

# EXODUS 2

## *WHEN GOD SENDS A BABY*

As you read through the Bible you will see many patterns. One of them is the killing of children whenever a deliverer looms on the horizon. In Genesis 3:15 it was promised and therefore prophesied that the seed of the woman would come and bruise the head of the serpent with His heel. This is what is known as the protoevangelium or the “first good news.” When Abel came along, Satan thought he might have been that deliverer so he moved Cain’s heart to kill him. When Jesus was born He and his family had to move to Egypt in order to escape the slaughter of baby boys. Moving back in time once again we see that Pharaoh gave the order for all baby boys to be killed.

### **1 Corinthians 1:25-29**

**25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.**

#### **Glory Only in the Lord**

**26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.**

Even those that seem to be the most vulnerable among us, even babies can be used to change people’s hearts. God often works through babies. Isaac, Joseph, Samuel, John the Baptist and

especially Jesus; they were all babies at one time. But they had to be reared in the right homes by the right parents the right way. We are about to embark on another journey where many would only see circumstance, coincidence and fate. However, we get to see the hand of God working behind the scenes on behalf of His people.

In Genesis 50, Joseph's brothers were afraid of his retribution after the death of their father. But Joseph calmed their fears realizing that what they had meant for evil, God meant for good. He could see God's handy work in his life. He saw that he wouldn't have been able to help his family or to accomplish all that he had, had his brothers not sold him into slavery all those years ago.

Now all of Israel is in bondage and another deliverer is needed. Into history stepped Moses - a deliverer and lawgiver. God was on time once again. But once again God didn't send a full-grown man onto the scene. He sent a baby. This meant that there had to be a sort of infrastructure in place. That meant that things were more complicated. It meant that it took more than one person working in God's will in order to free the Hebrews. The tears of a baby and the maternal instinct of a princess would be used to change the history of the world. As we see these things unfold we all need to ask ourselves if we are playing our part or more precisely, if we can see our part and how God is working in our lives.

Please turn in your Bibles to Exodus chapter two.

***1 And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. 2 So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him***

### ***three months.***

In Exodus chapter 6, verse 20 you will find that Moses' father was Amram and his mother's name was Jochebed. They already had two children. The oldest was their daughter Miriam, she plays a pivotal role in Moses' life as we will soon see. Moses also had an older brother by the name of Aaron. According to Exodus 7:7, he was three years older than Moses. He was born before the decree went out to kill all the baby boys.

It took some kind of faith just to have had a child in this situation knowing that if it were a boy he would have to be thrown into the Nile. Keep in mind that all of the Egyptians have been charged with spying on the Hebrews in order to know when boys were born to them. And there were effective means of birth control back then.

Jochebed gave birth to him and then hid him for three months, but at some point she could no longer hide him or pass him off as a girl. Can you imagine the stress of this? Her role is stressed here in Exodus but in the book of Hebrews we can see that the whole family was moving in faith.

### **Hebrews 11:23**

**23 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.**

We see here that they weren't afraid of Pharaoh's command. They feared God more than Pharaoh. We have all heard stories where a child that was raised up in not the best of circumstances comes to know Jesus and does great things for

God, but think about the legacy Amram and Jochebed will leave. Many scholars believe that they somehow knew about Moses' calling. I can't prove that but it would make sense. God didn't just flip a coin in order to see into which home he would be born. **If there is anything we can learn from Moses' life it is that nothing happens by accident.** God gave them the children He wanted them to have. He gave Moses the parents he needed. Why give Moses to this couple? They were a family of faith. God couldn't afford for His chosen deliverer to be born into a family of felons.

### **Proverbs 22:6**

**6 Train up a child in the way he should go,  
And when he is old he will not depart from it.**

We are responsible for molding the minds of our children. We are to determine what goes into their eyes and ears. I realize that is harder today than ever before, but we have been given an awesome responsibility. If I had it to do all over again I would have done a great deal more thinking about parenting in general.

Most of us probably say, "Hey, we're gonna have a kid. I hope he comes out all right. After all he is going to choose our nursing home."

