

Moses

Part 1

Exodus 1

These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: **2** Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; **3** Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; **4** Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. **5** The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt.

6 Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, **7** but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

- The story line of Exodus begins where Genesis left off with Jacob and his eleven other sons moving to Egypt to live under the care of Joseph. There was a 430 year gap between Israel's move to Egypt and the time of Moses.
- Now Joseph, the remarkable great grandson of Abraham, who was used by God to save Israel and the world from famine is dead. His memory and impact is forgotten and Israel has grown from a family of seventy, to nation of what some believe to be 2 to 3 million.

Vs. 8-14

8 Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. **9** "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. **10** Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."

11 So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh.

12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites **13** and worked them ruthlessly. **14** They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

- The ancient Egyptians were famous for having a proud sense of superiority towards other peoples. It isn't surprising to see them afraid and discriminating against Israel, a strong minority group, which looked as if it would not be a minority very long.

Vs.10

"Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous..."

Shrewd: wisdom, intelligence, having a sharp power of judgment.

- The world's way of dealing shrewdly or wisely is just the way Jesus described in -

Matthew 20 NKJV

25 But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. **26** Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

- Even though the Israelites were dealt with unjustly and with cruelty, it's amazing how God can use these things for good.
- We have to keep in mind it was never God's plan for Israel to remain in Egypt forever. Their time there was for a season to grow from a family into a nation capable of occupying Canaan.
- We will see later that it is the difficulty that brings a kind of birth pain, causing Israel to cry out to God. We might even say it was the pain that brought an awakening to Israel, ultimately leading them out as a

nation to the land God had intended for them. The cruelty and unjust treatment they received God used for good.

David Guzik says, *“Egypt served as a mother’s womb for Israel, a place where they rapidly grew from a large clan to a mighty nation.”*

- Egypt was so racially biased and had such an entrenched system of racial separation that it allowed Israel to grow there without being mixed with the other peoples. This would not have happened in Canaan, as we will see later it was temptation for the Israelites to intermarry with the pagan inhabitants of Canaan.
- Growth in the face of affliction has consistently been the story of God’s people, throughout all ages – the more they are afflicted, the more they grow. As the ancient Christian writer Tertullian said, “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.”
- This is true for believers today; *“Suffering and persecution are like a great wave that comes upon a ship and looks as if it will destroy it; but the ship catches the wave and uses it to speed along.”* **Guzik**

Vs. 15-19

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, **16** “When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” **17** The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. **18** Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?”

19 The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.”

- We can see a shift here in Egypt's role with Israel. Egypt goes from being an incubator to being a threat to Israel's existence. The seasons have changed and Israel's time in Egypt is coming to an end.

Emerging on the scene for Israel are two bravely noted Midwives: I don't know much about Midwifery, but one thing I can tell you:

- These two women in the Bible are mentioned by name because they saved a nation...
- The Bible tells us they Feared God...
- These two ladies are the grass roots intercessors to the Revival that is coming for Israel...
- There is going to be intercession with weeping but before that happens there were two God Fearing ladies who risked their lives to save a Generation...

The courage that these two women demonstrated could have cost them their lives. The fact that they honored God over the King shows they feared God over man.

Question: How important is it that we fear God over man?

Vs. 18, 19

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The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive."

- It is assumed that these two midwives lied to the King to protect themselves. But scholars agree, that is not necessarily the case. Perhaps as God Fearing Women, they were just as shrewd/wise in dealing with Ungodly Civil Authority. They understood something about their work. They allowed time for unassisted birth, because unassisted birth is better than taking the life of a baby boy.

