

JOCHEBED AN EXAMPLE OF A GODLY MOTHER

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“And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. 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. And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. 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. 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. 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? And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. 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. 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.”

EXODUS 2:1-10.

This morning we will look at the mother of Moses. Her name is Jochebed, which means, “Jehovah is Glory,” and not much is said about her, but one thing we do know is that she was a loving mother who was caring and compassionate who took interest in her children and above all a mother who was faithful to God. She was a very interesting and impressive mother who believed in God and lived by that faith as a testimony to her husband, children and friends. We are told that her name is Jochebed in Exodus 6:20, *“And Amram took him Jochebed his father's sister to wife; and she bare him Aaron and Moses...”* Now, when I say that she is impressive or interesting, I don't say that because she was somehow naturally endowed or gifted with qualities or talents that made her different than anyone else. No, she was interesting and impressive because of that holy and godly disposition that she had. You see, it was her relationship with the True and Living God, Jehovah, who had saved her soul and given her a new nature, a new heart, a new life, a new outlook in life. She was a follower and faithful servant of Yahweh, Jehovah God, she had her convictions and commitments that were unshakeable. She had a personal relationship with the God of her salvation. How do we know this? Well, Jochebed, along with her husband are enshrined in God's Hall of faith. Hebrews 11:23, *“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.”* This shows us that she was a child of God not by natural generation, that is, just because she was Jewish, no but by supernatural regeneration that is; being born again into the Kingdom and family of God. In John 1:10-13, our Lord Jesus Christ taught very clearly that salvation is not by name or blood lineage, but by the power of God, *“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”* Thus, she was a follower of Jehovah God, because of what God had wrought in her heart.

Now, in Exodus chapter 1 we have the background for the birth of Moses. Hundreds of years had already passed since the Hebrews had migrated to Egypt to escape the famine in their land. We are told in Exodus 12:40 that it was 430 years from the time

they entered Egypt to the time they escape through the Red Sea. Notice what is says in Exodus 1:6-14, *“And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation. And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them. Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel . And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour.”* There arose a new king over Egypt who knew not Joseph and began to enslave the Hebrew people and made them work very hard, but they grew and multiplied more. How remarkable is it to look back at the life of Joseph and see how God in His providence protected and preserved him and the Hebrew children in time of famine. But things had changed for them, and yet in their awful misery, God would still be in control and finally begins the exodus of His people with the birth of Moses. Before Moses was born Pharaoh began to worry about some sort of slave revolt; he thought that the slaves would join forces with a foreign enemy. In order to curb this problem of his, Pharaoh orders that all male infants be killed as soon as they were born. This gives us the alarming and dangerous times in which Jochebed and Amram, Moses’ parents lived in. We are told in Scripture that they had two other children, Aaron and Miriam. Jochebed was pregnant with Moses when the king set forth his decree of putting to death all the male children. We also live in alarming and dangerous times where 55 million babies have been put to death, yea murder which they call abortion. Not much different than Pharaoh.

Notice the command and rule of law that Pharaoh gave and was enforce while Jochebed was pregnant with Moses. Exodus 1:15-17. *“And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: 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. But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.”*

Pharaoh sought to stop the increase of the Hebrew population in a very drastic way, he orders the midwives to kill every male child born to Hebrew women. We see the same thing happen many centuries later, when Herod sought to kill all male children under the age of two because he wanted to kill baby Jesus. But like, Mary, Shiprah (**fair/beautiful**) and Puah (**splendid/glittering**), in faith, refused to follow the orders of the king and feared God more that any earthly king! Were it not for the faith of these two women we would never have had a redeemer. Look at verse 17 of Exodus 1, *“But the midwives feared God, and **did not** as the king of Egypt commanded them, **but saved the men children alive.**”* As we said Wednesday night every child of God will be put in a situation where they will act on those 2 phrases that guides our Christian walk, “we will” or “we will not,” and they acted on the WE WILL NOT obey the Pharaoh and kill the children. Even Peter in Acts 5:28 & 29 answer those who told those that commanded them to be quiet about the gospel, *“Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name?”*

and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men." These 2 women would obey GOD rather than man.

