

**EXODUS 1-2**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Exodus chapter 1 as we continue our study through the Word of God, and we begin a new book this evening. And keep in mind that this is just a continuation from Genesis, as it picks up where Genesis left off with the Jews down in Egypt!

As we closed last time, we saw that the book of Genesis ended with the death of Joseph in Egypt but not before he made the children of Israel promise that when God delivered them out of Egypt, that they would take his bones with them into the Promised Land.

As we will see here in Exodus, it is a fascinating book of redemption.

I realize that for many, they don't really like to study the Old Testament. They want to get into the New Testament and there is nothing wrong with studying the New Testament. But if you ignore the Old Testament, you will miss out on some wonderful learning opportunities.

What do I mean by that?

Remember what Paul wrote in Romans 15:4, "**For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.**"

Keep in mind what I said the focus of the book of Exodus is all about. It is about –  
***REDEMPTION!***

Isn't that the hope of every child of God? Of course it is!

So as we go through this book, keep in mind that Moses is the deliverer just like we see Jesus in the New Testament. Some awesome lessons for us as we go through this book of Exodus!

Like the book of Genesis, many so-called scholars like to argue who wrote the book of Exodus.

Folks, I'm a simpleton and I will let the Scriptures speak for themselves.

In Exodus 17:14 we are told, "**Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.'**" (See also Exodus 24:4, 7; 34:27-28).

In Nehemiah 13:1 we are told, "**On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people, and in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever come into the assembly of God.**" (See also Nehemiah 8:1).

And in I Kings 2:3 we are told, "**And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.**"

Now if that is not enough to convince you that Moses wrote Exodus, listen to what the New Testament tells us.

In Mark 7:10 Jesus said, "**For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'**" Jesus was referring to Exodus 20:12 and 21:17 in that verse.

Also, in Mark 12:26 Jesus said, "**But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?**" Jesus was referring to Exodus 3:6.

Agree with me or not on this one but I will believe what Jesus has to say over the ideas of man any day! Moses wrote the Pentateuch or the first five books of the Bible, including Exodus!

Now we saw in our study last time that the book of Genesis closed like this, “**Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.’ So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.**” Genesis 50:25-26.

We see that the book of Genesis closes with a coffin in Egypt and a promise that one day God will bring His people home, back into the land of Canaan, the Promise Land.

Maybe what the Lord is trying to show us through all of this is that before we can be redeemed; we must admit we are dead in sin.

As I have said, the book of Exodus speaks of - ***REDEMPTION!***

Merrill Unger makes these comments regarding the book Exodus. He wrote,

The aim of the Book of Exodus centers in the great experience of redemption and the constitution of Jacob’s posterity as a theocratic nation at Mount Sinai.

God, connected heretofore [thus far] with the Israelites only through His covenant with Abraham, confirmed to Isaac and Jacob, now brings them to Himself nationally through redemption.

As the Chosen People through whom the Redeemer was to come Jehovah also places them under the Mosaic Covenant and dwells among them under the cloud of glory.

- Merrill Unger, Introductory Guide to the Old Testament, p. 196

The Hebrew title for this book is not Exodus but it is taken out of the first verse, “**These are the names.**”

And the Septuagint translation or the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures calls it *“The departure.”*

The English title, *“Exodus,”* which means *“a going out”* translates the title in the Septuagint translation. Thus, we call it *Exodus*.

However, you can't have deliverance without a deliverer. And, like I have said, the principle figure which the book is built is God's deliverer, Moses.

We can divide this book up into three main sections and it is pretty simple.

We see in Exodus chapters 1-18 the Exodus!

In Exodus chapters 19-24 we see the Law!

And in Exodus chapters 25-40 the focus is the Tabernacle!

Keep in mind that as we move into Exodus this evening, some 300 years or so have passed by since the close of Genesis and that is where we will pick up our study this evening, in Exodus chapter 1, starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

## EXODUS

### VERSES 1-6

As you read this you see that Jacob is dead, Joseph is dead, all his brothers are dead, all that generation is dead – not too good of a start in the formation of a nation, they all are dying!

Well, if you feel that way you need to read on and see what God is doing and has done in those 430 years that they were down in Egypt. In fact, all we have to do is read the next verse, Exodus 1:7 and you will see what God was doing.

