

EXODUS

A DIVINE EXIT

“God’s Working In Your Backstory”

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

Psalm 139:14–18

AGE **HUMAN PERSPECTIVE**

DIVINE PLAN

0-6 **A Traumatic Yet Faith-Filled Childhood**

ROOTS

6-40 **A Misfit Adolescence and Early Adulthood**

EDUCATION

40-80 **Unproductive Prime Years**

TRAINING

Consider the stories of Joseph, King David, Israel and the apostle Paul. God was using their backstory as a training ground for what He had in store for them. Your backstory, like theirs, is woven together by the hands of an omnipotent all-knowing God who wastes nothing. Your seasons of waiting form the foundation upon which God prepares you for His service and ministry.

**BIG
IDEA**

**SEASONS OF WAITING ARE OFTEN
GOD'S TRAINING GROUNDS**

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AGE **HUMAN PERSPECTIVE**

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0-6 **A Traumatic Yet Faith-Filled Childhood**

ROOTS

What are some milestones, formative events and developmental characteristics at this age?

- View of God
- View of family
- View of self
- View of morality
- View of identity within the larger cultural context
- Aristotle was quoted as saying, “Give me a child until he is 7 and I will show you the man.”

Exodus 1:15-2:9

¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ “When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.”

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¹⁷ But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?" ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live." ¹ Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. ⁴ And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. ⁵ Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ And 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.

- ❖ Pharaoh commands all Jewish boys killed at birth by the heads of the midwives.
- ❖ Pharaoh commands the Egyptians to kill all newborn baby boys by throwing in the Nile
- ❖ Moses is born and parents keep him alive and in the home for first 3 months
- ❖ Moses can no longer be hidden so his mother builds a basket and sends him down the Nile with his sister Miriam watching the trajectory of his brother's basket.
- ❖ Pharaoh's daughter retrieves the basket with Moses in it and adopts him into her home and pays for Moses's mom to nurse him. This could have been short as 2 years or as long as 6 years of age. Moses'

identity with his people leads me to believe it was a longer period closer to the 6 year mark.

6-40

A Misfit Adolescence and Early Adulthood

EDUCATION

What are some milestones, formative events and developmental characteristics of this age?

- **Social development – finding one’s place in the social structure**
- **Educational development – Grade school, HS, College**
- **Career development – 1st job, beginning of career**
- **Personal beliefs and morality**
- **Life trajectory – Marriage, kids, career**

Exodus 2:10–15 (ESV)

¹⁰ When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, “Because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.” ¹¹ One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. ¹² He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³ When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, “Why do you strike your companion?” ¹⁴ He answered, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid, and thought, “Surely the thing is known.” ¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

- ❖ Moses is brought into Pharaoh’s daughter’s home and King’s courts
- ❖ Moses is raised as an Egyptian which would have included education, diet, friends, etc.
- ❖ Moses at some point identifies with His people, the Israelites, and when one of his countrymen is being abused he defends and protects him and in the encounter kills the Egyptian perpetrator.
- ❖ Hebrews 11:23–26 (ESV) ²³ *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He*

considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

- ❖ Acts 7:20–25 (ESV) ²⁰ *At this time Moses was born; and he was beautiful in God’s sight. And he was brought up for three months in his father’s house, ²¹ and when he was exposed, Pharaoh’s daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son. ²² And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds. ²³ “When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel. ²⁴ And seeing one of them being wronged, he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian. ²⁵ He supposed that his brothers would understand that God was giving them salvation by his hand, but they did not understand.*

40-80 Unproductive Prime Years

TRAINING

What are some milestones, formative events and developmental characteristics of this age?

- **Key Working Years**
- **Maximum influence upon others and culture**
- **Building reputation**
- **Moving from novice to mature/expert in parenting, career, etc.**

Exodus 2:16–3:1 (ESV)

¹⁶ Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father’s flock. ¹⁷ The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock. ¹⁸ When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, “How is it that you have come home so soon today?” ¹⁹ They said, “An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock.” ²⁰ He said to his daughters, “Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.” ²¹ And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. ²² She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.” ²³ During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. ²⁴ And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with

Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ God saw the people of Israel—and God knew. ¹ Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

- ❖ Moses flees from both his peoples (the Israelites and Egyptians) being alienated from both.
- ❖ Marries the daughter of a priest of a Midianite false god.
- ❖ Becomes a shepherd in the desert living out a life of seeming insignificance.

Up to this point one might conclude from a human perspective that Moses' first 80 years of life have been wasted, chaotic and pointless; BUT GOD WAS UP TO SOMETHING GREATER IN MOSES' BACKSTORY.

Take another look at Moses' life up to this point...

In the first 6 years God gave to Moses his **ROOTS** to his Hebrew heritage

In the first 40 years God gave Moses a unique **EDUCATION** in Egyptian culture and the royal family's inner workings.

In the next 40 years God gave Moses **TRAINING** on how to lead an unruly people in a wilderness as he shepherded animals in the wilderness.

Key Verses on our backstory being God's training grounds...

Story of Joseph – Genesis 50:20

Genesis 50:20 (ESV) ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Story of King David – 1 Samuel 17:32-37; Psalm 78:70-72

1 Samuel 17:32–37 (ESV) ³² And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³ And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and

killed him. ³⁶ Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” ³⁷ And David said, “The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you!”

Psalms 78:70–72 (ESV) ⁷⁰ He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds; ⁷¹ from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance. ⁷² With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.

Story of God’s chosen nation, Israel – Jeremiah 29:11

Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV) ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Story of God’s chosen missionary to gentiles, Paul – Galatians 1:15-18

Galatians 1:12–18 (ESV) ¹² For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. ¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days.

Story of God’s children... You! Rom. 8:28-30; Phil. 1:6; 2 Cor. 1:4

Philippians 1:6 (ESV) ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:28–30 (ESV) ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

2 Corinthians 1:4 (ESV) *4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

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