

## Exodus 2 - Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008

- In chapter one, we saw how Pharaoh was trying to eliminate the Hebrews because they were growing and prospering in the land.
- First, it was bitter and hard slavery and labor, and then he commanded that the midwives kill the newborn baby boys after their birth.
- When all of this failed, he commanded that every male child be cast into the Nile to their certain death. Not a good time have a son.

**2:1** And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi.**2** So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months.

- Here we are introduced to Moses and his parents but not given their names. Exodus 6:20 tells us it was; "Amram and Jochebed."
- It's interesting that they would even want to bring a child into the world, much less a son, in light of what Pharaoh is doing to them.
- When Moses is born, just like any mom, she sees that he was beautiful and special, and that she hid him for three months.
- This will get them into the Hall of Fame of Faith in Hebrews.

**Hebrews 11:23** By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. NIV

**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.

- Actually she's obeying Pharaoh's command by putting him into this Ark in the Nile River, but she's just taking great care to save him.
- This is utterly remarkable in that she is, by faith, completely trusting God for the well being of her son by letting go of him.
- Moses' older sister Miriam keeps watch on her baby brother by following at a distance to see what is going to happen to him.

**5** Then 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.

- So Pharaoh's daughter comes down to bathe at the river, with her maidens, and sees the ark among the reeds and sends them for it.
- What a coincidence; Pharaoh's daughter just so happens to be bathing at the exact spot and the exact time. Wow, good thing!

**6** And 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."

- This is most interesting because you can see the magnificent providence of God as he orchestrates Moses' direction and protection.
- Notice that baby Moses cries just as Pharaoh's daughter opens the ark. Perhaps God is allowing this to pull at her heart strings.
- Once again, we see how everything is going perfectly according to God's glorious plan. No plan of man can prevail over the Lord's!

"Providence is manifest here. How was the ark kept from the crocodiles? Why did the princess come to that particular spot? How came her eye to light upon that little floating [ark] hidden among the bulrushes? Why should she desire to look within it? ... The providence brought the princess to the spot, brought the tears into the babe's eyes at the very moment when they would be seen, and aid in touching the beholder's pity. ... Surely the Lord's hand was in it all."

Charles Spurgeon

**7** Then 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?" **8** And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. **9** Then 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.

- Let's see if we have got this straight: Pharaoh is attempting to terminate all the male born Hebrew babies, and now his grandson is one.
- Moses' mom thought for sure she would lose her baby boy but now she has him back and is even going to get paid to nurse him?
- I'm not the sharpest knife in the drawer, but it seems to me that the hand of God is miraculously choreographing all the steps here.
- One other thought here, during the time that she is nursing Moses, she is teaching him the ways of the Lord like in Proverbs 22:6.

**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."

- Moses has now grown from a baby boy to a young man and he is given his name because he was drawn out of the water.
- Moses is 40 years of age now, and has been taught in all the ways of the advanced Egyptian culture.
- In Acts 7, Stephen preached a sermon about Moses to the Jews that actually got him killed. His sermon fills in some blanks.

**Acts 7:22** Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action. NIV

One commentator says it this way: "Certainly, he was raised with both the science and learning of Egypt ... Egypt was one of the most academic and scientific societies on the earth at that time; Moses would have been instructed in geography, history, grammar and writing, literature, philosophy, and music. When Moses went somewhere, he went in a princely chariot, and his guards cried out "bow the knee!" If he floated on the Nile, it was in an ancient yacht, with musical accompaniment - he lived the royal life.

Josephus says he was heir to the throne of Egypt; and that while a young man, Moses led the armies of Egypt in victorious battle against the Ethiopians.

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.

- Again, in Stephen's sermon, he tells us that Moses was now 40 years of age when he kills this Egyptian for beating a fellow Hebrew.

**Acts 7:23** "When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his fellow Israelites.

- I suppose you could say that Moses is taking matters in his own hands and trying to deliver the Israelites in his own strength.  
- After being prepared for 40 years he became very powerful, now God has to prepare him for another 40 years to become powerless.  
- This decision by Moses to leave all that he had in Egypt to help his fellow Israelites will put him in the Hall of faith as well.

**Hebrews 11:24-28** 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. NIV

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!"

- You sort of have to wonder what is going through Moses' mind right about now. He has got to be feeling that he has really blown it bad!  
- He must've known that God, at one time, had a call on his life, but was this so bad that God may be through with him and can't use him.  
- Accounts like this are here for us not just to see how bad guys like Moses mess up, but to show us how good God is when we mess up.

- Again, Stephen's sermon recorded in Acts, gives us more detailed insight into what is happening here.

**Acts 7:24-29** 24 He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. 25 Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not. 26 The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?' 27 "But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us? 28 Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' 29 When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons. NIV

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.

- It's interesting that Moses goes to Midian because if he would have gone north to Canaan and Syria he wouldn't have found refuge.  
- The reason for this is because Rameses II had a treaty with the Hittite's to extradite any fugitives fleeing Egypt. Moses would know this!  
- Again, everything is going according to God's plan because He knows the end from the beginning, and will work this for the good.

