



The Lord is My Strength

The Baby in a Basket

Exodus 1 & 2

- The first lesson we can learn from the Life of Moses, isn't from Moses at all
 - It's from his parents
- Although the story starts out without even giving us their names, we all realize the faithful job that Amram and Jochebed did raising Moses
- Parents have a long-lasting effect even in subconscious ways that often we do not realize the impact of until much later in our own lives
- God knows this, and he has ordered it so that the family is one of His institutions for the development of individuals
- Even if you don't think that your family life was healthy, you would have to agree that it played a large part in shaping who you are as an individual today
- As we study the life of an individual, no biography would be complete without careful attention to the details of the parents of that individual or those who took the place of his parents were his own parents not available
- This is emphasized by the fact that God specifically includes information about Moses' parents in the narrative
- As you can see from the book of Exodus, before we ever get into the details of the life story of this man, we have part of a chapter devoted to his parents and to the kind of people they were
- We'll begin this study, by not concentrating on Moses himself, but on Moses' parents
- First, some interesting things leap out at us from Chapter 1
- Exodus 1:5
 - 5) And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were **seventy** souls: for Joseph was in Egypt *already*.

- Within 12 chapters we are going to see Moses lead an estimated 2,500,000 people out of Egypt, and it all begins with 70
- What does that tell us?
 - They were blessed abundantly, and prospered almost super-naturally
- Exodus 1:7
 - 7) And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.
- Now, imagine that type of culture
 - Everyone is doing well
 - Everyone is prospering
 - Everyone is healthy and hearty - actually mighty!
 - Whatever you put your hand to, turns to gold
 - It's the best of times, and it's not just that way for you, but for everyone that you know, and everyone that you live with
- Wouldn't that tend to spoil you?
 - Wouldn't you tend to start to think that this is due to the great place that you live?
 - Wouldn't you start to forget about the God that brought you there?
- Look what Joshua says when he reminds the Israelites about what their life was like back in Egypt:
- Joshua 24:14
 - 14) Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, **and in Egypt**; and serve ye the LORD.
- The Israelites were fat, dumb and happy... And they had moved away from serving God
- And then something else happens that is often a bad sign in the Bible
- Exodus 1:6
 - 6) And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.

- The Second-Generation syndrome
 - Those who are alive don't remember the "old times"
 - They don't remember the famine, the selling of Joseph, the remarkable salvation that came about solely by God's hand...
- All they know is the great fresh fruit, and wonderful meals that they have enjoyed all their lives here in Egypt
- So, Amram and Jochebed are brought up in a culture very far removed from God...
- Then something else happens...

- Exodus 1:8

8) Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

- Now things started to change dramatically...

- Exodus 1:9-11

9) And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel *are* more and mightier than we:

10) Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.

11) Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.

- And things get even worse...

- Exodus 1:12-14

12) But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

13) And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:

14) And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, *was* with rigour.

- So, Pharaoh tries a different tack...

- Exodus 1:15-16

15) And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one *was* Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah:

16) And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see *them* upon the stools; if it *be* a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it *be* a daughter, then she shall live.

- But, the midwives wouldn't do it, so Pharaoh commanded his people to kill the males

- Exodus 1:22

22) And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.

- Now we are introduced to Moses' parents

- Exodus 2:1

1) And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took *to wife* a daughter of Levi.

- It's not until chapter 6:20 that we find out that their names are Amram and Jochebed

- Many of the Israelites were serving the Gods of the Egyptians, but here is a faithful couple... Levites, who would eventually become the family of priests

- If you are going to be used by God, and if you are going to raise children who will be used by God, you may have to go against the grain

- You may have to be different from those around you

- You may have to be true to the Lord when most others are not being true to the Lord

- These are the kind of people whom God can use as parents

- These are the kind of people whom God can use to produce men that God can use

- Being Godly people, we next see Amram and Jochebed take step of faith...

- Exodus 2:2

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**.

- Notice the phrase, **goodly child**...

- Every parent thinks that their baby is something special...

- But, we get the impression that Moses really was something special

- Look at how Hebrews describes the event:

- Hebrews 11:23

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.

(Shouldn't it say, "By faith Jochebed..."?)