VERSE 7

You don't need to understand Hebrew to figure out what God is doing here; He is growing a nation and He is doing a great job!

From 70 people they will grow to over 2 to 3 million people by the time of the Exodus, in just 430 years.

I guess you can say they were "**fruitful.**"

I guess you can say that they "**increased abundantly.**"

I guess you can say they "**multiplied.**"

I guess you can say they "**grew exceedingly mightily**" or they "**became very numerous.**"

And if you still don't get it, "**the land was filled with them.**"

Yes, there were a lot of them; I think God has made His point.

Now some don't agree with those high numbers but if the numbers of the children of Israel doubled every 25 years, from 70 people, then in 430 years you would come to around 3 million people! I think it is very accurate and some believe that there were even more.

This is what God promised Abraham several hundred years earlier, "**Now the Lord had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'**"

Genesis 12:1-3.

Do the Scriptures support those high numbers of people?

I believe they do.

In Exodus 12:37 we are told that in the Exodus there were over *600,000 men* above the age of 20, plus women and children.

Add in the women to the men and you would come up to around *1.2 million people*.

Now add in the children and let's say conservatively three children to each family and that would be *another 1.8 million people*.

That would bring you to 3 million people traveling in the Exodus! Again, it may have been a lot higher!

But why did God bring them down to Egypt, what was the purpose of God doing that?

There are a few reasons why He did that.

In the land of Canaan they may have been assimilated into the culture and people of Canaan, the Canaanites and they could have lost their identity.

In Egypt, the Egyptians looked down upon shepherds and non-Egyptians, so they did not mix together.

And, as we have seen, down in Egypt they grew to some 2 to 3 million in number!

Another reason was to toughen them up. They were slaves in Egypt for some 400 of those 430 years!

I think Moses picks up on this in Deuteronomy 4:20 where he wrote, **“But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people, an inheritance, as you are this day.”**

It is as one writer put it, *“Many times suffering and adversity in the world makes a person long to be delivered (saved)! If it wasn't for the pain and suffering these people would never have wanted to come out of Egypt.”*

And that is true of us many times before we are saved. The pain and suffering in our lives drove us to the Savior, to Jesus our deliverer! And even after we are saved God will use tough times to draw us to Him!

Another reason was that God was preparing the land for them when they were in Egypt!

What do I mean by that?

In Genesis 15:16 God said to Abraham, “**But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.**”

For some 650 years God gave the Amorites time to repent, to get right, to stop doing those demonic things like sacrificing their children to pagan gods, human torture, worshipping demons, and so on. But they refused to listen and obey and thus, judgment came but God’s mercy lasted some 650 years! And after that, God had no other choice but to judge them! (Abraham to Jacob down in Egypt = 220 years. Then, 430 years down in Egypt. Total, 650 years!)

As one writer put it, they were “*Like a rabid dog, they had to be exterminated not only in order that others wouldn’t be infected by their debauchery, but also that they might be put out of their own misery.*”

And under the leadership of Joshua, the children of Israel drive out the Canaanites from the land and God gave the land to the children of Israel just as He promised to Abraham back in Genesis chapter 15!

So for some thirty years things were going well, and then . . .

VERSES 8-11

This Pharaoh that did not know Joseph was probably Pharaoh Sesostris III, who was reigning just before Moses was born.

And Amenemhet II followed him and was on the throne during the time of Moses.

And the Pharaoh during the time of the exodus was Neferhotep I.

These kings were fearful of the children of Israel because of their numbers. If Egypt was invaded, they feared that the children of Israel may side with their enemy and thus, they would be defeated.

Now we don't know how long the children were afflicted, it may not have been the whole 400 years.

It may have started out easy and as time went by, as they forgot what Joseph did for them, saving the Egyptian people, Pharaoh began to work them harder and harder.

And it got to the point where now they were fearing their slaves, the Jewish people. Because of that they worked the children of Israel even harder. They put them in cruel bondage to discourage them, they oppressed them.

Now God does not condone what they did to the children of Israel but God will use this affliction to cause them to turn back to Him so He can lead them into the Promise Land. It was time to go home, and He did not want them comfortable in the world, in Egypt!

VERSES 12-14

As I have said, the nation could not grow like this back in Canaan and the reason was simple. It was almost impossible to avoid intermarriage with the pagan and wicked inhabitants of Canaan!

