

Delivered from the River

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Fall at the Fount / Exodus 2:1–10

I. Water is symbolic of forces beyond human control.

- A. In early Bible (pre-Sinaitic): a cosmic force that only God could control and govern.
- B. The powerful force for life or for death: like Noah's flood.
- C. Becomes symbol of deliverance: God curtails destructive force to preserve His people.
 - 1. Noah after the flood.
 - 2. Here: Moses in Nile.
 - 3. Israel through Red Sea.
 - 4. Israel through Jordan River.

II. Literary Features in Bible.

- A. Speech from God.
- B. Written speech: literature
 - 1. Bible written by over 40 authors but one source: Holy Spirit.
 - 2. Expectation of repeated themes: water's significance.
 - a. Divine provision and blessing.
 - b. New beginnings (baptism, rebirth, etc.).
 - c. Judgment.
 - d. God's sovereignty.
- C. Looking for literary patterns in metanarrative (comprehensive account, overarching message).

III. [Exodus 2](#) and [Genesis 1](#): all of creation describes as “good” for the purpose for which God made it; Moses “fine” or “good” (same word) for the new era of God's redemptive purposes.

IV. [Genesis 6–9](#) and [Exodus 2](#)

- A. Water (subdued in God’s creative work) unleashed as instrument of judgment; God saved Noah and family by placing in an ark; delivered from above, through judgment, life from death.
- B. In Egyptian culture, Nile was the source of life; Pharaoh transformed it into agent of death ([Ex 1:22](#)); Moses placed in basket and preserved from the water/death; brought up out of water from above.
- C. Hebrew word for “ark” and “basket” (te-bat) identical and only used here.
- D. “Moses” in Egyptian is compound word for “give birth to” and “a son,” but similar to Hebrew word for “to draw up/out of water.”

V. Moses’ deliverance prefigures Israel’s.

- A. Israel in slavery; brought out/delivered from above/divinely orchestrated; led by one of her own who was present in the face of animosity; defied the power of the world; through Red Sea; enriched; brought to Mt. Sinai; received blessing of Covenant.
- B. Echoes of Noah’s flood: brought from water up on Mt. Ararat; renewed creation mandate (inherited the earth); received blessing of covenant.
- C. Moses sentenced to death but delivered from above, brought up out of river; Nile River killed so many but delivered Moses safely so that he might deliver Israel; sister/family defied worldly power and was present in face of adversity; “brought up” figuratively and literally into Pharaoh’s house with much riches and blessings. Through one man’s personal deliverance a nation was delivered (Israel; note similarities with Noah).

VI. Moses’ deliverance prefigures Jesus’ redemptive work.

- A. Born into humanity that was enslaved to sin. ([Rom 6:20](#))
- B. Represented the ultimate deliverance from above. ([Colossians 2:12](#))
- C. Plunged into death but preserved from destruction/corruption. ([Acts 2:27](#); [Ps 16:10](#))
- D. Born of a woman and preserved in infancy the same as Moses. ([Gal 4:4](#))
- E. Brought out of death to deliver His people; to bring the New Covenant and its blessings. ([Colossians 1:13–14](#); [Heb 2:14–15](#))