16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

- This priest of Midian is thought to be a descendant of one of Abraham's other children through Keturah named Midian back in Genesis.

**Genesis 25:1-2** 1 Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. 2 She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah. NIV

17 Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. 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."

- You can almost hear the desperation in this father of seven daughter's voice; "sweetheart, you let an eligible bachelor go, go get him!"  
- Once again we see God's providence here in how he connects Moses with this specific family for this specific time and it's right on time.

21 Then Moses was content to live with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses. 22 And she bore him a son. He called his name Gershom, for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land."

- Notice that Moses is content to live with Reuel, marry his daughter, have children and settle down as a "stranger in a foreign land."  
- One has suggested that he has given up his royal life being waited on hand and foot and now will become a servant and a shepherd.  
- Perhaps he's even given up hope of, one day, ever delivering the Israelite's out of the hands of Pharaoh's harsh slavery in Egypt.

- The fact of the matter is that these next forty years will be amongst the most important years of Moses' life as God prepares him.  
- Moses will work harder than he ever has for forty years shepherding sheep belonging to someone else for the last forty years of his life.  
- Moses' 120 year life is divided into three periods; 40 years he's something, 40 years he's nothing, 40 years God can do everything.

23 Now 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. 24 So 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.

- Now it happens in the process of time that the king of Egypt dies, and Israeli's cry reaches the ears of God who hears and remembers.
- This doesn't mean that God forgot. He's not in heaven realizing that He forgot about Israel, it's now time for His covenant with Israel.

- "Now it happened in the process of time." These eight words can sort of jam our gears a little bit because we want it to happen now!
- I've learned, am learning, and have yet to learn that God will always make it happen in His way, in His time, and for His glory, not mine!

Lessons I can learn from Exodus chapter two:

1. No plan crafted and drafted by man can prevail against me because of God's love for me. No Pharaoh can succeed against the Lord.
2. Like Amram and Jochebed, we need not fear bringing children into this evil world because we need more Moses' as light in the world.
3. As difficult as it is, we may need to let our children go and not become a hindrance so God can fulfill the call he has on their lives.
4. When we, by faith, trust God, He rewards it. He may even give us back, or give us more, than what we give up, by faith, for Him.
5. Like Moses, God may have me in a place for a season, so as to ready me and steady me for that which he has scheduled for me.
6. Like Moses, I don't need to take matters into my own hands and try to work out God's plan in my own strength and in my own way.
7. Just because I mess up doesn't mean that God is through with me. God can take the bad I do and make it good, but it's for Him to do!
8. God may take years to prepare me for that which He has prepared for me, and I shouldn't despise the days of small things, as it were.
9. God's delays are not God's denials. God will make it happen in the process of time according to His plan for His glory. He can't not!

- As with Joseph being a picture of Jesus in typology, so too is Moses a picture of Jesus as well. Consider the following:

<b>MOSES</b>	<b>JESUS</b>
Was called "God's servant" (Psalm 105:26)	Is called "God's servant" (Matthew 12:18)
Was called "God's prophet" (Deuteronomy 18:15-19)	They saw his miracles, called Him a prophet (John 6:14)
Was called "God's priest" (Psalm 99:6)	Lives forever as our permanent priesthood (Hebrews 7:24)
Was their mediator (Exodus 33:8-9)	Is our mediator (1 Timothy 2:5)
Was called a king (Deuteronomy 33:4-5)	Is our King of Kings (Revelation 19:16)
Served as judge (Exodus 18:13)	Is given authority to judge (John 5:27)
Was a shepherd (Exodus 3:1)	Is the good Shepherd (John 10:11)
Was an intercessor (Numbers 21:7)	Is our Intercessor (Romans 8:34)
Was a prince and heir to the throne of Egypt (Hebrews 11:24)	Is our prince of peace, heir to all things (Hebrews 1:2)
Born into oppression under a cruel leader (Exodus 1:15,16)	Born into oppression under a cruel leader (Matthew 2:16)
Pharaoh has baby boys slain (Exodus 1:22)	Herod has baby boys slain (Matthew 2:13-16)
Beautiful and blessed is the child Jochebed bore (Exodus 2:2)	Blessed is the child Mary would bear (Luke 1:42)
Grew in wisdom, was mighty in words and deeds (Acts 7:22)	Increased in wisdom and stature (Luke 2:40, 52)
Went out to his brethren (Exodus 2:11)	Jesus came down to the earth to His brethren (John 3:16)
Leaves his royal position to come to his people (Hebrews 11:24)	Left His heavenly position, came to us (Philippians 2:6-8)
Looked on, made rest from, their burdens (Exodus 2:11, 5:5)	We come to Him for rest from our burdens (Matthew 11:28)
Rejected by his people at first appearance (Acts 7:23-27)	Rejected by His own at His first coming (John 1:11)
Told; "Who made you prince and judge over us?" (Exodus 2:14)	Hated for being a King to rule and judge (John 7:3, Luke 19:14)
Wearied from running and sat down by the well (Exodus 2:15)	Was wearied and sat down by the well (John 4:6)
Was given a gentile bride (Exodus 2:21)	Was given a gentile bride (John 3:29, Revelation 5:10)