

Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2020 12:20 PM
Subject: Tuesday Nite's MOB Study on Exodus 2

"By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward! (Hebrews 11:24-26)

In the providence of God, a "son" was born "in the house of Levi" soon after the decree from Pharaoh that "every (Hebrew) son born was to be cast into the Nile River..." (Exodus 1:22). His mother (Jochebed) hid him for three months, and when she could hide him no longer put him in a "wicker basket covered with tar and pitch (think "ark," and "preservation," as in the time of Noah!)...and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile" (according to Exodus 2:1-3), trusting God for the outcome! By "chance" (not really!) the daughter of Pharaoh "just happened" to be "walking alongside the Nile" on that fateful day and, seeing the basket, sent her maid to retrieve it--and, would you believe, found the child and "had pity on him," and rescued him! The story gets better!

Verse 7 says his (Moses') sister (presumably Miriam), who "stood at a distance to find out what would happen," (and must have had some kind of connection with Pharaoh's daughter) asked her whether she should call a "nurse from among the Hebrew women...to nurse the child for her"! And so, it "just happened" that the child's mother got the assignment, and (can you believe?) was offered "wages" to raise her own son! (Shepherd's Notes states that Moses was "reared by his mother, who introduced him to the God of Israel"!)

Exodus 2:10 says the child grew and at some point was "brought (back) to Pharaoh's daughter, and "became her adopted son" (which must have been part of the agreement)--and named him "Moses," because "he was drawn out of the water"!

Not much more is known about Moses in his early years but Acts 7:22 says he was "educated in all the learning of the Egyptians and was a man of power in words and deeds"! Then, "it came about (Exodus 2:11 says)...when Moses was grown up (like 40 years old!), that he went out to his brethren (having known about his kinship) and "looked on their hard labors"! And "seeing an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren"--after "looking this way and that--he struck him down and hid him in the sand" (but was obviously observed doing it)! Later, while trying to break a fight between two Hebrew men, one of them questioned whether he was "making himself out to be some kind of judge," and "intended to kill him just as he had killed the Egyptian"? Oops! Obviously, his murderous act had been spotted, and Moses "was afraid the matter would become more widely known"!

The news would, in fact, be more widely known, and when Pharaoh heard of the matter, verse 15 says, he actually "tried to kill Moses"! (Constable suggests by having him brought to justice through normal legal channels)! But Moses fled from the presence of Pharaoh and settled in the desert land of Midian"! As it would turn out, a totally new life, for another 40 years! How time flies by! But more on that later!

The next scene pictures Moses again intervening in other people's lives--seeking "justice"! Just happening to come to the rescue of seven daughters of the "priest of Midian" who had come to the same well where Moses was sitting, to draw water, but were "driven away" (apparently in an oppressive manner) by shepherds. Moses (again, being Moses!) stood up to them, and rescued the daughters, even helped them water their flocks! Later, after the daughters shared with their father (that would be Jethro!) how they were "delivered from the hand of the shepherds," he, Jethro (who Constable writes "appeared to be a worshipper of the true God") invited Moses not only to dinner, but later to "dwell" with them! And then, even "offered his daughter Zipporah to him"! And so, Moses and Zipporah were married and had a son who Moses named "Gershom" (meaning " a stranger there")! And they (supposedly) lived happily, and at peace, for some 40 years in Midian! But there's lots more to the story, and on "God's agenda," for Moses, as we will see!

God had a plan! Back in Egypt, Exodus 2:23-25 says that the "sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help...rose up to God. So, God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"! Verse 25 says it again--for greater emphasis! "God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them!"

Wouldn't you know! God "saw" what was going on in the world of people He had "called" for a purpose! He "took notice of them!" And you know the rest of the story (or do you?)! God was preparing their "emancipator"! Do you think Moses will respond to God's call? We shall see!

What a great God we have! Maybe not operating always according to our timeline, or to our expectations, but always there! And working out His marvelous plan and purpose! And still to this day!

Lowell