They made a decision with great determination and conviction to trust God in such a predicament. They decided to stand for the LORD. How about you this morning, if you call yourself a Christian, do you take a stand for the Lord or do you succumb to the pressures of this live? Do we put the Lord first in our lives? Now, whether they lied or not, I leave that up to God, many skeptics come out their closets along with the self-righteous crowd to condemn these women. God blessed them and dealt well with them. When Pharaoh found out what was happening he confronted them and they said, well by the time we get there they are already born, notice verses 18-22, "*And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses. And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.*" Proverbs 11:18 says, "*The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.*" Well the desire of Pharaoh to stop the increase of the Hebrew population would now extend to ordering all mothers and fathers to kill their newborn baby boys by throwing them in the river, which I think is the river Nile.

So what is a mother to do? How can a mother endure such cruelty upon her newborn child? All the emotions in her heart must have sickened at the thought of this wicked tyrant's decree. But, how could she and her husband, poor, feeble people from a despised race, resist the will of an absolute monarch? We have read the answer already in Hebrews 11:23, BY FAITH! By faith they resisted the decree of Pharaoh.

Pharaoh's decree was repulsive to Moses' parents, but more importantly, it would meant that they would have to defy their God if they obeyed Pharaoh. Their great faith in God would enable them to trust God wholeheartedly and without a shadow of doubt overcome such indescribable fear of Pharaoh. Thus, as it says in Hebrews 11:23, by faith they hid Moses, the child God had given them, for three months. They believed in the Living and True who they knew would not leave them or forsake them, they did not give in, but instead by faith trusted their God, yea, they were neither CONFOUNDED nor CONFUSED!

With their eyes fixed upon God, they willfully disobeyed Pharaoh's wicked command, and by faith trusted God, not one bit afraid of the consequences. Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, by faith they believed that the God whom they served was able to deliver them out the hand of Pharaoh.

So Jochebed obeyed the God of Heaven over the law and decree of the king of Egypt. She trusted in the Sovereign King of the universe! Now begins the account of the birth of Moses. We have already established that she was a follower of Jehovah, she

trusted in and on God. Again, as we have mentioned already, Jochebed's name means, God is Glory or "**YAHWEH is GLORIOUS!**" No question in her heart that Yahweh, yea Jehovah was glorious. She had heard and had seen the glorious works of God and that help her trust Him even more during this awful crises in their lives. She believed in her heart that the glorious God of heaven would be with them.

The sweet of psalmist of Israel knew something of this glorious God, Psalms 66:2, "*Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.*" Psalms 72:19 "*And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen*". Psalms 76:4 "*Thou art more glorious and excellent than the mountains of prey.*" Psalms 87:3 "*Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God . Selah.*" Psalms 111:3 "*His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever.*" Psalms 145:3 & 5 "*Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. (5) I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.*" Psalms 145:12, "*To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.*" (sing Ps. 145:8-11) Yes, our God is a Glorious God, a Great God yea a Good GOD! Amen and Amen! And Jochebed knew this blessed truth regarding God, just like we do right now. God was not more glorious or lest glorious in Jochebed's time, no my dear brethren He has always been and will forever be GLORIOUS! As a matter of fact no sooner had they crossed the Red Sea on dry ground and saw Pharaoh and his army destroyed that they sang a song to God in Exodus 15:6 "*Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.*" Exodus 15:11 "*Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?*" No question that in Jochebed's heart she believed what is said in Ex.15:11, this glorious God would be the God whom she would trust as a mother in these dangerous and trying times in which she lived.

Exodus 2:1 & 2 says, "*And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.*" We are not told what Jochebed named her baby because the name Moses is given to him by Pharaoh's daughter. What we do know is that by faith she trusted God to take care of her son, which no doubt is one of the hardest things to do as a Christian, that is; to trust God regarding our children, but no doubt it is the best thing to do. In Hebrews 11:23 again we are told, "*By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.*" In Exodus 2:3 it says, "*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.*" As a godly mother she was concerned about her son. She conceived him and now she will conceal him. But after 3 months she could no longer hide him. Now what made Jochebed think that sending Moses into the river in a little basket or ark would keep him out of danger or harms way? I'm sure there were crocodiles in the Nile River. I'm sure there were poisonous snakes in the river. The river was also the place were many children were thrown as Pharaoh had commanded. What would keep him safe and alive? By faith she trusted God. Faith is a necessary grace for mothers. By faith we are to entrust our children unto God, to trust Him, to believe Him, to hope in Him regarding our children. I don't know and I'm not sure but could it be that Jochebed remembered the story of Noah's ark and how God preserved him and his family. Maybe she said

