

You want to know what the **whole Bible** is about?

Galatians 4:4-5

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

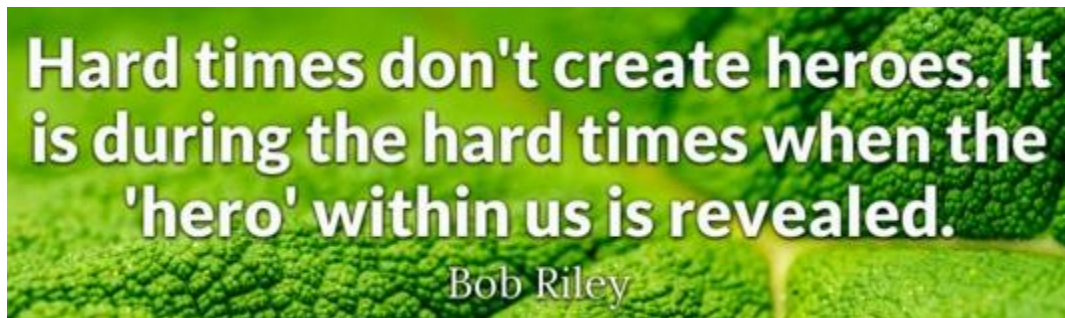
This text is the theme of the entire Bible. This theme is realized in Christ, but it was pictured hundreds of years earlier in the person of **MOSES**.

When the fullness of time had time, God sent JESUS. But here in Exodus, when the fullness of time had come, God sent Moses to deliver Israel from Egypt.

We are continuing our survey of the book of Exodus...entitled "**Let My People Go**". Today, we see...

Title: **God Raises Up a Deliverer**

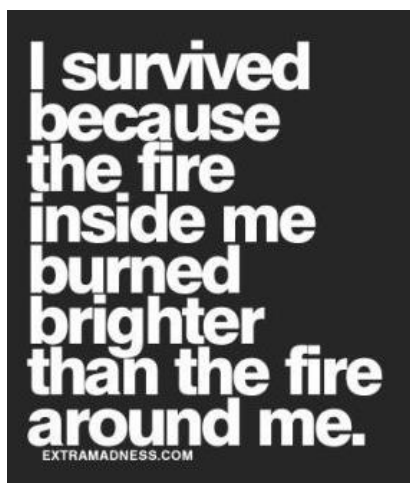
This evening, we're just going to march through the text of Exodus 2, and discuss the first half of Moses' life. The first half of the life of a future hero!



I would say that **God creates heroes**. He does a work in that heart of a man. And, later **hard times** reveal the hero that God has already created.

God puts a fire in the bones of a man. And with the power of the **Holy Spirit**, this man is able to advance the **kingdom** of God.

Extramadness.com says...



Such a man was **Moses**. The Spirit of the Lord was burning inside him. And, this gave him strength to face the fires that were burning around him...the fires of slavery and infanticide. **Moses** was a hero that God raised up in a time of **great darkness**.

Exodus chapter 2 begins with ...

1. The Birth of Moses

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son,

- Exodus 2 begins with a **marriage**. A man and a woman come together and commit their lives to each other as husband and wife.
- We see the biblical order here: **Get married first. Then, have babies.**
- And that's what they do...and they have a baby boy.
- There is not a lot of fanfare about his birth. At this point, this little **BOY'S NAME** is not even mentioned. Commentators attribute that to the humility of this boy, who became the author of the book of Exodus.

Who is this couple?

- Moses parents: **Amram and Jochebed**
- **Amram** was the great grandson of the patriarch Jacob... the grandson of Levi. And, it's from this tribe we get the Levites who later become the tribe of priests who care for the tabernacle and later for the temple.

I'm sure Amram and Jochebed had **MIXED FEELINGS** about this pregnancy.

- This baby was their 3rd child, so they had done the drill a couple times.
- This child would be born into slavery, which by now they may have grown accustomed to.
- But this child, was born after Pharaoh's edict to kill the baby boys.
- When a child was born, if it was a girl, there was a sense of relief.
- But the birth of a boy would be cause for fear.

²The woman conceived and bore a **son**, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.

