

IF IT BE A SON, THEN YE SHALL KILL HIM

EXODUS 1:16; 2:1-4

Text: Exodus 1:16

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¹⁶ And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see *them* upon the stools; if it *be* a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it *be* a daughter, then she shall live.

Introduction:

We have looked at Satan's first two attempts to prevent the fulfill of the prophecy he received in the garden of Eden.

He removed one son and disqualified the other when Cain killed Able – but God provided another son.

He then understanding the holiness of God caused mankind to be destroyed by God because of their wickedness – but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Notice Satan next attempt:

Now in bondage as slaves, the people of God need a deliverer. Speaking of delivery, their midwives now have been instructed by Pharaoh to kill all male babies

born to the Jews. But they valued life, even to the point of lying about why they did not obey this command.

They continued to deliver the babies and one of those babies they delivered was named Moses.

But Pharaoh took his command to an all new level, charging all the Egyptians to report or dispose of all male Jewish babies. Most of God's people lost all hope. They lost their faith. "Has God forgotten us?"

Notice:

Baby Moses

1. HIS PRESERVATION

He was born into the godly family of Amram and Jochebed.

I thank God for godly homes at Temple Baptist Church today that are training their children to be different and to take a stand for Christ.

Someone once said this of the Christian Faith:

- To our forefathers it was an experience.
- To our fathers it was an inheritance.

- To us it is a convenience.
- To our children it is a nuisance.

Amram and Jochebed would have mixed emotions as they realized they had conceived a child. Would it be a girl or a boy? If it's a boy, how can we bear to see him thrown to the crocodiles of the Nile?

Still today, just as in the days of Pharaoh, the devil wants to use ways both sinister and systematic tactics to destroy our children. Satan's guns are aimed at our youth, from music to movies, to many video games and books. It's all designed to snatch them from our arms and throw them to the crocodiles!

This young couple didn't have a Bible, not even Genesis. This baby Moses would one day be used of God to write the first five books of the Bible, including his own story in Exodus!

We are raising a generation today who doesn't know how to blush!

Jochebed said I may not be able to keep him from going into the Nile, but I can do my best to protect him from the Nile! Noah was a man who built an ark of safety for his family, and Jochebed was a woman who did the same.

Moses' preservation was ultimately in God's trustworthy hands. Pharaoh's daughter went to the river to bathe and saw this little ark that Jochebed had built to place him in the Nile, in hopes to spare his life. When this Egyptian girl saw it, the babe began to cry. She is supposed to hate the Hebrews and kill this child, but her heart was touched.

His sister, Miriam is watching from afar and has an idea. "Would you like me to find a Hebrew woman to nurse the child for you?" Jochebed wound up being paid to raise her own child! Actually, once weaned, Moses was presented to this princess as her own son. Pharaoh wanted rid of the Jews, but for his daughter he allowed this exception.

God's providence is always at work, in all things. Pharaoh's decree of death is no match for the Maker of life! God's providence is evident in several ways:

- The princess coming to bathe at that exact moment
- The current of the river at that moment
- Her glancing at the ark
- His crying at the moment she opened it—God gave Moses' cheek a heavenly pinch at that moment!

- Miriam seeing it all and having this idea

2. HIS EDUCATION

Jochebed is now being paid to raise her own child.

She's got a limited amount of time.

We too should take what little time we have with our children to plant any spiritual seeds we can, and in the end it will pay great dividends to them and us.

Then his Egyptian education began in the courts of Pharaoh. This would have been some of the best education that world had to offer, and from the most advanced civilization to date.

Acts 7:22

²² And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

Remember:

Educate the head without changing the heart and all you have is a fool...fooling himself if he thinks he knows anything. Perfect knowledge is found in knowing God!

Hebrews 11:24-27

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ²⁵ Choosing rather to suffer

affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; ²⁶ Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. ²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

He turned his back on the world and went with the people of God.

This led to:

3. HIS COMPLICATION

Exodus 2:11-14

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. 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. 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 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.

His secret was out. He realized that in his own power he couldn't succeed at burying one Egyptian...but years later God will use this same man to bury the entire Egyptian army in the Red Sea.

Notice also not only Moses Preservation, Education and Complication but also:

4. HIS ISOLATION

Exodus 2:15

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.

He flees Egypt for Midian, gets married, becomes a shepherd, and there he sits for 40 years. Surely many days he said, Lord, remember me? Where are you?

There was a teaching element and a timing element here.

God had much to teach Moses with a family and some sheep.

He that is faithful in that which is least shall be faithful also in much. It is the seminary of solitude for Moses.

Elijah attended, so did John the Baptist and the Apostle Paul.

Even Jesus spent 30 years in a carpenter's shop getting ready for a 3 year ministry.

The timing element:

- For 40 years in Egypt Moses was taught that he was somebody.

- He spent 40 years in the desert learning he was nobody.
- His next 40 years he was a leader of millions, leading them to the Promised Land, realizing that God is the Master of taking nobodies and making them somebodies!

Close:

Lessons to remember:

God is never in a hurry, but always keeps His promises.

We should build arks of protection for our children.

God's providence is always at work.

Be faithful and God will pay your wages.

Education minus God makes one foolish.

Live spiritually by choosing God's people over the world.

The backside of the desert is God's schoolhouse, where prophets are prepared!

God spared Moses so that the prophecy pronounced in the Garden of Eden would be fulfilled.