

Exodus 02 - Birth of Moses; Moses and Pharaoh's Daughter; Flight to Midian

I. Exodus from Egyptian bondage: Israel's redemption, liberation, and preservation (Ex 1:1—18:27)

(1) Redemption from Egypt (Ex 1:1—12:30)

(B) Preparation of the deliverer (Ex 2:1—4:31)

(a) Moses' birth and rearing in Pharaoh's house (2:1-10)

(b) Moses flees and resides in Midian (2:11-22)

(c) God remembers His covenant (2:23-25)

Exodus 2

(B) Preparation of the deliverer (Ex 2:1—4:31)

(a) Moses' birth and rearing in Pharaoh's house (2:1-10)

1 Now a **man from the house of Levi** went and married a **daughter of Levi**.

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1 A man of the family of Levi married the daughter of a descendant of Levi.

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

- While Pharaoh was pushing forward on the extermination of the Israelites, God was bringing their emancipator into the world...

- "...man from the house of Levi" - Amram (Cf. 6:20)

— Amram was the 6th generation from Abraham; Moses was the 7th (1 Chr 6:1-12)

- "...daughter of Levi" - Jochebed (Cf. 6:20)

2 And the woman conceived and gave birth to a son; and when she saw that he was **beautiful**, she **hid him for three months**.

2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months.

2 Later, the woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a beautiful child, and hid him for three months.

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.

- "...beautiful" - *tob*, the Hebrew word has a broad meaning, and doesn't necessarily mean he was handsome physically

— The word *tob* was also used in Gen 1 to describe God's creation as "good"

- "...hid him for three months" - Moses' parent hid him because they trusted God (Cf. Heb 11:23-26)

3 But when she could no longer hide him, she got him a **papyrus basket** and covered it with tar and pitch. Then she put the child in it and set *it* among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.

3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and set *it* among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.

3 But when she was no longer able to hide him, she took a papyrus container, coated it with asphalt and pitch, placed the child in it, and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.

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.

- "...papyrus basket" - *tehvah*, and ark or boat (Cf. "ark" in Gen 6:14)

— Just as Noah's Ark was God's instrument for preserving a "savior" of the human race, Moses' "ark" preserved another "savior" of the Israelites

— Moses' parents obeyed Pharaoh and put Moses in the river (Cf. 1:22), but they also trusted God who delivered their baby

4 And his sister stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him.

4 His sister stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him.

4 Then his sister positioned herself some distance away in order to find out what would happen to him.

4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.

5 Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her female attendants walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave woman, and she brought it *to her*.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her maidens walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it *to her*.

5 Then Pharaoh's daughter came down to the Nile River to bathe while her maids walked along the river bank. She saw the container among the reeds and sent a servant girl to get it.

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.

- It was common for pharaohs and other Egyptians to bathe ceremonially in the Nile River; they believed that the waters of the Nile possessed the ability to impart fruitfulness and prolong life.

6 When she opened *it*, she saw the child, and behold, *the* boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

6 When she opened *it*, she saw the child, and behold, *the* boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

6 When she opened it and saw the child, the little boy suddenly began crying. Filled with compassion for him, she exclaimed, "This is one of the Hebrew children!"

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.

7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a woman for you who is nursing from the Hebrew women, so that she may nurse the child for you?"

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?"

7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call one of the nursing Hebrew women so she can nurse the child for you?"

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?

8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go *ahead*." So the girl went and called the child's mother.

8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go *ahead*." So the girl went and called the child's mother.

8 Pharaoh's daughter told her, "Go," so the young girl went and called the child's mother.

8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid 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.

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.

9 Pharaoh's daughter instructed her, "Take this child and nurse him for me, and I'll pay you a salary." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

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.

10 And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. And she named him **Moses**, and said, "Because I drew him out of the water."

10 The child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. And she named him Moses, and said, "Because I drew him out of the water."

10 After the child had grown older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, because she said, "I drew him out of the water."

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.

- "...Moses" - *Mosheh*, similar to the word which means "to draw out of the water"

— God's hand was at work: the one who was drawn out of the water would be the means of drawing the Israelite nation out of water (the Red Sea)

(b) Moses flees and resides in Midian (2:11-22)

11 Now it came about in those days, when Moses had grown up, that he went out to **his fellow Hebrews** and looked at their hard labors; and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of **his fellow Hebrews**.

11 Now it came about in those days, when Moses had grown up, that he went out to his brethren and looked on their hard labors; and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren.

11 Years later, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his own people, and took notice of their heavy burdens. He saw an Egyptian beating up a Hebrew, one of his own people.

11 And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren.

- At this time, Moses was near age 40 (Cf. Acts 7:23)

- "...his fellow Hebrews" [2x] - suggests Moses' motivation to act as he did was love that sprang from faith in God's promises to the patriarchs

— Heb 11:24-26 states Moses' motivation explicitly...

Heb 11:24-26:

24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the temporary pleasures of sin,

26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

12 So he looked this way and that, and when he saw that there was no one *around*, he struck and killed the Egyptian, and hid his body in the sand.

12 So he looked this way and that, and when he saw there was no one *around*, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

12 Looking around and seeing no one else, he killed⁸ the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

12 And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.

- Moses' desire to help his brethren was admirable, but his method was deplorable (Cf. Acts 7:23-29)

— He trusted his own ability to liberate the Israelites and sought to bring it about by natural means, sinful means. He seized God's authority rather than waiting on God to bestow it on him.

13 Now he went out the next day, and behold, two Hebrews were fighting with each other; and he said to the offender, "Why are you striking your companion?"

