

# MOSES, THE GREAT LIBERATOR, PART I

## **Exodus 2:1-12**

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Pastor Alan Morse

First Baptist Church of South Lake Tahoe

### **Exodus 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. <sup>2</sup>And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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? <sup>8</sup>And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup>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 women took the child, and nursed it. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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.

The name, Moses means “drawn out”. He was placed into the water, into the river by a desperate mother who feared not the wrath of the king to see, by faith, what God would do with him. He was drawn out of the water by the very hand of the daughter of the king. The king of Egypt , who would have him killed, has in his very home an adopted son who has

been placed into his life by the hand of God to bring deliverance to the chosen people of God, “the Jew”, and he doesn’t even know it.

You cannot separate Moses from the book of Exodus, or the very event of the Exodus from Moses. The Exodus was a deliverance of the people of God, who were brought out, (drawn out) from the land of Egypt by God’s deliverer, Moses, to be brought up into the land of Canaan. God’s deliverance of His people was by His Chosen Man, the man of His Right Hand of Might. Moses was destined to be drawn out of death that he might live, and through his life he will draw out the people of God from a death in Egypt that they might live through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and be given their freedom.

Deliverance is to be given your freedom by the hand of God from what should have slain us: our sin, and bondage to it. The first Moses and what God did through him will give way through the greater Moses, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who came into the world to save us, in order that He might deliver us from the evil of this world and some day raise us up out of it to bring us “home”. Where is our home? Where is God’s ultimate destiny for us to live, and to be brought up out of this world to live with Him for eternity?

The Exodus of the Jew, God’s earthly people, and our Moses, Christ, the Lord, Who rose from the dead guarantees it!

Deuteronomy 18:15 “<sup>15</sup>The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;”

### The Birth of Moses – Born In Time To Liberate A Hopeless People (Ex. 2:1-10)

“<sup>1</sup>And there went a man of the house of Levi (the father of Moses), and took to wife a daughter of Levi (the mother of Moses). <sup>2</sup>And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.”

The book of Acts in the N.T. gives us a commentary on the faith of Moses' parents and what actually is happening here in the story.

Moses was born in a time when the promise of God drew nigh. God had promised Abraham 400 years earlier that He would liberate his descendants (the Jews) from a foreign land out of slavery and they would become a mighty nation (2 million people, by estimates) (7:17).

It is in this time of great crisis to the survival of the chosen people of God that God raises up a leader, Moses, who would liberate the nation (7:20).

The parents of Moses recognized at the birth of their son that he was a special child God had given to them with a special mission in life. They, by faith, to the threat of their own lives, hid him for three months from the wrath of Pharaoh (7:20,21). When they could no longer hide him, his mother, by faith placed him into a little basket, setting him into the river, trusting in the guiding hand of God to somehow pull him out. This was when the family stood afar off to see what God would do with him. God would not fail their faith, bringing people, places and events together at the very right time. It would be Pharaoh's daughter who would hear the baby crying, and was moved by his tears, who recognized something special about him. She had him drawn out of the water and would raise him up as her own in the house of Pharaoh.

Wow! What an amazing act of God. Moses was right where he belonged in the very house of Pharaoh. He would grow up and deliver the Jews from the very same man who raised him but wanted them all dead. Moses was God's man from birth and nothing was going to happen to him right under the nose of the wrathful Pharaoh. All the Jewish baby boys were ordered to be drowned in Pharaoh's fear of the growing nation, but not Moses. God had a mission for him.

The baby who had been thrown away to die in that river as worthless, was priceless to God.

The world doesn't see what God sees in a man of worth to Him, and it is they, the insignificant, that have a divine destiny.

The book of Hebrews gives a further commentary of what was at stake here: the threat of death and the faith of Moses' parents who were willing to sacrifice their lives, not fearing the wrath of the king. God's salvation through their son would be accomplished.

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.”

It is no wonder that Moses would grow up having the same kind of courage and self-sacrifice of faith he saw in his parents.

Hebrews 11:24-26 “<sup>24</sup>By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; <sup>25</sup>Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; <sup>26</sup>Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: “

God is always faithful when His people choose to trust Him.