- That line "when she saw that he was a fine child" is a bit disturbing.
- It seems to imply that **if he'd been UGLY child**, or a disabled child, that she would have just handed him over to the Egyptians to be killed.
- Word translated as "FINE" here can also be translated as: **healthy, beautiful, large or special.**

- In **Acts 7:20**, Stephen alludes to this verse and says that Moses was **beautiful** in the sight of God...or he was no ordinary child. Jews referred to baby Moses as being like an angel of God.
- This might be partly why later **Pharaoh's daughter** was so drawn to him when she saw him in the basket.
- This mother, **Jochabed** sees this lovely baby boy and her heart is drawn to him. **"He's beautiful. He's my boy. He's my baby."** She has great affection for him, and this affection drives her all the more to protect him.
- However [VERSE 3]

3When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank.

- Heartbroken, she puts her beautiful baby in the **HANDS OF GOD**.
- She can no longer protect him like she used to.
- She releases him into the river.
- I'm sure Jochabed is **NOT** the only one crying at this point. The drama is thick. **Father, mother, sister and brother** are all grieving the loss of this family member.
- They turn to walk back home, BUT big sister **Miriam** isn't ready to let go. [VERSE 4]

4And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.

Imagine the risk she took. Likely, her last glimpse of her baby brother would be the horrific picture of him being eaten by a crocodile.

But instead, that little floating basket bumps into a princess.

5Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. **6**When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

- I'm sure the princess was well aware of her **father's decree**.
- According to Pharaoh's edict, which was the law of the land, she should have tipped the basket over and sent the baby down the river to his death.
- But in God's sovereignty, **Moses** was a beautiful baby. And, she was drawn to him.
- In an act of **civil disobedience**, similar to the Hebrew midwives, the princess pays no heed to her father's demand.
- She feels for the child. She instantly loves this baby.

At this point, **Miriam**, Moses' big sister, shrewdly makes her move.

⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

This young girl chooses her words very wisely.

Proverbs 25:11

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in A setting of silver.

Miriam's fitly spoken words really pay off. NOW in her heart, She wants to cry out, "***That's my baby brother. Please don't hurt him.***" But instead, she focuses her words on the felt needs of the princess rather than her own. "***I can help you.***"

⁸And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

The baby goes **BACK HOME** to his mother and his family. **Jochabed's** full breasts are not in vain. She is able to nurse and to love and to spend time with her beautiful baby. Not only that, but she gets **wages**; she gets paid to care for her own child.

Jochabed was able to keep Moses until the time that he was to be weaned, which was likely around **age 2 or 3**.

I found this **artistic rendering** of Moses getting cleaned up. Baby Moses parts the waters in the tub as if it's the Red Sea, and his mom says, "**Stop that** Moses and take your bath."

Moses grows up, and now it's time to leave his real family, and move into the palace with the princess.

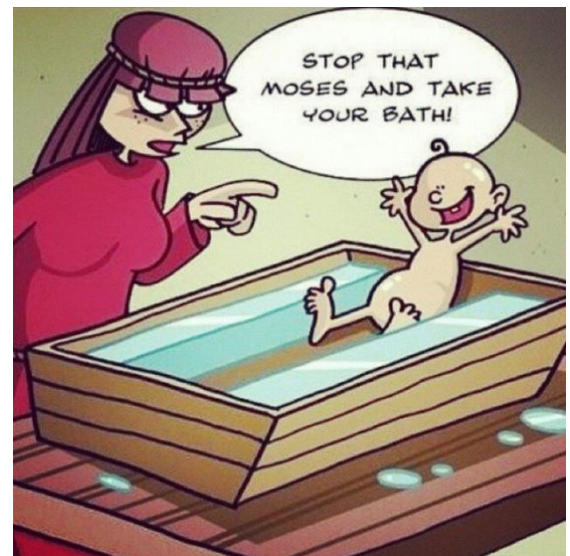
¹⁰When the child grew older, she [Miriam] brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "**I drew him out of the water.**"

The name Moses literally means "**drawn out**" or "**rescued**". The princess rescued this baby from the Nile. How **IRONIC** because this very same Moses is the future rescuer of God's people. Through Moses, God would draw his people out of the land of the Nile, out of Egypt. Through Moses He would save them.

This is how God works: ***The rescued becomes the rescuer!***

That's how the gospel works. Jesus rescues us, so that we can go rescue others.

