

# EXODUS 2:1-10

## LESSON: THE BIRTH OF MOSES

—September 8, 2019

### INTRODUCTION:

**1:15-22** Pharaoh, the king of Egypt instructed the Hebrew midwives Shiphrah and Puah to kill the boy babies and let the girl babies live when the Hebrew women gave birth. However, the midwives feared God and didn't do as the king commanded. Instead, they saved the male children and kept them alive showing great courage and love for God by risking their lives to disobey Pharaoh's command. When their actions were discovered by the king, he asked why they had done this. The midwife's answered that the Hebrew women were not like the Egyptian women, they were quick in their delivery before the midwives could get to the babies. Well, God blessed the midwives because they were God-fearing women and the people (the Israelites) increased and became very strong. And because of this, God "*made them houses*:" i. e. gave them children, families, and descendants. And Pharaoh called all his people together and commanded them to throw every (Hebrew) male son born into the river, but save the girl babies alive.

### LESSON:

### I. THE BIRTH OF MOSES EXODUS 2:1-2

**2:1** **And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi.** We see that in these verses that there is a man from the house of Levi who took a wife of the house of Levi. Yet their names are not mentioned in this verse. <sup>1</sup>The man's name was Amram and his wife was Jochebed. (Exodus 6:18-20). They were the parents of a girl whose name was Miriam. Then they had a son whom they called Aaron. Three years later, they gave birth to another son whom we know as Moses. It seems that his parents were *ordinary* people. But from them Moses came, whom God chose to save his people, and he became an *extraordinary* man. The families of Levi became the Levites and the priests. The priests were the descendants of Aaron. None of these names are mentioned in this chapter until we get to verse 10.

**2:2** **And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.** Now the woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. The mother saw that he was a goodly child, and for three months she kept him hidden away because of what the midwives were ordered to do by command of the Pharaoh.

### II. THE PRESERVATION OF MOSES EXODUS 2:3-10

**2:3** **And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink.** There came the time when the mother could no longer hide her son, so she made a small basket (an ark of bulrushes) and papyrus reeds, smeared with slime and pitch (tar), waterproofing it so water couldn't get into the basket. These reeds often called bulrushes could be gathered in swampy areas along the Nile and grew as tall as sixteen feet which would hide him. She then placed the child into the basket, covering and tucking him in, and placing him into the water among the reeds by the edge of the Nile River.

**2:4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.** While the mother was placing her child into the basket in the river, her daughter and his sister (Miriam) stood afar off watching as to what would happen to him.

**2:5 And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.** Now, God had a plan. Although the child was placed in the river in the basket, there is also the divine destiny of God, allowing Pharaoh's daughter to come down to wash herself at the river, and as she and her maidens walked along the riverside at the approximate time, in the same spot, the tiny ark rested. They see the ark of bulrushes along the reeds, and Pharaoh's daughter sends her maidens to fetch the basket.

**2:6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.** Behold, when they open it and gazed upon the child, they knew this was not an Egyptian child, but one of the Hebrew children crying, causing them to have compassion upon the baby.

**2:7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?**— The sister (Miriam) of the baby boy who had been following the basket to see where it would go, came forth to Pharaoh's daughter and asked if she should go and call a nurse of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for her. That was God's divine destiny!

**2:8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.** Of course, Pharaoh's daughter said yes, and behold she rushed home to get her mother, which was also the child's true mom.

**2:9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.** The mother is now before Pharaoh's daughter but, Pharaoh's daughter does not know she's the mother. She is told to take the child away to nurse him for Pharaoh's daughter, and that she would receive wages on top of that. What more can this mom (Jochebed) ask for, for she had hidden him from Pharaoh for 3 months and now he's still alive even to live in Pharaoh's palace later on. So, this took great courage for Jochebed as she took the child back and nursed him, for there were other mothers there whose child was killed and to see her with this boy child could cause conflict.

**2:10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.** In this agreement between Pharaoh's daughter and the woman (the mother who nursed the child), she was to bring him back to her when he had grown, and was weaned from the nursing woman, the child would become Pharaoh's daughter's son. She called him Moses because she "drew him out of the water." "Moses" is an Egyptian word meaning son and derived from the verb meaning "to draw forth" (similar to the Hebrew meaning).

## SUMMARY:

This is the beginning story of the birth of Moses and the courage of Moses' mother in keeping him hidden for three months. She saw that he was a goodly child. Pharaoh had given the command to the Hebrew midwives Shiphrah and Puah to kill the boy babies at birth and to keep alive the girl babies (2:1-2).

When the mother could no longer hide him, she made an ark (basket) of bulrushes and placed him in it to go down the river which is where Pharaoh's daughter came to wash herself, and as she and her maidens walked by, they saw a basket in the river and brought it out. Opening it they saw a baby crying and had compassion upon the child, for it was a Hebrew boy baby. The sister, who had been following the basket, ran to Pharaoh's daughter asking if she should go and call for a nurse of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for her. Pharaoh's daughter said yes, and behold she rushed home to get her mother. The woman (the true mother of the baby) is told to take the child away, and that she would be paid wages to nurse him. In this agreement between Pharaoh's daughter and the woman (the true mother who nursed the child), she was to bring him back to her when he was weaned from the breast, and the child would become Pharaoh's daughter's son. She then called him Moses because she "*drew him out of the water*" (2:3-10).