

“A Mother’s Sacrificial Love”

Exodus 1:15-2:10

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Teaching Aim: To demonstrate God is faithfully keeping His promises while providentially working out all things in conformity with His will. Although the evils of this world may seem to overwhelm us at times, we can rest assured that God is working behind the scenes to fulfill His perfect plan, we simply need to step forward in faith like Jochebed did and trust Him to do the seemingly impossible.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Pharaoh attempts infanticide on the Hebrew baby boys (Exod. 1:15-22)

1. As we come to the time of Moses’ birth, over 300 years have passed since Joseph was Prime Minister of Egypt. The new king did not remember Joseph nor did he look upon the Hebrews favorably, they were a threat to his kingdom. What did this evil king order the Hebrew midwives to do in **verses 15 & 16**? What would you do if governmental officials ordered you to do something morally wrong?

2. Is there any significance to the Bible giving us the names of the two midwives in **verse 15**? With a population of around 2 million at the time of the Exodus, were these two ladies the only midwives delivering babies for the Hebrew people, or would the sheer numbers require more? What did the summons of Pharaoh indicate about the importance of the two midwives named? What would happen in time if Pharaoh was successful in eliminating the Hebrew males? What other world leaders have tried to exterminate the Jews historically? (See Esth. 3:6) Did it work?

3. Is there ever a time when Christians are to disobey the civil government (**vs. 16**)? If so, when? Should civil disobedience be the exception or the rule when it comes to a Christian? How should we respond when the government tries to force us as Christians to do things which are contrary to God’s Word? (See **Rom. 12:17-21**)

4. Were the Hebrew midwives more fearful of disobeying God or of disobeying Pharaoh (**vs. 17**)? In what way did the midwives fear God? Why do you think so many Christians today are willing to compromise their beliefs under peer pressure? What are some ways that you see the modern church compromising today?

5. What alarming summons came to the Hebrew midwives in **verse 18**? Why would this summons frighten the midwives? How did the midwives respond to Pharaoh's questioning in **verse 19**? Is there such a thing as a "*justifiable lie*?" Is that what happened here? Do we find any examples elsewhere in Scripture? (See **Josh. 2**) Is it possible that the midwives may have been telling Pharaoh the truth?

6. Pharaoh was trying to eliminate the Hebrew males. How did God turn Pharaoh's efforts around to His glory (**vs. 20**)? What made the Hebrews a threat to Pharaoh and the Egyptian people? Are God's people a threat to the progressive left in our society today? If so, how?

7. Today many people get offended (including Christians) if they are told they should "*fear God*," why? In what way should Christians "*fear God*" (**vs. 21**)? Why should unbelievers fear God even more than Christians should? (See **Rev. 20:11-15**) How did the LORD bless the Hebrew midwives for their faithfulness?

8. Frustrated at the midwives, Pharaoh commanded his own people to join in the deadly assault on the male Hebrew infants (**vs. 22**). Why would this command frighten the Hebrew people? If a child's life were at stake today, would you be willing to hide him or her, even if it cost you your own life? Why do you think so many people accept the infanticide of abortion today?

Part II: The birth of Moses and the desperation of his mother (Exod. 2:1-4)

- 1 The husband and wife described in **Exodus chapter 2:1** are the parents of Moses, what are their names? (See **Exod. 6:20**) What unusual relationship did they have with each other by today's standards?
- 2 How many children were in Moses' family? (See **Exod. 2:7; 7:7; 15:20**) What were the names of Moses' siblings? Who was the oldest? Who was the youngest? How far were Moses and Aaron apart in age? How long was Jochebed able to hide her baby from the Egyptians before it became too dangerous to do so anymore? Why do you think she made this desperate move (**vs. 2**)?
- 3 In a certain sense, Jochebed obeyed Pharaoh's command and cast her son into the Nile (**vs. 3**). How did she do it? What is the only other example of an ark like this in the Bible? (See **Gen. 6:13-15**) NOTE: "A *type*" is an Old Testament foreshadow of something to be fulfilled in the New Testament. How were the arks of Noah and of Moses "*a type of Christ*?" (See **1 Pet. 3:18-22**)
4. What kind of emotions do you think Jochebed experienced as she placed the ark into the Nile River and walked away (**vs. 3**)? What last ditch effort did Jochebed take to protect her infant child (**vs. 4**)? Why do you think Jochebed didn't stay around and watch as the events unfolded? We imagine Miriam prayed for her baby brother, do we ever find Moses praying for Miriam in the Bible? (See **Num. 12:1-10**)

Part III: The heart of an Egyptian princess won over by a crying baby (Exod. 2:5-10)

1. In God's providence, who came out to bathe at just the right time and in just the right place to find the infant (**vs. 5**)? Do you think Jochebed planned it this way? Why or why not? Define the word "*providence*." (See Dictionary) What are some ways that you've seen God's providence at work in your own life?

2. What did God use to touch the heart of this Egyptian princess? Do you think this meeting happened by chance? Do you think the infant just happen to cry at just the right time, or was this also the providence of God at work (**vs. 6**)? Has your heart ever been touched by a baby crying? If the life of this infant was to be spared from certain death, who was the one person in Egypt who would be able to intervene? Why?

3. Miriam reacted immediately when the Egyptian princess discovered the baby, what did she do (**vs. 7**)? What was Miriam really offering the princess? How did Pharaoh's daughter respond to Miriam's offer (**vs. 8**)? Why was the Egyptian princess unable to take care of the infant herself? Miriam quickly found Jochebed (*the baby's mother*) and brought her to the princess. What two unexpected offers did Pharaoh's daughter make to Jochebed in **verse 9**? How did God work in this seemingly impossible situation to save the baby Moses and bring about His own glory? What seeming impossibilities are you facing in your life today? Will you trust God to take care of your situation?

4. What did Jochebed do after the child was weaned (**vs. 10**)? Why? When was the baby named and who named him? What does the name Moses mean? (See Commentaries) How do you see God's providence at work in **Acts 7:20-22**?

5. It has been said, "*God gives us children to teach us to pray.*" Have you found this to be true in your own life? If so, how? How did God respond as Jochebed trusted God to work in a very difficult situation? Have you trusted the LORD and turned your children (and/or grandchildren) over to Him? Why not close this study by spending some time in prayer for your children and grandchildren?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Infanticide is a serious sin and unjustifiable in God's sight; so is abortion today.
- Christians are to obey the civil authorities *UNLESS* the authorities command them to do something God forbids or forbid them from doing something God commands.
- God blesses those who obey Him and curses those who do not.
- It's not too late to take a bad situation and turn it around for God's glory.
- In a certain sense, Moses' mother obeyed Pharaoh's command; she threw him into the Nile River (but gently in a basket).
- The providence of God had Pharaoh's daughter in just the right place at just the right time.
- In God's providence, He placed the baby Moses in Pharaoh's household; exactly where he needed to be in order to spare his life and to uniquely prepare him to lead the Hebrew people.
- Today, God is still providentially at work in the world whether you see it or not.