Jesus died on the cross. He rose from the dead. He paid the price for our sin, rescuing us from the wrath of God. --- HE DREW US OUT!!!



If you believe on Jesus Christ, you are the rescued. You are the saved. All your sins are forgiven. Your name is written in the book of life and you are given eternal life.

You are rescued. **WHY?** --- Yes, because God loves you and wants to save you. **BUT** also because God wants to use YOU to go out and rescue others. He wants you to go out and share the gospel with others so they too can be saved.

That's how the gospel works: **The rescued become the rescuers!**

But before Moses becomes the rescuer, God has some work to do in Moses' heart.

2. Moses Discovers His Identity and Chooses a Side

¹¹One day, when Moses had grown up,

- OBVIOUSLY...Quite a few years have gone by between verses 10 and 11.
- Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace as the son of the princess, the adopted grandson of Pharaoh himself.
- Likely, he received the best education that money could buy.
- He lived **LIKE A KING**. He ate like a king. He enjoyed leisure and play and whatever his *heart desired*.
- But at some point, **MOSES FIGURED OUT** that he was adopted. He wasn't really the *princess's son*. He wasn't really the *grandson* of Pharaoh.
 - **Was Moses ever in line for the throne?** Not likely since Pharaoh was sure to know that Moses was not Egyptian.
 - **Did Moses' adopted mother tell him** about how she found him? Or, did he later discover the details through Miriam and Aaron?
 - Did Moses figure out his **identity** on his own? OR did he notice that he looked different than the family that he had grown up with?
 - Did he notice that Pharaoh treated him differently than the other sons of royalty?
 - **Somehow** Moses figured this out and it started bothering him that HIS PEOPLE were treated so poorly.

¹¹One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, [...He saw their suffering...He had compassion on them. He looked on their burdens...] and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of **HIS** people. ¹²He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

- **You ever done that?** Have you been about to do something and you hesitate? You look this way and that. You don't want anyone to see what you're about to do.

- Perhaps Moses felt convicted that what he was doing was wrong. Perhaps he was afraid of the Pharaoh's response. Maybe he just ***didn't want*** the news getting around.
- But... Somehow the **NEWS SPREAD**.
- Was someone watching through a 2nd story window?
- Or, was it the man that he had rescued that blabbed the story? Did this man go back to Goshen and tell everyone what Moses had done?

¹³ When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. [1st day – an Egyptian is beating a Hebrew. 2nd day – a Hebrew is beating a Hebrew] And he said to the man in the wrong, "Why do you strike your companion?"

- Moses seeks to be a **peace-maker**. Likely, it bothered him that they were fighting. He's thinking, *"I just killed a man so that Hebrews would not be mistreated, and now I see Hebrews mistreating each other. How are we going to get the Egyptians to stop oppressing the Hebrews if the Hebrews are oppressing each other?"*
- **How can we move forward if we're fighting amongst ourselves?** It's a question that we should ask ourselves as Christians? We have a world to win for Jesus Christ. Satan is the real enemy. Let's wage war with the forces of darkness, not with each other.
- Perhaps, **Moses** thinks that they will respect him because of his exalted position. He is Egyptian royalty and they are slaves. They should look up to him. They should hang on every word he says.
- **But he's shocked** by the rude response that comes across like a slap in his face.
- The Hebrew responded...

¹⁴ He answered, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid, and thought, "Surely the thing is known."

- Moses realized immediately that this could go badly for him.
- **And it did...**

¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses.

- Moses has grown up in the palace. **He's family, right?** But it seems that almost in an instant Pharaoh is ready to kill him.
- Likely, Pharaoh was **never happy** about his daughter's rebellion. He **never liked** the idea of housing a Hebrew boy in his palace...a boy that should have been thrown into the Nile. However, it seems that he put up with it so as to not break his daughter's heart. But Pharaoh may have feared, ***"What will happen when Moses realizes that he's not Egyptian? Will he be loyal to us or to them? Which side will he choose?"***

- Pharaoh may have already been looking for an opportunity to **dispose of Moses**...an excuse to get rid of him.
- Moses has **killed an Egyptian** to protect a Hebrew slave. And in so doing, Moses chose his side. And, **now** Pharaoh had justification to get rid of Moses.

¹⁵ But Moses fled from Pharaoh...

He fled for his life...**leaving behind** everything and everyone he knew and loved.

This was a rough time for Moses. You ever feel like you've blown it. You really screwed up and it's going to ruin your life. It's in those **dark times** where we need some encouragement. We need someone to **say**...



Don't give up in the darkness of the night, or you might miss the sunrise.

It's during times like these that we need to remember the words of **Psalm 121:1-2**:



3. Moses Flees to Midian

This was a 300 mile journey. Long trip.

NOW... Don't give in to that foolish idea that **REAL MEN** never run. Real Men always stand up to their problems. **No No**. There comes a time to run. Staying in Egypt meant certain death, so...

¹⁵ Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

Moses has to travel through the desert...around 300 miles. And, it makes sense that when he lands in Midian, he would stop at a well to drink.

And, it's in that moment at the well where Moses meets his future wife...And where he gets a chance to be a **HERO!**

16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. **17**The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock.

- The male shepherds kick out the girls after they've already done the hard work. These guys cut in line to get water first. They're bigger. They're stronger. And they take advantage.
- **Moses** sees this band of mistreated female shepherds and he stands up for them.
- Now, the **last time** Moses stood up for the downtrodden, it ***didn't go so well***. He rescued the Hebrew slave from being beaten. That Hebrew likely told on Moses and got him into trouble.
- But Moses is still willing to stand up for the oppressed...even though he's already been burned by them.
- Even though Moses does not even know them, he is willing to do them a good turn.
- The ladies go home and tell Daddy about their rescuer.

18 When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come home so soon today?" **19**They said, "An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock."

- Moses **delivered** these shepherdesses in Midian. Later God will call him to deliver the Hebrew shepherds in Egypt.
- Moses **drew water** for them: Moses, whose name means drawn from the water, draws the water for these ladies.
- **WATER IS A BIG THEME** in the life of Moses: As a baby, he's put into the water and then drawn from the water, where he gets his name. He finds his wife at a well. God uses him to turn the Nile River to blood...and to part the Red Sea. He hits a rock and water comes out for the Hebrews later in the desert.
- The shepherdesses say **an Egyptian** delivered us: Likely, he was still wearing Egyptian clothing.
- **Daddy of these girls...Reuel**...hearing of this heroic man...wants to meet him.

20 He said to his daughters, "Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread."

- Humble Moses doesn't follow the ladies home hoping for a reward. There were no strings attached to his act of kindness.

- But according to **Reuel**, Moses has done a good turn. That good deed must not go unrewarded.
- How similar Reuel is to our God, who rewards those who walk in his ways and who diligently seek Him.
- So Reuel had his daughters bring Moses to him. And, **Reuel's family** becomes Moses' new family.
- **Psalm 68:6** "God sets the lonely in families."
- Moses has lost everything...and everyone in his life. Oh, the love of God! He cares for lonely people and gives them family.

²¹And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah.

- Reuel is **wise**. "A man who would protect my daughters would be a good choice for a husband."
- Reuel gives Moses his eldest daughter.
- Back in Genesis, **Laban gave Leah to Jacob** when Leah wanted Rachel. He did this because it was the custom to marry off the oldest daughter first. That way she doesn't become an old maid while the younger daughters get married off. Perhaps that's what Reuel was thinking.
- Moses marries Zipporah and they start **having children**.

²²She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land."

- Again, we have **God's pattern** for the family. They get married, and then they have children together.
- **Gershom's** name reminds us that Moses feels like a fish out of water in Midian. He's a **sojourner**. A foreigner. Moses grew up Egyptian, but he knows that his people are the Hebrews. And, he's **NOT** with either of them now...but rather with the Midianites who are completely foreign to him.
- **It's interesting...** You might think that Moses would go to Midian and just want to forget everything about Egypt and his people. But God didn't allow Moses to be completely settled in Midian because God had other plans for him.
- Moses was to be the deliverer!

There are **many**...

Similarities Between Moses and Jesus

Moses	Jesus
Saved the Israelites	Savior of all mankind
Shepherd	The Good Shepherd
Hebrews were slaves to the Egyptians	We are slaves to sin
Led God's people to freedom through the waters of the Red Sea	Sets us free from sin <i>symbolized</i> by the waters of Baptism
Gave the people God's Law on Mount Sinai	Fulfilled the Law especially with the Sermon on the Mount
Led God's people to the Promised Land	Brings us to the true promised land: Heaven

During Moses' time

5 Points Application

1. Release your children to the care of God.

When **Jochabed** could not care for Moses any longer, she placed him in a basket and released that basket into the Nile. She had to release Moses to the care of God.

