

Exodus Ch. 2

Genesis 15: 13-14 ¹³“And He said unto Abram, know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; ¹⁴And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.”

- God’s promise to Abraham only stated the end result, not how God would accomplish these things.
- Now we get down to specifics.
- God chooses a man that He would use, and as always God protects and sustains the man that He chooses.

Psalms 18:17-19 ¹⁷“He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me. ¹⁸They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the Lord was my stay. ¹⁹He brought me forth also into a large place; He delivered me, because He delighted in me.”

- Moses is one of the few characters in the Bible that we get to see his life from the cradle to the grave.

V: 1-4 Moses’ parents go un-named except that they are both of the tribe of Levi which would later be the priestly line. We later learn that their names are Amram & Jochebed.

- A son is conceived, and not named until later by Pharaoh’s daughter.
- Moses is a “goodly child” – “unusually beautiful baby”.
- The law of the land was forced infanticide. Pharaoh’s decree was that if the people had a male child he was to be thrown into the river, but if the child was a girl, she should be kept alive.
- Moses’ parents are not willing to give up the child. Moses’ mother hides him for 3 months; but the child grows and is no longer able to be hidden.
- We have to assume at this point that the children are being inspected and that Pharaoh’s decree was being enforced by his soldiers and that the penalty for disobedience was probably death.
- Moses’ mother sets him in a small “ark” or basket, sealed with pitch, asphaltic tar, making it sea worthy then entrusts the child to God’s will. Sounds familiar
- The only other time thus far in the Bible when an ark is used or mentioned is when it is used for the salvation of Noah’s family. **Genesis 6:14**

- Jochebed is invoking God's salvation upon her son, she is looking to God. They are relying upon God's word!
- The New Testament sheds some light on this scene:
- Moses' parents display courage and faith in hiding their son and seeking to ensure his survival – they actually end up in the NT Hall of Faith.

Hebrews 11:23 “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.”

- Considering the faith factor, and the ark – we can see that Amram & Jochebed believed the word of God which was their final authority.

Romans 10:17 “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

- As they set Moses upon the river, it wasn't because they were afraid, they did it by faith, they did it in obedience to God's word.

1 John 4:18 “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear...”

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- Pharaoh's decree couldn't have lasted too long: Either there would be a shortage of male slaves to get the work done, or when Moses eventually comes back as God's chosen deliverer, it would have been a nation of women
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V: 5-9 Moses' sister, Miriam, watches her little brother float down the river and come to rest near Pharaoh's daughter.

- Pharaoh's daughter's heart goes out to this little child, knowing the he is a Hebrew and that he will certainly die - takes the child in as her own.

Proverbs 21:1 “The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever He will.”

- God caused her to have compassion upon Moses – she was used by God to accomplish His perfect will.
- Pharaoh's daughter knows right away that the child is Hebrew. (Circumcision)
- Miriam approaches and offers to find a nursemaid – a role that Moses' mother fills.
- Now Jochebed is being paid to do in public that which she had done for free in secret.

Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

- In Exodus Ch. 1 Pharaoh said “let us deal wisely with them” as he orchestrated his plan to afflict the children of Israel and prevent their departure from the land.
- Cool irony that God turns it around and deals wisely with Pharaoh who now unwittingly is providing succor to the male child who’s very life contradicts all his wisdom and edicts, and who will in fact be used by God lead the children of Israel out of Egypt.

1 Corinthians 3:19 “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.
For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.”

V: 10 Pharaoh’s daughter adopts Moses, whose name means: “drawn” as in to “draw out” – from the river.

- Queen Hat-shep-sip was one of the most powerful queens in Egyptian history; her tomb is still intact in Luxor today. She was the daughter of Pharaoh Thut Moses 1st who was one of the greatest military commanders and builders of that age.
- At this time the Pharaoh’s were trying to assert their own deification. Asserting that somehow they were descendants of their most powerful deity in and among their polytheistic religious system – which was the Nile River.
- They worshipped the Nile River as the giver and sustainer of life.
- Moses was not only drawn from the river at this time, and named after the Pharaoh, but he was to be groomed to actually be Pharaoh.

Egyptian history reveals [Intrigue in the Egyptian court:](#)

- Thut-Moses-1st is trying to build a dynasty, and he wants his daughter to be a participant.
- Thut-Moses 1st forces his daughter to marry her ½ brother; Thut-Moses 2nd and she isn’t happy about that.
- Not long thereafter, her husband Thut-Moses 2nd who is Pharaoh of Egypt dies which is ok with Queen Hat-Shep-Sip.
- The only problem is that Thut-Moses 2nd before he died insisted that his son from a harem wife be made Pharaoh. His name was Thut-Moses 3rd, who was a boy, but considered illegitimate because his mother was essentially a concubine or prostitute.
- Queen Hat-shep-sip was able to dominate her step son and assumed the throne for over 20 years during which time she grooms Moses to be Pharaoh.
- Thut-Moses 3rd finally wins out, deposing Hat-Shep-sip and assumes the throne of Egypt – and he is the Pharaoh that hates Moses and seeks to kill him – at which time Moses flees to Midian.

V: 11-12 We fast forward almost 40 years to when Moses is a grown man, what about his teen age years and early life?

