

Exodus

March 11, 2007

Chapter 2

I. The Situation

Ex 2:1-4

2:1 Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, **2** and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. **3** But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. **4** His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. NIV

Verses 1-2 This verse does identify Moses as being of the house of Levi, which will later become very important. However, also notice that the man, woman, and later sister as all anonymous. A proof that Amram and Jochebed could not have been Moses' immediate parents will be given in Chapter 6.

Verse 2 "Fine child" probably means that she had a longing to keep him.

Acts 7:20

20 At this time Moses was born, and was *well pleasing* to God; NKJV

Heb 11:23

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. NKJV

Verse 3 His mother might have placed Moses in the basket to protect him during the day because she could no longer protect him in her home.

II. Providence Strikes

Ex 2:5-10

5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. **6** She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

8 "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. **9** Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. **10** When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water." NIV

Verse 5 This daughter of Pharaoh was probably one of many daughters.

Verse 6 She would know that he was a Hebrew because:
-He was circumcised.

- He might have Hebrew clothes
 - They were in an area inhabited with a bunch of Hebrews.
 - The general situation requiring Hebrew boy babies to be hidden.
- Verse 7 Notice how opportunistic the sister is. The sister and Pharaoh's daughter might know each other given their apparent familiarity.
- Verse 9 What do you think that his true mother thought? Felt? His mother might have nursed Moses for two or three years. There is a reasonable chance that Pharaoh's daughter would have guessed that she was Moses' mother.
- Verse 10 The root name of Moses is in many Egyptian names, e.g. Ahmose and Harmose

III. Failed Deliverer

Ex 2:11-12

11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. 12 Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. NIV

Passage: What was Moses thinking?

Acts 7:23-25

23 "Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. 24 And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. 25 For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. NKJV

Verse 12 Moses kills the man in cold blood and hid the body.

Passage: It is easy to get down on Moses for his actions here. However, we should note that this indicated a huge commitment on his part. He was choosing to leave behind a life of luxuries and being part of the royal house to be penniless with his people.

Heb 11:25

25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, NKJV

IV. Moses writes in Num 32:23: "Your sin will find you out."

Ex 2:13-15

13 The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?"

14 The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known."

15 When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well
NIV

Verse 14 Rulers and judges cast judgments. Obviously this guy denied Moses that authority over him. How would this statement affect Moses?

Verse 15 At this point, Moses is totally alone.

Editorial: Moses had probably felt a call to be the deliverer of the Israelites, but he had failed totally in accomplishing the task. In the process, he lost everything. How did he feel? How would you have counseled him? What reasons would you give him not to blame God and to continue seeking His will?

V. Providence Strikes Again

Ex 2:16-22

16 Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

18 When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, "Why have you returned so early today?"

19 They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock."

20 "And where is he?" he asked his daughters. "Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat."

21 Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. 22 Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, "I have become an alien in a foreign land." NIV

Verses 16: Imagine for a minute: Moses had probably felt a call from God whose ways he does not know. He fails miserably, and wonders in the desert until he happens "*coincidentally*" on a priest of God living by the mountain of God.

Verse 21: Moses was content (as NKJV translates) to live with Jethro's family initially, and it appears that he becomes content to live with the family forever. From all intents, Moses is happy. He is married. He is living with a family worshipping his God. In a sense, he achieves many of the more important things of life.

Verse 22: Most translate this as "I have been" (NKJV, NASU, KJV, NRSV, etc.) which would make Egypt where he was a foreigner. The NIV translates it as "I have become" which would make Midian as the place where he is a foreigner. Both translations are not incorrect. Actually, Moses was a foreigner in both lands.

VI. Things Change...More Providence?

Ex 2:23-25

23 During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. **24** God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. **25** So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

NIV

Verse 23: The king who sought Moses' death was now dead, but the change in kings did not relieve the persecution of the Jews, although the new Pharaoh appears not to see them as a threat but useful as slaves.

Verse 24: God remembered the covenant (Gen. 12:1-3, 15:4, etc.), prompting Him to act...although there is no indication that He had ever forgotten it. This is also an example of anthropometric language that we see throughout the Bible to allow us to understand God a little better from our own perspective.

Verse 24: This verse has the first mention of God since Ex. 1:21, but we see God acting behind the scenes throughout this chapter.

Verse 25: Why was God not concerned before?

Why does God do what he does? Most of the time we do not know. As Moses finds out later in this book, all we can know for sure is where God has been. In the Bible, we are told, though, why certain things happen. The reason why the Israelites suffered seems clear from this passage:

Ezek 20:5-9

5 "Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On the day when I chose Israel and raised My hand in an oath to the descendants of the house of Jacob, and made Myself known to them in the land of Egypt, I raised My hand in an oath to them, saying, 'I am the LORD your God.' **6** On that day I raised My hand in an oath to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, 'flowing with milk and honey,' the glory of all lands. **7** Then I said to them, 'Each of you, throw away the abominations which are before his eyes, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.' **8** But they rebelled against Me and would not obey Me. They did not all cast away the abominations which were before their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. Then I said, 'I will pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.' **9** But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles among whom they were, in whose sight I had made Myself known to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt.

NKJV

VII. Question: What does it take for you to do what God wants you to do?