

Moses – part 1

She named him Moses for I pulled him out of the water
by Victor Torres

Last time we concluded the story of Joseph as we see him buying all the Egyptians' possessions and making them the slaves of the king.

Gen 47:19 (CEV) Don't let us starve and our land be ruined. If you'll give us grain to eat and seed to plant, **we'll sell ourselves and our land to the king. We'll become his slaves.**

Gen 47:20 The famine became so severe that **Joseph finally bought every piece of land in Egypt for the king**

Gen 47:21 **and made everyone the king's slaves,**

We learned that the Egyptians are a symbol of us, who used to be slaves of our flesh, but now slaves of God. Like the Egyptians, we are also glad to be free from the rule of our flesh and are glad to be the king's slaves.

Gen 47:25 (CEV) "Sir, you have saved our lives!" they answered. "We are glad to be slaves of the king."

Jacob and all his sons and their families moved to Goshen, a land in Egypt where Joseph took care of them for the remaining five years of famine. As the family of Israel, formerly known as Jacob, continued their life as shepherds in the land of Egypt, they were in a sense separated from the Egyptians. Egyptians hate shepherds as we learned last time. Knowing that the Egyptians are symbols of our flesh and that Israel's family are the people of God, we can now say that our flesh hates Christ and His people. All the rivalry that you see in the Bible: Abel vs Cain, Isaac vs Ishmael, Jacob vs Esau, Joseph vs his brothers, point to the fight between the flesh and the spirit. They point to the rivalry between the old man and the new man. Most of us stay as Egyptians or slaves of our flesh in this life, but some of us are called by God out of this slavery and become shepherds of His people.

Rom 6:17 (CEV) You used to be slaves of sin. But I thank God that with all your heart you obeyed the teaching you received from me.

Rom 6:18 **Now you are set free from sin and are slaves who please God.**

As we begin looking at the story of Moses, I want you to notice this new rivalry: the Egyptians versus the nation of Israel. God will choose Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt. That's what the word Exodus mean, "going out". It is the same theme that we saw in the book of Genesis (which means "beginning"), the story

of God's people coming out of the world by living a life that is pleasing to God.

Exo 1:1 (ESV) These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household:

Exo 1:2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah,

Exo 1:3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin,

Exo 1:4 Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher.

Exo 1:5 All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt.

Exo 1:6 Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation.

Exo 1:7 But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

We see how God continues to fulfill His promises to His people to be with them and to bless them.

Exo 1:8 Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

Exo 1:9 And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us.

Exo 1:10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."

After many years, Joseph and his brothers all died, and all the 70 people who moved from Canaan to Goshen with Jacob. Now here comes a king who did not know Joseph. How quickly they have forgotten! We just saw how glad their grandfathers were when Joseph saved them from the seven-year famine. Back in Genesis 47:25, they all exclaimed "Sir, you have saved our lives!" Now they have a new king who will lead them in oppressing Israel's family as their slaves. What can we get out of this? This new king is the old man in all of us. This old man in us is sitting in the throne where God should be sitting. He is dictating our every action, and like the Egyptians, this old man in us is ungrateful to God. There are times in our lives that we are ungrateful to God and to our parents. Like these Egyptians, we forget that we would not be even alive if not for them.

Exo 1:11 (CEV) The Egyptians put slave bosses in charge of the people of Israel and tried to wear them down with hard work. Those bosses forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses, where the king could store his supplies.

Exo 1:12 But even though the Israelites were mistreated, their families grew larger, and they took over more land. Because of this, the Egyptians hated them worse than before

Exo 1:13 and made them work so hard

Exo 1:14 that their lives were miserable. The Egyptians were cruel to the people of Israel and forced them to make bricks and to mix mortar and to work in the fields.

Didn't we see the same thing happen to Joseph and his brothers? Joseph's brothers harbored resentment against Joseph because of the blessings their father was giving Joseph.

Exo 1:15 (ESV) Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah,

Exo 1:16 "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live."

Not only did this king make the Hebrew's lives miserable, he also commanded the midwives to kill all newly born male children! The spiritual lesson behind this of course is the old man in us doesn't want Christ in us to grow, as this new king doesn't want the Hebrews to grow even more.

