

## **Exodus Chapter Two**

### **Exodus 2:1-4**

**Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. And 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 put the child into it, and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. And his sister stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him.**

- The names of Moses' parents are found in Exodus 6:20, Numbers 26:59, and I Chron 23:12-13-----Amram and Jochebed.
- His sister also goes unnamed here—Miriam—found in Numbers 26:59 and I Chron 6:3----called the sister of Aaron, she is primarily associated with him ( Numb 12)
- Both parents are of the priestly tribe of Levi
- "by faith" Moses parents hid him for 3 months---Heb 11:23. They must have heard from the Lord to take this action---since 'faith comes by hearing.....'
- Jochebed's ark—like Noah's---a picture of Christ.
- In satan's attempt to destroy Messianic line—uses Pharaoh to give the order---God in return—uses Pharaoh's household to rescue Moses.

### **Exodus 2:5-9**

**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 Hebrew's 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?" And 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.**

- Moses is rescued—brought into the house—nurtured at the hand of the one who sought to put all the infants to death.

- Pharaoh's house saves the 'deliverer'---who will eventually ransack Egypt in the deliverance of Israel.
- God brings a mother's heart to redeem a baby's cry.
- Pharaoh's daughter—may have been the oldest daughter of Ramses II—or she may have been his sister. She was a woman of rank.
- According to custom—her son had the right to the throne. Moses would have been next Pharaoh had Ramses II and his queen remained childless.

### **Exodus 2:10-14**

**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." 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 there was no one around, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. And 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 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."**

- Moses is aware of his Hebrew heritage and concerned for the plight of his people.
- Acts 7:23—Moses was 40 years old when he visited his own people. ( Stephen gives more insight about Moses in Acts 7:20-29)
- The first 40 years of Moses' life is spent in the courts of Pharaoh—raised as an Egyptian, trained as an Egyptian, looked like an Egyptian, acted like one. Probably educated in Egyptian university---highly educated people in their day. Egyptians knew a lot about astronomy—they had calculated the exact distance to the sun. They were aware that the earth was round, rather than flat. Chemistry was practiced in their civilization ( illustrated by ability to embalm). They were very aware of color—formulas for paint are still bright after 4,000 years. One of the greatest libraries in the world had been at Alexandria.
- Moses engages in same activity that he is attempting to disrupt.
- This verb—'struck down'—means a violent, intense action—of the kind that results in harmful, fatal results.
- Word of his crime spreads among his people.

- In Egyptian—Moses means 'son'. In Hebrew—Moses means 'drawn out'(of the water)
- God had prophesied that His people would be in Egypt for 400 years ( Gen 15:13)----so---Moses is 40 years early in his attempt to rescue Israel from the Egyptians.
- The Hebrews reject Moses' leadership----just as they will later reject the leadership of Jesus.

### **Exodus 2:15-22**

**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. Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters; and they came to draw water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. Then the shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. When they came to Reuel their father, he said, "Why have you come back so soon today?" 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." And 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." And Moses was willing to dwell with the man, and he gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses. Then she gave birth to a son, and he named him Gershom, for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land."**

- Moses flees Pharaoh—moves to Midian—beyond Pharaoh's jurisdiction.
- Midianites—long thought to be a nomadic people—but recent archaeological surveys reveal a complex, fixed-dwelling community within the Midianite culture.
- Later in Israel's history, there is enmity with Midian ( Numbers 22-25 and Judges 6-8 ).
- These are the descendants of Abraham and Keturah. When Moses flees here, there is the anticipation that this could be his distant kin.
- Moses appears to be an Egyptian when he arrives in Midian.
- As Moses names his son—there is an identifying himself with Canaan---acknowledging alien status with what had been his homeland his entire life.
- Moses is now at home among a family who are ancestors, and on a portion of land that has been promised to his people.
- Reuel and Jethro are the same person. ( Number 10:29/Reuel---Exodus 3,4,18/ Jethro)
- Moses—Type of Christ—takes a gentile bride

- Zipporah—means sparrow; small; delicate and nervous

### **Exodus 2:23-25**

**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. So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them.**

- Death of Pharaoh does not interrupt suffering of the Hebrews.
- 'took notice'—means—know by experience—a picture of God experiencing and suffering the agony of His people.
- God gives two reasons for delivering Israel:
  - He heard their groaning.
  - He remembered His covenant
- God's love—provides a savior.

# Exodus Chapter Two Workbook

## Key Words:

## Harmonize:

What other rescue does this remind you of in the scriptures?

## Dig:

- 1) How did Moses' mother design a way to spare her son?
- 2) Which circumstances of 'timing' display the hand of God at work?
- 3) Which women are responsible for Moses in this story? What part does each one play?
- 4) Make a list of the ways Moses experienced a different upbringing than his siblings, and the rest of the nation. ( See Acts 7:21-22)
- 5) When he reaches adulthood, how does Moses choose to identify with his nation?
- 6) Moses intervenes in two disputes in two different ways, with two different outcomes. What are they?
- 7) What causes Moses the greatest fear in this chapter?
- 8) Moses' life is divided into 40 year sections. Describe the first 40 year segment. What conclusion would you draw by looking at the circumstances alone during the first 40 years?
- 9) How many cultures does Moses experience in this chapter?

10) What demonstrates God's heart toward Israel in chapter two?

**Discuss:**

- 1) Which culture had the greatest influence on Moses' life/choices?
  
- 2) Why is the mention of Moses' tribe significant to this story?
  
- 3) Share a circumstance where you saw the Lord spare one of your children from harm.
  
- 4) Looking back, can you see how a part of your childhood/upbringing prepared you for work/family or ministry today?
  
- 5) Which culture in our city are you the least familiar with? Why?

**Point of Prayer:**

Pray for a child (that you know) who needs God to accomplish a miraculous deliverance.

**Integrate:**

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

**Application:**

- 1) What kind of a situation is quick to arouse your sense of justice?
  
- 2) What kind of a situation is quick to arouse your sense of mercy?
  
- 3) Did any other adults play a significant role in your childhood/upbringing?

- 4) How did Moses suffer in this chapter? Have you experienced any suffering similar to this?
- 5) Have you attempted to help in a situation by your own strength and had poor or mixed results? Explain.
- 6) What group of people, in your sphere of relationships 'seems the most alien' to you personally?
- 7) Moses spends 40 years tending sheep in the wilderness prior to his encounter with God at the burning bush. What trial or situation in your life felt like an 'eternity in the desert'?