within herself and this is a big maybe “if God did that for Noah can He do that for me?” God had somehow, by some means reveal to both Jochebed and her husband that Moses was a special child, that he was the deliverer. There was something different about this child that moved them to trust God in such a way. I cannot imagine putting my 3 month old child in a small ark and put him in the river. Notice a couple verses quickly, Exodus 2:1 & 2 says, “*And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and **when she saw him that he was a goodly child**, she hid him three months.*” Hebrews 11:23, “*By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because **they saw he was a proper child**; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.*” Turn to Acts chapter 7 where Stephen is giving a historical account of the Hebrew people, yea Stephen’s apology in his sermon against the Jews. Let’s start at verse 17 to 22. Verse 20 again, “*In which time Moses was born, and **was exceeding fair**, and nourished up in his father's house three months.*” He was a goodly child, a proper child and an exceeding fair child. There was something special about this baby that was different than Miriam and Aaron. God had revealed unto them that this baby was different! And by faith they reacted to that special revelation and trusted God. This is why they believed that God would preserve him in the ark, in the river, because God had his hand upon this baby boy.

I’m sure that during those 3 months they were constantly talking one with another as to what will they do. They also prayed about it, seeking God to give them some understanding regarding their son and how were they going to protect him. Perhaps again as Jochebed was thinking and praying and asking God for a plan when suddenly on day it came to her. She remembered how God took care of Noah and how he built an ark and covered it with pitch inside and out. So when they could no longer hide him she told her husband, “I’ve got a plan, go get some wood, reeds and pitch and let us build a mini ark.” He might have look at her funny, but he knew this was top project in the ‘HONEY-DO’ list. This faithful mother and father, by faith, built their little ark and place their baby boy in it and prayerfully release him into God’s care and keeping. God honored their faith.

Jochebed conceived Moses, Jochebed concealed Moses and now Jochebed commits Moses to God. Jochebed committed her baby boy to the Lord as she placed him in that tiny basket or ark and sent him away into one of the largest rivers in the world. In her demonstration of faith she placed that 3 month old in the ark, consciously believing God, she put all her faith, her trust and her hope in God. She knew that in her self, she did not possess the power to save him or keep him safe. She knew that if she kept him in her home it would only bring sure death upon her son sooner or later as the authorities would know. Sad to say but godless parents who would take their sons to the river to drown them would tell on her. There was danger everywhere. I’m sure that some of the godless parents who had killed their babies would turn her in. The same river which was the instrument of death for many baby boys, would be the instrument of Moses’ life as he was by faith put in the ark.

Jochebed committed Moses into the hands of God as he floated down the river. In

Exodus 2:3 it says, *“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.”*

As this baby goes down the river we see three things concerning God, 1 - we see the providence of God, 2 – we see the prevenient grace of God and 3 – we see the preservation of God. Ex.2:4-6, *“And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. 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. 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.”* Was it by chance or was it by pure luck that of all the places Moses would arrive would be at Pharaoh's daughter palace? No it was in the providence of God. God was very much involve, His hands were upon that small ark and guided directly to Pharaoh's daughter palace. Was it by accident that the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at that particular time and place? No, God's hand was also involved in that activity. Well, no question that little Moses stole the heart of the royal princess in that critical and significant moment, look at verse 6 again, *“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.”* How amazing, knowing that this was a Hebrew child, she had compassion on him, because even the tears of the baby were providential and not shed in vain. Moses' crying stirred the compassion of Pharaoh's daughter toward him. She could have easily thrown him into the river, but God preserved that little baby boy. Not only did she keep the baby, but she brought him into the palace and raised him as a royal son.

Well, that's not even the half of it. Our Lord God did not forget about the faith of a particular mother, God did not forget the faith of Jochebed! Well since there was no baby formula, no Walmart or HEB or Walgreens, the princess would have to find someone to nurse this poor crying baby. Notice verses 7-9, *“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? And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. 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.”* As only as Jehovah God can do, He brought Moses back to his mother, to his real momma. Better yet, she got paid to nurse her own baby; I can almost see Jochebed smothering Moses with kisses. What a blessing from God, WOW, get paid to nurse your own baby. God rewarded Jochebed's faith. Jochebed is living proof of this.

By faith Jochebed conceived Moses, she concealed Moses, she committed Moses to God and last but not lease she cultivated Moses or she cultured Moses. We have no idea whatsoever as to the length of time Jochebed nurse and spiritually nurtured him. It was common for a mother to nurse their children from 2 to 5 years. In other words, Jochebed knew in her heart that she only had a limited amount of time to teach him and share with him about the Great God of Heaven! Mothers you only have a limited amount of time to teach and share with your children about the God of the Bible. If you don't teach them about God and His grace, His mercy, His love, His free salvation for

sinner and of course His Word the Bible then the world will teach your children otherwise. You have a limited time to instruct them in the things of God to hopefully help them become followers of Christ or else they will become followers of the godless worldly society that hates God and promotes the Devil. If you don't teach your children mothers, somebody else will. Before Moses would go live in the palace, Jochebed would teach and instill into his heart and mind the great truths and teaching of God. She would tell him about creation, the fall, Abel, Enoch, Noah and the flood, the tower of Babylon, the story of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the twelve sons of Jacob, the story of Joseph and so forth. She would teach him about the God of history. She cultivated his mindset regarding the things of God, she cultured him with the truths of God and His people. And don't be foolish to believe that Moses could not remember these things. Did you know that at the age of 3 or 4 children have the highest retention level? She explained to Moses why the Hebrews were slaves and held in bondage. Jochebed, early in the life of Moses planted seeds of God in his heart and mind. These seeds would one day sprout into greatness.

Sad, but one day she finally heard the news that she greatly dreaded. The orders arrived at the home of Jochebed that Moses would be finally moved into the palace of the king. I'm sure she must have cried and cried her heart and eyes out. It was a sad day in her life when she saw those chariots escort Moses away. Yet, the momma of Moses knew that God had a plan for her son and that the Word of God never returns void. Little did she know that one day in the future her own son would write this same story in the book of Exodus, yea; that her son would write the first five books of the Bible. Yes, I believe she knew in her heart that her son was special. Jochebed's faith followed Moses all the days of his life. Oh to God that our faith would follow our children all the days of their lives.

I read where an old pastor wrote, "*...when momma died, I was sad, as long as my momma lived, I knew there would be at least one person on earth praying for me every single day.*" No doubt that Moses was blessed with a Godly praying mother who prayed for Moses every day of her life.

Mother's I know that perhaps sometimes you feel like you're not special, or that you are not important. You might say God's not going to use me to be a preacher, a missionary, or this or that, but you have a high calling as a mother, to instruct your children in the ways of God and most importantly you can pray for your children every single day. I'm sure God takes special interest in that. And your children are your mission field. What a high calling as a mother, what privilege, what honor to teach and instruct your children in the ways of God? There is nothing more glorious than that. May God help you to be the mother He wants you to be? I have a poem I want to share with you, entitled: Happy Mother's Day. Let's pray. Sing Psalm 127

HAPPY MOTHER' DAY

Children are an heritage of the Lord

We thank our God and look to His Word
His wisdom and instruction is truly a must
We need guidance and so in God we trust

Mother's bring children into this world
They are more precious than any pearl
Children are a gift from our Great God
We confess what a miracle He has wrought

We take them home from the hospital; what a joy
Knowing that God gave us a little girl or boy
They keep us up at night and we get little sleep
But what a joy to know they are ours to keep

What a bond is formed between mother and baby
Hoping they grow up to be a fine young man or a lovely lady
We are excited when we see them take their first step
We take their pictures so these memories are kept

Mothers are wipers of noses and washers of ears
Mothers pick them up when they fall and wipe their tears
Finders of shoes, toys, clothes and hats
Mediators, peacemakers and referee of spats

We train their hearts from the Bible for that is our goal
We have the promise they will not depart when old
They finally graduate and it all seems so fast
For in our hearts we thought it would forever last

We have sought to raise them in His Holy Word
We pray that they will believe and follow the Lord
and that salvation would be wrought in the heart;
that they would persevere to the end and never depart

God ordained from creation to birth children by Mothers
and that men would be the leaders and Fathers
God's instruction to us is be fruitful and multiply
and as we see our children born most of us do cry

No, it does not take a village for children to be raised
God ordained that Mothers would bring up children under HIS grace
So, for what all you have done we wish you today
that God will bless you with a Happy Mother's Day

Pastor Jose Maldonado