That was very early for her, but at some point pretty much every parent has to release their children. They don't stay babies forever. At some point, they move out and make a life of their own.

Yes, as a parent, you train and teach and discipline your children. You raise them up in the ways of the Lord. You pray your guts out. But they grow up, and they become independent.

And...There is a sense in which **every parent** has to put their child in the basket and nudge that basket out into the waters of the world.

You pray through your tears, "Heavenly Father, **I can't** protect him anymore. Lord, I'm releasing her to you. Please take care of my baby."

Release your children to the care of God.

2. Keep standing up for the oppressed even if they burn you.

Moses tried to help the Hebrews, and they snitched on him. They got him in trouble. Almost got him killed.

When Moses saw the shepherd girls being mistreated in Midian, he could have said, "**Let them deal** with their own problems. I'm tired of helping people only to get messed over.

How many volunteers at the **Rescue Mission** have seen their disciples return to drugs or alcohol? How tempting it would be to quit.

How many servants at **Pregnancy Clinics**, have seen young girls, despite the counsel they have received, still go off and get an abortion.

How many times have you tried to **help someone** in need and it turns out badly? You try to help, and they hate you for it. They burn you. They show no appreciation, but just go on to make life difficult for you.

It's so easy to say, "**Not again**. Burn me once, shame on you. Burn me twice, shame on me. I'm not putting myself out. I'm not making myself vulnerable. I'm not helping the needy only to have them spit in my face."

I'd encourage you to Remember **Jesus** words on the cross as he prayed for those who crucified him, "**Father, forgive** them, for they know not what they do."

When you are helping needy people, **get ready to be hurt**. Love is risky. **Hurt people hurt other people**. And, if you can keep loving the people that hurt you, God can use you in powerful ways to transform lives.

3. Seek to do good wherever you are, even amongst people you do not know.

Moses didn't know these shepherd girls. As far as he knew, he would never see them again. And, yet he chose to show them kindness.

My friend, Roger, texted this to me:

While much of America seems to be getting more and more divisive, I'm going to be holding doors for strangers, letting people cut in front of me in traffic, greeting all I meet, exercising patience with others, and smiling at strangers. I'll do this as often as I have the opportunity. I will not stand idly by and let children live in a world where unconditional love is invisible and being rude is acceptable.

Join me in showing love and respect to others. Find your way to swing the pendulum in the direction of love. ♥ Because today, sadly, hate is gaining ground. Love must begin somewhere and love will overcome hate. Imagine the difference if we each purposefully love a little more.

Yes, love your friends and family. But LIKE MOSES also love the **strangers**. Bring a little joy and beauty to the life of each person you meet.

4. Understand that your unsettledness is a sign that you were made for another place.

You do NOT belong here! Earth is not your home. You're just a passing through.

Moses just **couldn't** quite get comfortable in Midian. They were **NOT** his people. This wasn't his land. But **Egypt** wasn't his land either. God was preparing him for another place...for the **Promised Land**.

Similarly, **you weren't made for this world**. You'll never be fully at home here.

"If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world." – **C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity**

We are aliens and strangers. We were made not for this world, but for the eternal kingdom where Christ reigns forever!

5. Be rescued and become a rescuer.

God has rescued me from my sin and the bondage of this world.

He calls the rescued to become the rescuers.

So, tonight I hold out to you a **life preserver**...to save you from drowning in the waters of your sin. To save you from the waters of the Nile and the crocodiles of this world.

I hold out to you the **cross** of Jesus Christ.

It is a blood stained cross because his blood was shed for you.

It is an empty cross because Jesus rose from the dead.

The Israelites who looked to Moses were saved from Egypt.

A greater Moses has come in the person of Jesus Christ.

Believe on Jesus and be saved!

May he draw you out from the waters. May he rescue you ... So that he can use YOU to rescue others.

Graveyard

Reuel, father of Jethro

- Father of Zipporah

Word translated as "Father-in-law" applied to Jethro can actually mean "relative by marriage" – likely Jethro was Moses' brother in law...who inherited the flocks when his father, Reuel died.