with his people rather than the passing pleasures of the things of this world. He had access to everything you could ever imagine and yet his heart was for the Israelites.

And so one day Moses was out and his heart was hurting for his people and there was an Egyptian that was beating one of the Hebrews and Moses decided to take matters into his own hands **and notice it says that he looked this way and that way but he never looked where?** Moses never looked up. He forgot that God sees everything and that God was decidedly against murder.

I think Moses knew this was the wrong thing to do for notice that after he killed the Egyptian he went and hid him in the sand...trying to cover his sin wouldn't work and of course it never does.

I want you to know today that God does see everything that we do, He can see our hearts and there is nothing that escapes His attention...You might write down Psalm 139:7-12 for homework as David went through a time in his life that he tried to hide from God **and this was probably when he had also had a man murdered** whose name was Uriah...David realized wherever he went that God was there also...it's a hard place to be when you have hidden sin in your life. It's better to confess it to the Lord and face the consequences than try to hide it.

I want to share one other section of scripture with you to see what Moses was thinking as all of this took place. It's from Acts 7:23-25 and it says the following ²³ **“Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. ²⁴ And seeing one of *them* suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. ²⁵ For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand.**

You might especially take note of verse 25 as it says that Moses supposed that his brethren would understand that God would deliver them by his hand...It would seem from this verse that Moses really believed in his heart that God was going to use him to help deliver the people of Israel. Sadly Moses went about this the wrong way. Have you ever done that in your life? Where you had a good idea and maybe it was from the Lord but you implemented it or went about things out of order? It can certainly happen that we get out ahead of the Lord and when we do it can cause difficulty, and that's what happened for Moses.

We also see here that after Moses had killed the Egyptian that the next day, he saw two Hebrew men fighting and he tried to break it up to which the men said to him "who made you a judge between us? Are you going to kill us like you did the Egyptian" It was at this time that Moses knew his sin wasn't done in secret and he fled to the desert to protect his life.

The Pharaoh also found out what Moses had done and to kill an Egyptian was a capital offense and so the king when he found out wanted him dead.

So Moses is out in the desert at this point, away from his people and all that he knew, but God was not done with him if you look at verses 16-17 which says **¹⁶Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.**

There was a priest in Midian and we learn his name was Reuel in verse 18 but he is also known as Jethro in other portions of scripture...and this man had 7 daughters we are told and it was their job to go and get water from a well and bring it back to fill the troughs for the flocks.

Keep in mind this is in the desert and you know that water in the desert is hard to come by and so it would seem that there were multiple families that used this particular well...I can imagine fights breaking out over the water and we are told here that the shepherds would drive them away so it was no easy task for them to accomplish.

Moses though as he saw what took place came to their rescue...it would seem he just had it in him to be a helper of others, to care about others and to have a soft spot for those that were taken advantage of. So the ladies were taken care of and they actually returned earlier than normal having accomplished their task.

Look at verses 18-20 which say this **18 When they came to Reuel their father, he said, "How is it that you have come so soon today?"**

19 And they said, "An Egyptian delivered us from the hand of the shepherds, and he also drew enough water for us and watered the flock."

20 So he said to his daughters, "And where is he? Why is it that you have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread."

Once they are back to their father he asks how they had done things so quickly and they respond that an Egyptian man had helped them which means Moses is still looking like an Egyptian rather than a Hebrew. The father then says "what are you doing girls, there is a man in the desert and he helped you! Don't let him go but instead

bring him here unless you want to be single all your life!” of course we don’t know that for sure but I could see that being his attitude.

Look at verses 21-22 which say this ²¹Then Moses was content to live with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses. ²²And she bore *him* a son. He called his name Gershom, for he said, “I have been a stranger in a foreign land.”

Moses stayed with this man and in the course of time he was given one of the daughters as his wife whose name was Zipporah...Notice it says he was given a daughter and we should know that prearranged marriages were common in these times.

We then have a son born to Moses whose name was Gershom which means stranger or foreigner.

So at this point Moses is out of the picture and he will actually be out in the desert for 40 years before the Lord will bring him back into the picture again.

Moses had taken matters into his own hands and he had many lessons to learn but God was not done with him and we’ll see that develop next week.

In closing and we’ll pick up here in our next study of Exodus just listen to the rest of the chapter and notice what happens it says this in verses 23-25 which say this ²³Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. ²⁴So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with

Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.

So things did not improve for the Israelites and they are seen crying out to God and you might just underline four things here that we will talk about next week. You might underline in verse 24 the words God heard and then God remembered and then in verse 25 you might underline God looked and God acknowledged.

Even though things were so difficult for the Israelites God had a time and a promise that He had made that He was going to keep and so the Lord is going to act on behalf of the Israelites rescuing them and ministering to them in an awesome way as Moses will be called to go and be the one that God would use to deliver the Israelites from the Egyptians.

I am reminded that we have One that has delivered us from the camp of the enemy as well and His name is Jesus. Jesus came to set us free from the captivity of the devil, He came to set us free from the effects of sin, He came to rescue us from eternal damnation...If you need to ask Jesus into your heart tonight I would urge you to do so and you can grab me after the service if you would like to ask Jesus to be the Lord and Savior of your life.

Let's pray and then we can worship in closing tonight.

Exodus 2 “The Birth of Moses”

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Genesis 15:13-14

Genesis 46:3-4

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Verse 2

Jeremiah 1:5

Psalms 139:13-14

Hebrews 11:23

Verse 10

Acts 7:20-22

Verses 11-15

Hebrews 11:24-26

Acts 7:23-25