On the other hand, Egypt was so racially biased that they separated themselves from the Jewish people which allowed Israel to grow for those 430 years without being assimilated!

And this population growth for the Jewish people was perceived as a threat to the Egyptians and to Pharaoh!

So to stop this growth, they afflicted them!

Isn't that interesting, the more they were afflicted the more they grew!

Folks, that has always been the story of God's people. It seems that during times of peace and prosperity the church becomes complacent and weak. But, during times of persecution it grows strong because only those whose faith is real will suffer and die for what they believe in!

It is as Tertullian, the early church writer, said, "***The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.***"

Look at how the church grew during the Jewish and Roman persecutions, it spread throughout the world!

The only time the church was in trouble was when Constantine united the church with the state and the church became weak and ineffective!

Maybe we need some persecution against the church in America if we want to see it grow, if we want it to be strong.

The church in America may be 3,000 miles wide but it is only an inch deep!

Now, is it possible for the enemy to destroy the work of God, to stop it, to wipe out God's people?

Absolutely not and we need to remember that, not because I have said it, but because God has said it in His Word.

In Isaiah 54:17 we are told, **“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me,’ Says the Lord.”**

And Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, **“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”**

You see, Satan will not overcome the Church.

Now let me be clear on this. That doesn't mean persecution and martyrdom will not come upon the Church, but in that God will use it to bring others to Christ and to strengthen the Church.

Yes, the wickedness of the Egyptians could hurt the children of Israel, but they could never defeat God's plan for them.

And when you look at the history of the Jewish people and how much they have suffered over the years, you can clearly see that every nation that has come against Israel has been punished by God!

What did God tell Abraham?

In Genesis 12:3 He said, **“I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you.”**

The Egyptians were about to find out that what God has promised He is more than able to bring to pass.

VERSES 15-16

Make no mistake about it. Pharaoh was fearful of the Jewish people and how their numbers kept growing in spite of how hard he worked them.

And the next plan of Pharaoh was to try to destroy the power of the children of Israel by destroying the baby boys.

In doing this, by one generation they could destroy the children of Israel!

Yes, this was Pharaoh's plan, and he was responsible for his actions, but behind the scene was Satan and his demonic forces trying once again to prevent the Messiah, the seed of the woman from coming!

One writer put it like this, ***“If this plan had succeeded, Pharaoh would have wiped out the Hebrew people. The future generation of men would be dead and the girls would eventually be married to Egyptian slaves and absorbed into the Egyptian race.”***

But God's plans will not fail, and He will use the wickedness of man to fulfill his will!

And did you notice, that as these two midwives heard what Pharaoh had told them to do, kill the Hebrew boys that were born, we are also told in Exodus 1:17 that these midwives ***“feared God”*** and refused to do this evil thing.

Now think about this for a minute. How could these two midwives, Shiphrah and Puah possibly oversee the births of all these pregnant Jewish women?

Obviously they couldn't and most likely these two women were in charge of the midwives.

We don't know for sure, but it is possible. That is what makes sense to me.

VERSE 17

Here we see these two midwives disobey what Pharaoh, the government you might say, told them to do.

And yet, Paul tells us in Romans 13:1-7, **“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.”**

Yes, we are to obey the laws of the land, even pay taxes!

But, if the government tells us to do something that is contrary to the Word of God, like have an abortion, then you obey God and not man.

In Acts chapter 4, as Peter and John are arrested by the Jewish religious leaders for their faith in Jesus, we are told in Acts 4:18-20, **“So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.’”**

The government can't stop us from sharing our faith!

Also, in Acts 5:27-29 as Peter and the other apostles were arrested for their faith, we are told, "**And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, saying, 'Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!' But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: 'We ought to obey God rather than men.'**"

Again, the government can't stop us from sharing Jesus with others!

We are going to deal with this a little more as we read on, this idea of lying because it is not an easy one to reconcile. Should we never lie or are there situations where God will accept our lying?

Again, not an easy question to answer and I have to admit, it is one that I have struggled with and I will just show you what I think about this and you will have to pray about it, especially when you are placed in situations that deal with life and death of others.

#### VERSES 18-22

Was this a lie?

I think it was. I mean I can't believe that every Hebrew woman gave birth before they arrived, that is not statistically possible.

It is possible that these two midwives spoke to the other midwives and told them to drag their feet and let these women give birth on their own. Not sure we can read that into the text, but it is possible.

But if this was a lie, and like I said, I think it was, why do we read in Exodus 1:20-21, **“Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.”**

How could God bless these midwives for lying?

First of all, God did not bless them for lying, you won't find that anywhere in the text.

Then why did God bless them?

God blessed these midwives because they did fear God, they obeyed Him and they were interested in preserving life, not destroying life! I think that is the key here.

Now, because plan A did not work, the children of Israel continued to be fruitful, and thus, Pharaoh put plan B into place.

When any family has a male child born of the children of Israel, they are to be drowned in the Nile River! He left it up to the individual families!

How wicked is that and yet, Pharaoh saw nothing wrong with this.

Also, we don't know how many boys were murdered like this, we are not told, but even one is a heinous crime!

Now the Bible does say that lying is the natural language of the Devil! (John 8:44)

If that is true, and it is, how can God condone or accept or not punish lying?

Again, it is all based on the reason, and the main one is to preserve life!

Let me give you this example. During WWII Corrie Ten Boom hid Jews to protect them from being killed by the Nazi's and then lied to the Nazis by saying that they weren't hiding Jews!

Did her and her family commit the sin of lying?

I don't think so because they were protecting life and God is always in the business of protecting life.

Now could God have done something so they would not have had to lie.

He could have but He didn't, and I wonder how many Jews would have been murdered if they didn't!

Here's the thing. Lying for selfish reasons or with the intent to harm another is wrong and a sin. That is not what they did!

This is not easy but maybe this illustration will help in regard to obeying the government or not. Some have come down upon me with the whole COVID issue that I did not keep the church shut down long enough, that I didn't make people wear masks. And they basically said that I disobeyed what Paul said in Romans chapter 13.

Let me share this with you, it may help.

Say the city has a piece of property that has not only land on it, but also there was a pond on that piece of land.

They have a fence all around this property that says – ***“No Trespassing! If you are caught beyond this fence, you will be prosecuted!”***

I think that is very clear. That is the law of the city and to break it you are breaking the law and you are in violation of Romans chapter 13!

I think we are all in agreement on that.

As you are walking by this fence that has these warnings signs on it, you notice that two boys had climbed over the fence to go swimming in the pond, and they were not swimming but drowning!

What are you going to do?

*“The sign says, “No Trespassing” and that if I do, I will be punished. And the Lord did say that I am to obey the government, so I can’t go in and save them.”* And you walk on. Is that what you are going to do?

Of course you are not going to obey the sign. You are going to climb over the fence and save those boys.

Now, when the authorities come, are they going to arrest you for breaking the law?

There is no way you are going to be prosecuted for this because life trumps the law!

I hope that makes sense.

You see, God’s law against lying or disobeying the law is superseded by the greater good of wanting to save a life.

We see that here with these Egyptian midwives and we also see it with Rahab, they lied to save life!

And please keep in mind what Peter said in Acts 5:29, **“But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: ‘We ought to obey God rather than men.’”**

When the laws of man violate the laws of God, then we must obey the Lord!

Warren Wiersbe summed it up like this. He wrote, *“Let’s confess that most of us would hesitate to tell the truth if it really were a matter of life or death. It’s one thing for me to tell the truth about myself and suffer for it; but do I have the right to cause the death of others, especially those who have come under my roof for protection? Many people have been honored for deceiving the enemy during wartime and saving innocent lives. . . .”*

Again, this is not easy, and I think most if not all of us have not been put in a situation where we had to lie to save someone’s life.

But in other parts of the world, it is a reality.

Now as this chapter concludes we see that Pharaoh is not happy that his plan to kill the male Hebrew children failed and thus, like I have said, he changed his plan. Now each Jewish family was responsible for killing their newborn baby boy!

And what we are going to see is that for one family, one we are told about, I am sure there were others, they are going to be disobedient to the government. They are going to refuse to drown their newborn son!

## **EXODUS 2**

### **VERSES 1-2**

According to Exodus 6:20 the parents of Moses were *Amram* and *Jochebed*, from the tribe of Levi.

Now, can you imagine bringing a child into a world like this and yet they did because they trusted in the Lord.

Think about that for a minute. Apart from the Lord I can't imagine why anyone would want to bring a child into this evil and corrupt world, can you?

And yet, I trust the Lord that He will watch over and protect these little ones just as Amram and Jochebed believed!

Now it says that Moses was a beautiful child. Folks, I can't imagine Moses writing that he was an ugly child. In fact, babies are cute; they are beautiful, some more than others.

But I think something else is going on here.

In Hebrews 11:23 we are told, **“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command.”**

The Living Bible puts this verse like this, **“Moses’ parents had faith too. When they saw that God had given them an unusual child, they trusted that God would save him from the death the king commanded, and they hid him for three months and were not afraid.”**

Also, in Acts 7:20 we are told, **“At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father’s house for three months.”**

I believe God spoke to them showing that this child was going to be used mightily by God, that there was something special about him.

Thus, they hid this little boy for three months.

Remember in Hebrews 11:23 we were told that it was **“By faith”** that they did this.

Paul, in Romans 10:17 tells us, **“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”**

If you want your faith to grow, dig into the Word of God and apply it to your life.

This family, by faith, hid their little son for three months, based only on what God told them to do!

You see, I truly believe that God had revealed His plans for this child, Moses, to his parents. That this Moses would grow up and would be used by God to deliver His people from their bondage in Egypt!

Not only that. But I also believe that they taught these things to Moses when he was very young and because of that he grew up believing that he would be used by God to deliver his people out of Egypt!

As we read on, we will see that the daughter of Pharaoh will have Moses' mother care for him. We will see how our God is amazing in regard to the details. But hang in there, we will get to that in a minute.

What I want you to see is that Moses was taught these things when he was young, as Cole tells us, "*No doubt it was in these early years that Moses learnt of the 'God of the fathers' (Exodus 3:15) and realized that the Hebrews were his fellow countrymen (Exodus 2:11).*"

What can we take from that?

As parents and grandparents, we should never underestimate the value and power of teaching our children, as early as you can, about the Lord and laying for them a strong spiritual foundation.

As we do, it will help to safeguard them from the indoctrination of the world once they get older!

Remember what Proverbs 22:6 tells us, "**Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.**"

Also, keep in mind that they have two other children born before this edict by Pharaoh.

They have a daughter named *Miriam*, (Exodus 15:20) and a son named *Aaron*, (Exodus 6:20).

And this edict, to murder the Hebrew baby boys was given by *Pharaoh Amenemhet II*.

### VERSES 3-10

Did Jochebed do what Pharaoh said?

Well, kind of.

She put her son in the river, and yes, he was placed in a waterproof ark, but he was in the water.

What is interesting to me is that the Hebrew word translated “**ark**” in verse 3 is used only one other place in all of Scripture. Guess where? Yes, it is used with regard to Noah’s ark!

Now think of all that Jochebed was going through. Put yourself in her shoes. I am sure for most if not all of us that it was hard to let our children go out on their own as they grew up.

Can you imagine how hard this was for Jochebed?

And yet, by faith she sent him down the river you might say.

Folks, we must do the same with our children, not send them down the river, but let them grow, trusting that God will watch over them!

Now some argue that Jochebed was lacking faith. Why didn’t she just keep him in her home and trust God.

I like what J. Vernon McGee wrote in regard to this because we have to have a balance between trusting God and still acting responsibly in a given situation.

This is what he wrote,

***Jochebed had a serious problem. She could no longer hide her child.***

***A lot of pious people would have acted differently from this mother by saying, “Well, we’re just going to trust the Lord.”***

***That is a wonderful statement to make, but do you really trust the Lord when you are playing the fool?***

***Jochebed would have been foolish to keep her child in the house when a guard passing by might have heard his cry. It would have meant instant death for Moses.***

*I can hear someone saying, “You know the child would not cry when the guard passed by.”*

*How do you know? Faith is not a leap in the dark, as I heard some liberal say some years ago.*

*God asks us to believe that which is good and solid. God never asks us to do foolish things.*

*Jochebed did a sensible thing. She made a little ark and put Moses in it.*

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Vol. 1, p. 206

Years ago, back in Chicago, I had someone from our church tell me that if he ever got diabetes, he would not take insulin, he would just trust God!

That is just foolish. And what was so funny was that years later, when he got a hernia, guess what? He had surgery.

It is easy when you are not involved in a situation but when you are, things look different. And God has given us medicine and doctors to help heal these bodies or to keep them going. It is not a lack of faith!

So as Moses is placed in this ark, Miriam, his sister is sent to watch out for her brother, to see what will happen to him.

Can you imagine the years of psychotherapy she would need today!

But again, she would see the faithfulness of God in a powerful way and her faith will also grow. She will not need therapy because she has God!

Look at how God orchestrates all of this.

The daughter of Pharaoh, *Sobekneferu*, [sobekne-fer-u], feels she needs to take a bath and heads down to the Nile River.

Interestingly enough, in this area of the Nile River there are no crocodiles, so it was safe to bathe there and safe for Moses to float in that little ark.

And maybe the child cried at the right moment for this princess to hear and she told her maid to go and get this basket. And as the princess saw this child, she had compassion on him even though he was a Hebrew child!

And I love this. Miriam sees what is happening and offers to get a nurse to take care of the child and she goes and gets her mom, the mother of this child. And Sobekneferu pays Jochebed to raise him! God has a great sense of humor, doesn't He!

Now we don't know his Hebrew name, but the princess calls him *Moses* or "*drawn out*" since he was drawn out of the Nile River!

And here's the thing.

After Jochebed cared for Moses for Sobekneferu, [sobekne-fer-u], and Moses is now 3 or maybe even 5 years old at this point, Jochebed has to give her back to Sobekneferu so he can be raised in the Egyptian culture. I have to believe that during those few years she had with Moses, she instilled in him the things of God.

Like I have said, parents, grandparents, it is never too early to share the things of God with your child or grandchild! Make an impression early on and it won't leave them, as we will see with Moses!

VERSES 11-14

Keep in mind that *“Egypt was one of the most academic and scientific societies among ancient cultures. It is reasonable to think that Moses was instructed in geography, history, grammar, writing, literature, philosophy, and music.”*

Now this is not from the Bible but from the ancient Jewish historian Josephus. He wrote that Moses was heir to the throne of Egypt and that while a young man he led the armies of Egypt in victorious battle against the Ethiopians.

But now forty-years have passed by, and Moses feels the calling of God upon his life to be the deliverer of his people!

In Hebrews 11:24-27 we are told, **“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.”**

In Acts 7:21-28 we are told, **“But when he was set out, Pharaoh’s daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son. And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds. Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and tried to reconcile them, saying, ‘Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?’ But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, ‘Who**

**made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?”**

Again, Moses was next in line to be Pharaoh and yet he had a higher calling and was willing to sacrifice all the earthly riches for the eternal reward!

How did Moses know this?

I believe it was because of what his parents instilled in his life some 40 years earlier and it stuck with him!

Again, what an example for us. Are we willing to do the same?

So Moses sees an Egyptian beating a Hebrew man and he killed this Egyptian and buried him in the sand!

Was Moses wrong in what he did?

Yes, he was wrong.

But I thought he was the deliverer!

He was but God did not call him to be a deliverer just yet and not in that manner he went about doing it.

As you read the story it sounds right, logical but the reality is, that is not what God wanted him to do, kill one Egyptian at a time! And the second day, when he tries to break up a fight between two Jewish men, they call him out and they know Moses killed an Egyptian the day before! As we will see, Moses is going to be fearful when Pharaoh hears about this!

You see, at this point Moses was too big for God to use; he is going to be broken before he will be used by God as a deliverer of his people!

Folks, we can never be too small for God to use, but we can be too big.

Humble yourself before the Lord and He will lift you up!

One last point before we move on. Just as his brethren rejected Moses as the deliverer of his people the first time, so too was Jesus rejected by His own people, the Jews the first time He came.

But, like Moses, when He comes again, He will be recognized as the Deliverer, their Messiah!

### VERSES 15-20

Moses sees the handwriting on the wall, Pharaoh no longer wants him alive, and Moses flees for his life to the area of Midian.

If you remember from Genesis, Midian was the son of Keturah, the wife of Abraham. (Genesis 25:1-6) Why did he go there?

Because if Moses went to the area of Canaan and Syria, he would have been in trouble.

You see, Pharaoh had a treaty with the Hittite King and any fugitives along the northern route to Syria would have been arrested and sent back to Egypt.

So Moses heads southeast instead, to Midian.

Back then Midian was on both the west and east sides of the Reed Sea. Today it is Saudi Arabia on the east side of the Reed Sea and Egypt on the Sinai Peninsula on the west side of the Reed Sea.

As he gets by this well in Midian, probably exhausted, he sits down to rest. And as he is resting by this well, here come seven women.

It seems like these wells were a place not only to get water, but also to meet women!

And as they arrive the shepherd boys cause trouble, driving these women away.

But do not fear, Moses is here to save the day.

You remember how Charlton Heston handled this in *“The 10 Commandants”* he fights off these shepherd boys and makes a good impression with the ladies!

And being a gentleman, he helps these women water their flocks.

As the daughters return home, their father, Reuel who is also called Jethro in Exodus 3:1, asks his daughters how they got home so fast. And they explain to Jethro their father that there was this Egyptian man who helped them.

They probably thought he was an Egyptian by the clothes he was wearing.

And I love Jethro’s response; keep in mind that he has seven daughters! *“You let him get away! Go back and get him!”*

I love that! A father trying to marry off at least one of his daughters with six then to go!

#### VERSES 21-22

Moses’ ambitions to be the deliverer for his people seemed to be gone, faded away in the desert of Midian.

He is now content living in a desert, being a shepherd.

Did God put him on the shelf?

No, not at all. God is still working in the life of Moses.

You see, in Exodus 2:11 it says that **“he [Moses] went out to his brethren.”**

God did not call him yet, even though God gave him the passion to be a deliverer.

Folks, timing is everything and as we will see, God will send Moses out to be the deliverer and that will make all the difference in the world! Don’t rush ahead of God. If He has spoken to your heart about something, keep it in prayer until He leads, until He opens the door for you to walk through!

We see here that Jethro was able to marry away one of his daughters as Moses gets married to Zipporah and has a son by the name of Gershom, which speaks of being a ***“resident alien there.”***

Think about this for a minute. In Egypt Moses learned how to be somebody. In Midian he learned how to be a nobody.

Moses now finds himself living a very different life than he was used to in Egypt. Warren Wiersbe put it like this. He wrote,

***The man who was “mighty in word and deed” is now in the lonely pastures taking care of stubborn sheep, but that was just the kind of preparation he needed for leading a nation of stubborn people.***

***Israel was God’s special flock (Ps 100:3) and Moses His chosen shepherd.***

***Like Joseph’s thirteen years as a slave in Egypt and Paul’s three years’ hiatus after his conversion (Gal 1:16-17), Moses’ forty years of waiting and working prepared him for a lifetime of faithful ministry.***

***God doesn’t lay hands suddenly on His servants but takes time to equip them for their work.***

***God’s delays aren’t evidence of unconcern, for He hears our groans, sees our plight, feels our sorrows, and remembers His covenant.***

***What He has promised, He will perform, for He never breaks His covenant with His people. When the right time comes, God immediately goes to work.***

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – OT, p. 150

May we not forget that!

VERSES 23-25

Keep in mind that Moses was 80 years old and I'm sure any thoughts of being used by God to deliver His people from Egypt was nothing more than a distant memory at this point.

And yes, maybe Moses forgot about the plight of his people down in Egypt, turned his face from them, but God didn't! God was waiting for His perfect timing to work again with His people.

And remember that God did not turn his attention to His people because they were good or deserved it, but it was based upon the covenant that He made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

How does that relate to us?

God does not turn His attention to us, His love towards us because we deserve it, but it is because of the covenant relationship we have with God through Jesus Christ.

It is as Paul said in Hebrews 13:20-21, **“Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”**

The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“Now may the God of peace [Who is the Author and the Giver of peace], Who brought again from among the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood [that sealed, ratified] the everlasting agreement (covenant, testament), [Isa 55:3; 63:11; Ezek 37:26; Zech 9:11.] Strengthen (complete, perfect) and make you what you ought to be and equip you with everything good that you may carry out His will; [while He Himself] works in you and accomplishes that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ (the Messiah); to Whom be the glory forever and ever (to the ages of the ages). Amen (so be it).”**

Praise the Lord for His everlasting Gospel that He has extended to us through Jesus Christ!

In our next study we will see God call Moses to step forward and deliver the children of Israel from their bondage in Egypt. God heard their cry and God will act upon it and deliver them!