Acts 7:22 “And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds”

- We learn 3 things about Moses from this passage:
 1. Learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians – that is saying a lot. We’re still trying to figure out some of the things they did. Their building and architectural wisdom, science, and medicine – they were the educated people of the day.
 2. Moses was an eloquent speaker and an effective communicator.
 3. Moses was mighty in deeds, which usually means military victories; he was accomplished, well known, he achieved success and was known for being effective at what he did – he had the Midas touch.
 - All the more reason for Thut-Moses 3rd to dislike and feel threatened by this potential rival to the throne.
- Though not spoken of in scripture, between the time spent in his youth with his birth mother, and the providential will of God there had been instilled in Moses a sense of national identity which caused him to have compassion upon his brethren – to identify with them.
- Moses saw an Egyptian striking a Hebrew and he took matters into his own hands.
- Moses commits murder – God uses imperfect vessels to accomplish His perfect will.

Hebrews 7:25 “Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

- Moses had it in his mind that he was going to be a blessing to the Hebrews, that he would be their deliverer.
- Again the New Testament gives a little commentary here, as Stephen is making his address to the Sanhedrin.

Acts 7:24-25 “²⁴And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: ²⁵For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.”

- As this plays out we see that Moses, like Joseph before him becomes a type of Christ.

- Moses was rejected by the Jews the first time, he came to act in their defense, he came thinking they would know that God had ordained that he should deliver them, but they rejected him.
- During his time of rejection, he married a Gentile bride, but when he came back again with his Gentile bride, they received him, and he became the deliver of God's people.
- Just as our Lord Jesus, who, when He came the first time to deliver His people, they rejected Him. Our Lord Jesus has taken a Gentile bride to Himself – His bride is the church: and one of these days, He's going to come back with His Gentile bride, and they're going to recognize Him, and receive Him, and He will be their deliverer.

Romans 11: 25-26 ²⁵For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. (The gathering of His bride.) ²⁶And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”

- Even though Moses would eventually be God's chosen instrument that He would use to deliver Israel, at this point he is acting on his own.
- He seemingly strikes out in anger. In the power of his flesh, he can't even bury one Egyptian successfully. God would later empower him to bury the entire Egyptian army – by the power of the Spirit.
- This would happen only after God's call on Moses' life, after Moses was prepared for the task. In our energy, in our flesh we can't accomplish anything of value to God.

John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.”

Contrasting that with walking in the Spirit, doing the will of God:

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

V: 13-14 Moses goes out the next day and sees two Hebrews in an altercation.

- As he begins to intervene they respond: who are you to talk to us?
- Are you going to kill me like the Egyptian yesterday?
 1. Obviously the Hebrews aren't that impressed with Moses.

2. His actions the day before are not a secret, but are in fact common knowledge.
- Moses had looked side to side, but he didn't look up. God is always watching.

Hebrews 4:12-13 “¹²For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

Numbers 32:23 “... ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out.”

V: 15 Pharaoh finds out about the murder and seeks to kill Moses, who then flees into the desert of Arabia, ending up at a well.

- We might assume that this was because Moses feared Pharaoh, again the NT gives us the needed information:

Hebrews 11:24-27 “²⁴By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ²⁵choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; ²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. ²⁷By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.”

Jesus said:

Mark 8:34 “... whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

Paul wrote to Timothy:

2 Timothy 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

2 Corinthians 3:5 “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.”

- We can see that God is truly preparing Moses for the work ahead.

V: 16-20 The priest of Midian, Reuel / Jethro – had 7 daughters, no mention of sons. They were out tending the flocks, shepherdesses as was the custom.

- They drew water for their flock when shepherds, young men, came in and drove them away from the water troughs which the girls had filled to water their own flocks. The stronger preying upon the weaker.
- This may have been a regular occurrence, due to Jethro's surprise at their being home early.
- Moses sees what is going on, and intervenes on behalf of Jethro's daughters, driving the other shepherds away.
- We see some awesome attributes in Moses at this time: Moses was educated and had many skills, here he puts it all into practice and shows a strength of character – he stood up and fought for what was right, he was a defender of the weak, he was both strong and kind.
- He was humble, after driving the other shepherds back; he watered the flock of Jethro.
- Jethro then extends hospitality to Moses.

V: 21-22 Moses is content to hang around, and is given a bride from amongst Jethro's daughters.

- Moses was in line to be Pharaoh, he had prestige, power, and riches in Pharaoh's court, now he's a shepherd – an occupation despised by Egyptians – and he's content!

1 Timothy 6:6 “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”

Philippians 4:11 “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”

- This same gesture also brings a “son” into the family which would be an advantage to Jethro.
- Ziphorah bears Moses a son who is named Gershom: “Foreigner” or “Stranger”
- Moses is humble; he remembers that he is just a stranger and a foreigner.
- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all understood that they were just sojourners, strangers and foreigners in the land.

Psalms 34:18 “The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”

V: 23-25 Pharaoh, king of Egypt died.

- The children of Israel sighed / groaned because of their bondage & slavery.
- God heard their cry:

Psalm 34:4; 6; 15; 17. “⁴I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.” “⁶This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.” “¹⁵The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.” “¹⁷The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.”

- When we read that “God remembered His covenant” it is the same as saying “God did not forget His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

V: 25 And God had “respect” unto them.

- “Respect”: (H3045). yada', yaw-dah'; He knew them, He recognized them, to know in a relational sense.

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me.”

1. God heard.
2. God remembered.
3. God looked.
4. God knew.