

The Dream Is Not Dead, But Transformed

Jochebed

Exodus 1:1-22, 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION: Happy Mother's Day. Today, we are going to talk about one of the major characters in the Old Testament, **Jochebed**. Although Jochebed's appearance in the Old Testament is brief, and little is said about her, she plays a crucial role as the mother of Moses. Her actions as a midwife had a profound impact on Israel's history. She gave birth to the three leaders of the **Exodus generation: Moses, Aaron, and Miriam**. As she helped shape the life of one of its greatest leaders. The meaning of Jochebed name in Hebrew is "Glorious, honorable," and biblically, Jochebed is associated with "God's glory."

BACKGROUND: The Jews had lived in Egypt for about 400 years, beginning with Joseph, who had risen to power and saved Egypt from a devastating famine. Over the course of several generations, however, Joseph and his remarkable contributions were forgotten as new rulers came to power. According to the Book of Genesis 41-51 and Exodus 1:6-8, after many years had passed, a new Pharaoh ascended the throne who did not remember Joseph's role in Egypt's history.

- I. **When You Face Challenges That Seem Impossible, Fear God (Exodus 1:17-22) (Job 1:1, 2:7-10)**
 - A. Whether you are dealing with overwhelming difficulties at work, family struggles, or situations that appear to have no solution, remember to fear God. In Exodus 1:17, 20, and 21, the Hebrew midwives faced an impossible command from Pharaoh to kill all the Hebrew baby boys. Instead of giving in to fear or pressure, they chose to honor God above all else. Their reverence for God led them to do what was right, and as a result, God rewarded their courage and faithfulness.
 - B. To fear God means we recognize Him as **the ultimate authority**. Because of this recognition, we should choose to obey God rather than people, even when doing so requires us to reject idols, personal desires ("the flesh"), and the values promoted by the world. Rejecting the flesh and worldly views means putting God's teachings first, above our own wants or the expectations of society. Midwives' respect for God led them to **value righteousness over popular opinion or law. . (Acts 5:29) (Proverbs 1:7)**
 - C. Fearing God means to recognize Him as the Creator and to know that **His plans will stand forever. (Psalm 33:8-11)**
 - D. The moral choices of the midwives moved their faith and inspired them with such courage to risk their lives by disobeying the mandate of the King of Egypt. *A reverent attitude towards God motivates us to participate in His Kingdom Agenda.*

II. Fearing God Moves to Trust In Him (V2:1-9)

- A.** Jochebed was faced with an impossible situation. Being a Levite woman, as a descendant of Levi, she defied Pharaoh's decree, hiding her son (Moses) for three months before placing ***him in a basket on the Nile***. Her faith and courage led to her son being saved by Pharaoh's daughter, and ironically, she was hired to nurse her own child.
- B.** She put her baby boy in a basket coated the bottom with tar, to make it waterproof. Placed among the reeds on the banks of the Nile River.
- C.** The basket was made from papyrus, a common Nile marsh plant widely used by Egyptians for items like baskets, sandals, mats, ropes, and paper. She utilized available resources to save her son.
- D.** There was much danger in the river. The animals that inhabited the Nile River were ***crocodiles, rhinos, birds, turtles, lizards, and frogs***. ***Over 15 species of venomous snakes, fish, and hippos***.

III. Jochebed had Faith In God's Protection (Hebrews 11:23) (Acts 7:17-22)

- A.** Only because she trusted the Lord could she abandon her son to a river with many dangers rather than see her son killed. She knew in her heart that God would take care of her child.
- B.** Jochebed was only able to leave her son in the river because she truly trusted the Lord. She faced many dangers, yet she chose **faith over fear**. She believed deep in her heart that God would watch over her child. Moms, you may sometimes feel that your dreams for yourself or your children are dead or impossible to achieve. Take a moment today to reflect on your dreams and ask for guidance, trusting that they are safe in His hands.
- C.** See **fear of God should always move us to trust**, and **trust reveals our faith in God**. ***When Jochebed placed little Moses in the Nile River that day, she could not have known that he would grow up to be one of God's greatest leaders. Chosen to rescue the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt along with his siblings Aaron, and Miriam. By letting go and trusting God, an even greater dream was fulfilled. (Psalms 56:3-11) Because with God, your dream is not dead but transformed to His Kingdom Agenda.***

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

G.T.G

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