Vs. 20-22

20 So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. **21** And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

1. **“God was kind to the midwives”** - It is great when the king shows you kindness, but it is even better when God does. Surely these Midwives experience what it feels like to please God, and feel his smile upon them. Those Midwives must have gone home each night with a warm sense of God’s good pleasure over their lives. I bet they slept great at night and walked with a warm sense of God’s favor over them.
2. **“The people increased”** - Meaning the Israelite population increased. These Midwives witnessed God blessing their ministry. Their efforts were blessed by God. He took it and made it fruitful.
3. **“God gave the midwives families of their own”** - This can go a couple different directions.
 - There is nothing in the text or any other text that tells us midwives were unable to have children. But that is not ruled out here. Some believe that the midwives of this time served in this way because they were unable to have children of their own. Thus they experienced a personal miracle and “God gave them families of their own.”

- The other believe this text means: God established their name and caused them to be remembered and honored among the people because of the bravery they demonstrated.
- Either way can I tell you God blesses the one who rejoices with others... The one who is not jealous but supports others in what God has opened up for them... Miracles happen and God moves when we humble ourselves, look past our own desires and help others move forward in what God has called them to... I believe the biggest crowns in heaven are handed out to those who serve others over themselves...

Vs. 22

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

Exodus 2

1 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, **2** and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. **3** But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. **4** His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Couple things that stand out:

1. This child that we know as Moses is born into a Ministry Family. Both his mother and father are of the tribe of Levi. The tribe of Levi is uniquely designated by God for the priesthood and ministry. It shouldn't surprise us to see a spiritual attack against Moses this early. The spiritual battle doesn't wait for Him to be full grown, it starts early.

- We see this also in the story of our Lord Jesus. After his birth Herod sets out to kill Jesus because he is referred to by the wise men as the King of the Jews.

2. We know that Moses has an older brother and sister, Aaron and Miriam. Aaron must have made it before the decree was given. For this reason we know the Devil is at play and intended to end Moses early, but God's plan is not stopped by the plans of the devil. Just as Daniel was saved from the jaws of the Lion and the three Hebrew boys from the fiery furnace, God's will prevails.

Vs. 3

But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.

- Can you imagine being in Moses's mother's position. She picks out a basket for her son like a floating coffin, with the purpose of putting Him in the River, never to see him again. She probably picked the best basket she could find, then she treats it with tar and pitch. Pitch is what God instructed Noah to put inside and outside the Ark. The tar and pitch filled the cracks of the wood allowing it to be water tight.
- The word pitch is where we get the word propitiation. It's one of the first references in the Bible for atonement, meaning to cover. The pitch both on Noah's ark and Moses's basket was there to protect against the day of judgment. In the same way the Blood of Jesus is our propitiation/atonement to guard us from the day of God's judgment.
- This is a mother's way of saying son there is nothing else I can do. God I'm doing everything I know to save his life, now I trust him to you.
- There is a lesson here for us as parents. We must do everything in our power to raise our children to Love God and do His will. But

there will come a moment for everyone of us where we put them in the Basket covered in atonement and say “God they’re yours now”.

Vs. 5-10

5 Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. **6** She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said.

7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?”

8 “Yes, go,” she answered. So the girl went and got the baby’s mother.

9 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him.

10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

- Can you imagine the look on Miriam’s face when she got to her mom.

“Hey Mom here’s Moses back. I followed him down the river and he got picked up by Pharaoh’s daughter. She loves him like a puppy and wants to know if you would be willing to nurse him. Oh and she said she would pay you.”

Psalms 30:5 KJV

“weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

- The story of Moses is one that demonstrates God’s heart for his people.

- It shows us God's Provision and Protection.
- The story of Moses teaches us there is nothing impossible with God.
- The story of Moses introduces us to the Glory and Power of God
- It introduces us to His Patience and Kindness, along with the Severity and Holiness of our God.
- The story of Moses teaches us that God chooses and uses imperfect people. Moses is a great example of an imperfect person, he has an issue with anger that caused him to kill an Egyptian and later disobey the Lord. Yet God uses Moses

The story of Moses shows us:

- Moses walked with God and God spoke with him face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. **Exodus 33:11**
- Moses is a man who finds favor with God and is known by name. **Exodus 33:17**
- Moses is the standard and example for Intercession and Leadership. **Jeremiah 15:1**

Closing: