

The Story of Passover

The Bondage in Egypt

The Birth and early years of Israel's Deliverer-Moses

A. His Protection in infancy

Now a man (Amram) from the house of Levi went and married a daughter (Jochebed) of Levi. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that **he was beautiful**, she **hid him** for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a **wicker basket** and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she set **the child** into it and set *it* among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. His **sister** (Miriam) stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him.

Then 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*. 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**."

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

Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and **nurse him** for me and I shall give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. 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**." (Exodus 2:1-10)

B. His early Preparation

It was at this time that **Moses was born**; and he was **lovely** in the **sight of God**, and he was nurtured three months in his father's home.

And after he had been **set outside**, Pharaoh's daughter took him away and **nurtured him** as **her own son**.

Moses was **educated** in all the **learning** of the Egyptians, and he was a man of power in **words and deeds**... (Acts 7:20-23)

C. His Passion for God and his people

By faith Moses, when he had **grown up**, refused to be called **the son** of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to **endure ill-treatment** with the **people of God** than to enjoy the **passing pleasures of sin**, considering the reproach of **Messiah greater riches** than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to **the reward**. (Hebrews 11:24-26)

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

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**?" But he said, "**Who made you a prince and 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." (Exodus 2:11-14)

D. His Parting from Egypt

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**,... (Exodus 2:11-15)

MOSES FLED AND BECAME AN **ALIEN** IN THE LAND OF MIDIAN, where he became the father of two sons...

Now Moses was **pasturing the flock** of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian;...
(Acts 7:29) (Exodus 3:1a)

Moses and the Messiah

Moses escaped attempts by a wicked ruler to **kill him at birth**
(Ex. 1:22, 2:1-10)

The Messiah, as a young child, escaped an attempt on His life **by Herod**
(Matt. 2:1-12, 16)

Moses found **refuge** in the house of Pharaoh's daughter **in Egypt** (Ex. 2:5-10)

The Messiah was taken by **his parents** to seek refuge **in Egypt**
(Matt. 2:13-15)

Moses was **rejected** as the **deliverer**, at first, by **his own people**
(Acts 7:23-29)

The Messiah was rejected **by Israel** at His **first coming**
(Luke 9:22, 13:34)

Moses was **called by God** to **deliver Israel** from the **bondage** of Egypt
(Ex. 3:1-12)

The Messiah was **sent by God** to deliver all men from the **bondage**
of sin and death (Romans 7:14, 8:2) (Hebrews 2:14-15)

Personal Reflection

Moses' early preparation for Service

1. Having been **miraculously delivered** from certain death by Pharaoh's own daughter, we read tonight how the young Moses became "**educated** in all the **learning** of the Egyptians", and became a "**man of power** in words and deeds" (Acts 7:22).

This "**early preparation**" in the life of Moses undoubtedly added to his **knowledge** and **experience** and would be **valuable training** for a future **leader** and **deliverer**.

When God **prepares** a man or woman for service, He oftentimes uses their **prior knowledge, talents, and experiences** along with any **future training** for ministry. (examples – King David and Paul)

2. Tonight we read how that **Moses**, at a certain point in his life, "**refused** to be called **the son** of Pharaoh's daughter". We also clearly see that he had a strong **burden** and **personal calling** to minister among his own **Hebrew people** (Hebrews 11:24-26).

Those who answer **a calling to serve the Lord** in whatever capacity, usually do so from **personal conviction**, and an **inward desire** and **burden** to **do** the **will of God** in their lives.

3. Moses' **passion** for his brethren seemed to get the best of him when he **killed** an Egyptian that was beating a fellow Hebrew (Ex. 2:11). His attempts to **cover** his crime would **fail**, and he eventually had to **flee Egypt** to save his life (Ex. 2:15).

At times, those of us who **are called** to serve, may (like Moses) act "**rashly**" in our words and deeds, which may cause us to **stumble and fail** in our **ministry**. However, **God** often causes these **failures** to "**work together for good**", as they may result in **greater learning** and **personal spiritual growth**.

4. Moses' attempts at **leading** and **instructing** his own Hebrew people were met with **distrust** and **rejection** as they called into question his **authority** to be a "prince or a judge" over them (Ex. 2:14). **Preparation for service**, not only involves facing **hostility** from the **world** (i.e. Pharaoh and Egypt), but often also involves times of **rejection** and **personal attack** even from **our own brethren**; those whom we are **called to serve**.
5. Having incurred the **wrath** of Pharaoh, **Moses** was forced to flee Egypt to the land of **Midian** for an extended **period of time** that would last **forty years** (Acts 7:29-30). **Preparation for ministry** requires **time**, sometimes in a **solitary place** where those who are **called to serve** may grow in **faith, patience**, and a **personal relationship** with **God**. (ex. Paul - Gal. 1:15-18).

* Closing Note

Preparation for service begins not with "**our ability**" but with our "**availability**" for service to God (Romans 12:1-2) (Eph. 2:8-10) (Phil. 1:6) (I Thes. 5:23-24).