- "They saw that he was a proper child"
- Acts 7:20 says the same thing...
- What is it about Moses?
- The interesting thing about this word is that it implies "beautiful in God's sight"
- It wasn't just that his parents thought he was beautiful, it's that they recognized that he was beautiful in God's sight also
- We know that God doesn't look on the outward appearance, but on the heart of a man
- Moses' parents somehow saw that this was a child that God was going to use
- The fact that they did this "by faith" is significant
- So... What great use of God did this mother and father of faith think that their son might be appointed for?
- God had told Abraham that the day will come when He was going to give his descendants the land, but before He gave them the land, they were going to be in slavery for 400 years because the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full
- We have no record of this in scripture, but it's reasonable to think that Abraham probably passed this on to his children
- Now generations later, Amram and Jochebed were faithful enough to remember what they had been taught as children, and smart enough to realize that God had promised 400 years of slavery, and wise enough to determine that it was Moses
- It's the best way to explain the remarks about the parents faith, and about Moses being so exceedingly fair...
- Now, if you believe the faith it took to preserve this potential deliverer in the face of Pharaoh's guards roaming about killing baby boys, imagine what happens next:

- Exodus 2:3

23) 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.

- It would have taken a great deal of faith to hide a child ordered to death by the king...
- But, sometimes a step of faith is not all that God asks of us...
- Sometimes, God asks for a **LEAP OF FAITH**
- Have you ever stepped out in faith thinking that you were doing what God expects of you, and then things don't work out the way you thought they would?
- Instead of the problem being immediately solved, instead of things immediately getting better, perhaps what has happened to you is what happened to Moses' parents
- They took a step of faith and hid the baby, but God didn't solve their problem immediately
- In fact, the problem got worse, because whether they had thought it through in advance or not, the baby kept growing and growing, and the time came when they couldn't hide him any longer
- As you walk with God and take whatever steps of faith He may direct you to take, remember that God sometimes directs us to take more than one step of faith
- Sometimes the second step of faith that He directs us to take is a much more straining situation than the first step
- It is clearly taught in the Scripture that it is only as you take that first step that you will have the strength to take that second step, and it is only as you take that second step that you will have the strength to take the third step
- Each step that you take strengthens the faith that you will need to take further steps along the way
- The leap that Amram and Jochebed are faced with is something that would have been very difficult to do, if not impossible
- Can you imagine yourself in a situation like this?
- Think about having to take a baby and make a little boat and put that baby in a boat and hide it in the weeds at the edge of the river

- It was a step of faith to hide him within the home, but now the time came when she had to hide him in a more difficult way
- Moses' parents were willing to take these strange steps of faith because of their relationship to God
- I believe that Moses' later usefulness to God was because of the faith he had seen exhibited in the lives of his parents
- Surely, Moses heard the story about how God had provided for them when they had responded in faith
- Moses would also have heard his parents say, "Moses there are going to be times when you are going to have to trust God, and you won't even know what the outcome is going to be"
- Moses was trained by his parents for the few important years of early life
- How diligent they would have been knowing they only had a few years
- How important those early years are, if they can a lifelong affect on a person like Moses
- Amram and Jochebed had other Godly children also...
- Exodus 2:4
 - 4) And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.
- Look what she says,
- Exodus 2:7
 - 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?
- Sounds like a plan to me...
- Looks like Moses' parents had discussed this with his sister and planned it a bit...
- Faithful people don't just sit around and wait for God to do all the work, they move forward in faith making plans
- So they came up with a plan, and brought their daughter in on it
- And she followed the baby all the way to Pharaoh's daughter

- What about Pharaoh's daughter?
- Tradition says that the Pharaoh who was on the throne at the time that Moses would have been born was one who only had this position because of his marriage to the queen
- He was not qualified to rule in his own right, but he was married to the daughter of the previous Pharaoh, so he was the Pharaoh because of his marriage to the heir to the throne
- Also, he did not have a son; he only had a daughter
- His daughter was going to be in the same position eventually that his wife had been
- Either the daughter would have to have a son or marry a man because the Egyptian law was that only a man could sit on the throne
- It may have been that this princess was more anxious than normal to find a male to be able to adopt or to marry, so when she came across this male baby, she may have seen in that a solution to her own problems
- The only way that she would ever have any authority in the land of Egypt was that she have either a son or a husband who would sit on the throne
- If she had neither, then her chance to have any power would be bypassed
- We know, of course, that even though these may have been the human circumstances for her interest in this baby, it was all part of God's overall plan
- This was a bold thing for this woman to do because she recognized that he was one of the Hebrew babies
- He was one who was supposed to be put to death, and yet the next verses tell us that she kept the child and took him to herself
- So, Moses grew up in the house of Pharaoh's daughter
- And then one day...
- But, that is next week's class...