13 He went out the next day, and behold, two Hebrews were fighting with each other; and he said to the offender, "Why are you striking your companion?"

13 Going out the next day, Moses noticed⁹ two Hebrew men fighting right in front of him. He told the one who was at fault, "Why did you strike your companion?"

13 And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow?

14 But he said, "**Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?** Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and said, "Surely the matter has become known!"

14 But he said, "Who made you a prince or a judge over us? Are you intending to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and said, "Surely the matter has become known."

14 The man replied, "Who appointed you to be an official judge over us? Are you planning to kill me like you killed the Egyptian?"

Then Moses became terrified and told himself, "Certainly this event has become known!"

14 And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.

- "...Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?" - the typical reaction of the later Israelites to those whom God sent to deliver them (including Jesus)

15 When Pharaoh heard about this matter, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the presence of Pharaoh and settled in the **land of Midian**, and he sat down by a well.

15 When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the presence of Pharaoh and settled in the land of Midian, and he sat down by a well.

15 When Pharaoh heard about this matter, he tried to kill Moses. So Moses fled from Pharaoh, settled in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well.

15 Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.

- "...land of Midian" - east of the Sinai Peninsula, flanked by the Gulf of Aqabah on both sides

— The Midianites were descendants of Abraham through Keturah (Gen 25:1-2)

- God had to teach Moses that he must not trust in his own ability, but instead must rely on God's strategy and strength, and obey His commands

— To do this, God drove Moses out of Egypt, to Midian, for 40 years

16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters; and they came to draw water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters; and they came to draw water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

16 Meanwhile, the seven daughters of a certain Midianite priest would come to draw water in order to fill water troughs for their father's sheep.

16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

17 Then the shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and helped them and watered their flock.

17 Then the shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and helped them and watered their flock.

17 Some shepherds came to drive them away, but Moses got up, came to their rescue, and watered their sheep.

17 And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

18 When they came to their father **Reuel**, he said, "Why have you come *back* so soon today?"

18 When they came to Reuel their father, he said, "Why have you come *back* so soon today?"

18 When they returned to their father Reuel, he asked, "Why have you returned so quickly today?"

18 And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day?

- "...Reuel" - "friend of God"; also noted as "Raguel" (Num 10:29) and Jethro (3:1; 4:18; 18:1,2,5,6,9,10,12)

- Jethro ("excellence") may have been his title and Reuel his given name

19 They said, "An Egyptian saved us from the shepherds, and what is more, he even drew water for us and watered the flock."

19 So they said, "An Egyptian delivered us from the hand of the shepherds, and what is more, he even drew the water for us and watered the flock."

19 "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds," they replied, "and he even drew water for us and watered the sheep!"

19 And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock.

- In Egypt, Moses took matters into his own hands and killed the Egyptian (v12); in Midian he took matters into his own hands and delivered Reuel's daughters and blessed their family

— Note the change in his character: in both cases he anticipated his later role of deliverer of the Israelites

20 So he said to his daughters, "Where is he then? Why is it that you have left the man behind? Invite him to have something to eat."

20 He said to his daughters, "Where is he then? Why is it that you have left the man behind? Invite him to have something to eat."

20 "Then where is he?" He asked his daughters. "Why did you leave the man behind? Go invite him to have something to eat."

20 And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? why is it that ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread.

21 And Moses was willing to live with the man. And he gave his daughter **Zipporah** to Moses.

21 Moses was willing to dwell with the man, and he gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses.

21 Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage.

21 And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter.

- "...Zipporah" - "bird"

22 Then she gave birth to a son, and he named him **Gershom**, for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land."

22 Then she gave birth to a son, and he named him Gershom, for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land."

22 Later she gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, because he used to say, "I became an alien in a foreign land."

22 And she bare him a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land.

- "...Gershom" - "banishment" or "a stranger there"

— Moses' years in Midian were of bitter humiliation, as noted by the name of his son

(c) God remembers His covenant (2:23-25)

23 Now it came about in *the course of* those **many days** that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of *their* bondage ascended to God.

23 Now it came about in *the course of* those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of *their* bondage rose up to God.

23 The king of Egypt eventually died, and the Israelis groaned because of the bondage. They cried out, and their cry for deliverance from slavery ascended to God.

23 And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

- "...many days" - 40 years (Cf. Acts 7:30)

24 So **God heard their groaning**; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

24 So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

24 God heard their groaning and remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

- "...God heard their groaning" - the exodus happened because "God remembered His covenant"
- The Abrahamic Covenant was the basis for the Exodus (Ex 2:23-25; Cf. 6:2-8; Deut 34:4; 1 Chr 16:15-19; 2 Chr 20:7-8; Neh 9:7-8; Ps 105:7-12) and the giving of the Promised Land
- God will move heaven and earth to keep the promises He has made to Israel, otherwise He would not be God
- God moves His hand in history according to the covenants He has made
- If we understand the promises (covenants) that God made with Israel, we can understand God's entire program

25 And God saw the sons of Israel, and God **took notice** of them.

25 God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them.

25 God watched the Israelis and took notice of them.

25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

- "...took notice" - this is another of the many references in Scripture that indicate that prayer affects some of God's actions (Cf. 3:7-9)

— Remembering His covenant with Abraham, God acted for the Israelites by commissioning Moses

Egypt accomplished him as a scholar, a gentleman, a statesman, a soldier, but yet he lacked one thing, in which the court of Egypt could not befriend him. He must know what it was to live a life of communion with God; and in this he would be greatly furthered by the solitude and retirement of a shepherd's life in Midian.