But there is so much more to it than that. I think we would have had more of a strategy than we did. At any rate, God knew that they would raise Moses in the admonition of the Lord for as long as they had any influence on his life. They were willing to take on this responsibility even at great risk. However, they could no longer hide him so they had to do something with him. Look at what they did.

***3 But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. 4 And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.***

Jochebed took a reed basket, covered it with a waterproof tar and placed it in the river. This was her way of placing the baby into God's hands. She had to trust Him with the baby's future. She had to let go. We all have to do this at some time or another. They will always be our children but at some point we have to give them over to the Lord. After all, that is what we are saying when we dedicate our children to the Lord. We stand up here and say that we will do our best to raise them in the admonition of the Lord but in the end we are giving them to God. That is faith my friend. The Bible says that when we have done all we can to stand, we are to just stand. Moses' parents had done all they could and were now trusting his future to God. **Whether they knew it or not they were entrusting the future of an entire people to God.**

In doing this (placing Moses in a basket and putting him in the river) she obeyed the letter of the law while defying the spirit of the law. The edict stated that all Hebrew boys were to be thrown into the river and that is where his mother put him. She would have made a good lawyer. While she did this Miriam, Moses' sister hid and watched to see what would happen to him.

***5 Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to***

***get it. 6 And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."***

First of all we should realize that the princess wasn't going down to the river to bathe because she needed a bath. People had running water back then, especially royalty. The princess was barren – she had yet to have any children. To the Egyptians, the Nile River was tied to Hapy, the fertility god. You didn't just bathe in the Nile unless you had to do so. Crocodiles were and still are there in abundance. Women bathed in the Nile in order to shed their barren condition. The princess was bathing in the Nile to ask Hapy to give her a child.

Of course she wasn't expecting what she found, but she took it as an answer to prayer. She saw the basket and opened it. Look how the account is worded.

***6 And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."***

When she opened the basket the baby began to cry. She immediately recognized him to be Hebrew. Why else would a child be in the river? But we read that when he cried she had compassion on him anyway. Her maternal instincts kicked in immediately. She couldn't leave him there to die. The tears of a baby changed the heart of a princess, saving a child and eventually an entire nation.

But God didn't stop there. Look at what happened next.

***7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and***

***call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"***

***8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. 9 Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. 10 And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."***

God moves in mysterious ways. We have all heard or said that before. Miriam, Moses' older sister was still hiding in the bushes to see what would happen. When she saw or maybe even heard the princess express concern for Moses she stepped in and seized the moment.

But what if she had just stayed hidden? What if her fear had paralyzed her? What would have happened then? I can't say for sure, but most likely what happened wouldn't have happened. She jumped in faith and was rewarded. Not only did her mother get to nurse and raise Moses, she got paid to do it! Now Moses life was spared, she would get to raise him in his formative years so she could instill the fear of God and she would also make some money doing it on the side. That is awesome!

God moves when we walk in faith and not in fear. God makes up for our infirmities when we step out in our own weakness. Jochebed's back was against the wall when it came to protecting the life of her child. Miriam played her part and she played it well. How many of us are hiding in the bushes as opposed to stepping out of them in faith?

When Moses was of age he was given to Pharaoh's daughter. **Once again he was to be turned loose.** Once again his mother would have to entrust him into the hands of God. But that was part of the plan all along.

We all have a part to play whether it is in the lives of our children, our church, our culture or our country. How many of us are playing the role for which we are intended? How many of us are hiding in the bushes or sitting on the bench?

God has a purpose for you. He has a plan for you and your children. It may well be that the hope of a nation is at stake.

One of the reasons we can even have what is called science is because the universe was created with a purpose in mind. God is a God of order. He established laws and brought order out of chaos. We can now discover the laws of science – laws of order that God established. And because there is law and order, we can make predictions as to what will happen under certain circumstances. That is how we put a man on the moon.

God created a universe in which we can participate and discover these things that speak of His glory and majesty. He wants us to take part in His creation and plan. God has given all of us purpose. He has given us all "A purpose." And once we have found our Savior, then we can find OUR purpose. And a life with purpose is a life that HAS to be lived. God enjoys watching us live out our purpose and He empowers us to live out that life – a life that not only changes us, but changes the lives of others also.

You have a savior and you have a purpose. Embrace and pursue



both of them today.