Exo 1:17 (ESV) But the midwives **feared God** and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live.

These midwives are good examples of how we should fear God and not men.

Exo 1:18 So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?"

Exo 1:19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."

Exo 1:20 So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong.

Exo 1:21 **And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.**

Like the midwives, we will also be blessed by God if we obey His commandments and not the commandments of men.

Exo 1:22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

Seeing the Hebrew midwives would not obey him, the Pharaoh now commands his own people to kill every Hebrew son.

Exo 2:1 A man from the Levi tribe married a woman from the same tribe,

Exo 2:2 and she later had a baby boy. He was a beautiful child, and she kept him inside for three months.

This Levite woman protects her child from being killed by the Egyptians. Like Joseph's life, the life of Moses also has a lot of similarity with our Lord's life. None of these similarities are coincidences, they are all planned and set into motion by Christ Himself. He makes these things happen to show us God's power to save His people, no matter how desperate their situation may be.

Here's what happened to our Lord when He was only an infant.

Mat 2:1 (CEV) When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem

Mat 2:2 and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Mat 2:3 When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem.

Mat 2:4 Herod brought together the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"

Mat 2:5 They told him, "He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote,

Mat 2:6 'Bethlehem in the land of Judea, you are very important among the towns of Judea. From your town will come a leader, who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.' "

Mat 2:7 Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star.

Mat 2:8 He told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too."

Mat 2:9 The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Mat 2:10 They were thrilled and excited to see the star.

Mat 2:11 When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him.

Mat 2:12 Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.

Mat 2:13 (MKJV) And when they had departed, behold, the angel of *the* Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise and take the young child and His mother and flee into Egypt. And be there until I bring you word, for Herod is about to seek the child to destroy Him

Mat 2:14 That night, Joseph got up and took his wife and the child to Egypt,

Mat 2:15 where they stayed until Herod died. So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "I called my son out of Egypt."

Mat 2:16 When Herod found out that the wise men from the east had tricked him, he was very angry. He gave orders for his men to kill all the boys who lived in or near Bethlehem and were two years old and younger. This was based on what he had learned from the wise men.

Mat 2:17 So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet Jeremiah had said,

Mat 2:18 "In Ramah a voice was heard crying and weeping loudly. Rachel was mourning for her children, and she refused to be comforted, because they were dead."

So you see, Moses was protected by his parents from getting killed by an enemy king just as our Lord was. The Lord also used the midwives who didn't listen to the Pharaoh's commands as God used the wise men from the east who didn't tell Herod where Jesus was located.

Let's go back to the story of Moses:

Exo 2:3 (MKJV) But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of papyrus for him, and daubed it with bitumen and with pitch, and put the child in it. And she laid *it* in the reeds by the river's edge.

The word "ark" where this baby was put is the same word used in Noah's ark. This too is not a coincidence because these two arks are both symbols of the Lord protecting His chosen people.

Exo 2:4 (CEV) The baby's older sister stood off at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Exo 2:5 About that time one of the king's daughters came down to take a bath in the river, while her servant women walked along the river bank. She saw the basket in the tall grass and sent one of the young women to pull it out of the water.

Exo 2:6 When the king's daughter opened the basket, she saw the baby and felt sorry for him because he was crying. She said, "This must be one of the Hebrew babies."

Exo 2:7 At once the baby's older sister came up and asked, "Do you want me to get a Hebrew woman to take care of the baby for you?"

Exo 2:8 "Yes," the king's daughter answered. So the girl brought the baby's mother,

Exo 2:9 and the king's daughter told her, "Take care of this child, and I will pay you." The baby's mother carried him home and took care of him.

Exo 2:10 And when he was old enough, she took him to the king's daughter, who adopted him. She named him Moses because she said, "I pulled him out of the water."

God used the Pharaoh's daughter to save him from the very hands of Pharaoh. The meaning of Moses' name, "pulled out of the water" refers to God saving His people from the hands of their enemy.

Psa 18:16 (KJV) He sent from above, he took me, **he drew me out of many waters.**

Psa 18:17 **He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me:** for they were too strong for me.

When we continue the story of Moses, Lord willing, we will learn how the Lord will