“<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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? <sup>8</sup>And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid (sister of Moses) went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup>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 women took the child, and nursed it. <sup>10</sup>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. “

God is faithful! What a miracle! God had rewarded the faith and courage and the prayers of Moses’ mother. She had believed that God had a plan for her son’s life, seeing he was a very special child and had placed him into that river, trusting God would somehow draw him out of a certain death and save him.

My, how powerful of God, and what an inspiration to Moses’ mother of God’s love. God had guided the movement of that little boat to the very place and time where Pharaoh’s daughter would come down to see it. Even a greater miracle: her heart would be moved by the tears of the baby, seeing herself that he was a special child. She, for some unknown reason to her, knowing he was a Hebrew that had been appointed to death, draws

him out of the water to become her own son, and then calls, unknown to her, the very mother of the child to nurse it! She even pays the mother for nursing the child!

God knew this mother's heart. She had placed her son into the hands of God for His service, and God not only would someday use the child, but would give her son back to her to raise up Moses in the faith in these very formative first years of his life.

It is almost always the prayers of a godly grandmother, mother, or a godly father for a child's life and salvation that God answers and chooses to put His eye upon it, to guide it for some great and significant purpose. Moses had been thrown away to die by the verdict of an evil king, but God had said in His heart, Not this one!

When God chooses to save us, He has a very specific purpose in our lives in His redemptive plan, to bring His salvation to many others through our own courageous faith! In the pattern of the ways of God in the human race, God works within the generations of His chosen people. Our roots in the faith go back to our forefathers to whom we owe everything for the people we have become for God. God is faithful!

There are probably many of you and of our youth, which were considered by the world as useless and worthless who found yourselves being thrown away, but God had His eye upon you, guided you and drew you to Himself as a person of great worth and value to Him. God loves you, treasures you, and you need to know He has given you His greatest treasure, the treasure of having Jesus Christ, His Son, in your life. "If God be for us then who can be against us?" "Who can separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ our Lord?"

Don't ever give up on your faith or give in to your fears of what may happen to you if you really put your life in the hands of God. No king, no enemy, no devil can ever harm you, for you are a chosen vessel to bring glory to God in His faithfulness.

"<sup>11</sup> And it came to pass in those days (a time of great crisis), when Moses was grown; that he went out unto his brethren (the Jewish people), and he looked on their burdens, and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren,<sup>12</sup> 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."

Why would Moses even care about his people? They are the very least of humanity, and in suffering have been appointed to nothing more than slaves and to death. Moses is

probably the heir to the throne of Egypt. He has been immersed in wealth, power and great honor as a world leader. He has been to their finest schools, trained in all the wisdom and knowledge of the Egyptians for a place of great prominence and a future. But to Moses the world was not enough. Some One was whispering into his heart “these are your brothers. Give your life to love and save them.”

Moses cared because God cared. Moses was willing to sacrifice everything for them, because someday the greater Moses, Jesus Christ, would sacrifice Himself on the cross in His love to save them. What was in the heart of God was in the heart of Moses.

When we love and know God, He gives us a heart for God, but in doing this, He gives us a great heart for others in their needs and suffering. We care because God cares! We care if others are perishing in their sins, because God cares, and is not willing that any should perish but come to the knowledge of the truth.

Hebrews 11:24-26 “<sup>24</sup>By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; <sup>25</sup>Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; <sup>26</sup>Esteeming the reproach of Christ (his rejection) greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.”

This was Moses; this was in Christ, Himself. Is this in us to see the world for what it is, a fleeting, short season of pleasure and to be willing to sacrifice its earthly treasures for the greater treasure in our respect for the greater rewards that God has laid up in store for us in our faithful service to Him? We must see that!

Moses’ intentions were good; his heart was in the right place, but in accomplishing God’s work, it was in the wrong way, in the wrong time, and in the wrong approach.

Moses wasn’t to save the people, God was to do it! He would have to learn it.

As we will see, Moses was caught, he would have to run for his life, but God would be with him even though he had failed. God would bring him back 40 years later as God’s liberator.

We must understand in our service to Christ, our intentions can be wonderful but God’s work has to be done in God’s way and it will not be in our great ideas but in God’s time and in God’s perfect idea!