

To Wit What Would be Done

Exodus 2:1 – 21

~ Our Spiritual Safari brought us back to Egypt in Exodus from Israel in the New Testament in our last report and here we are. We're actually re-joining Jacob's group who came from Canaan to live near Joseph in Genesis - but the Israelite's have now all become slaves in the same land that previously saved them from dying in the famine. God brought them here to multiply - and multiply they have! This chapter will take us through the first forty years with Moses in the palace of Pharaoh. There are several outlines of this Book of Exodus and the best one you can get is free. The free outline is available if you just ask me for it. Exodus takes us from Genesis into Leviticus; and in this book nothing new is begun and nothing is accomplished or finished. Exodus is simply a bridge from here to there. One very long bridge, to be sure. The most wonderful thing we will see in Exodus is the deliverance of the children of Israel from the bondage of slavery.

The writer to the Hebrews says, "...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. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the Passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned." That is a nice little Exodus capsule that gives you a map of where we're going; but we still need to widen out the road some....

1 So there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi.

2 And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.

~ Well, since Moses wrote this book we can see he was a rather humble man. When it says “goodly” – all that means is good and healthy; as in, no reason to kill this one. Most people would have told about how precocious they were as a child; and even more would have included the names of their father and mother and a whole lot more! Moses parents were ordinary people living an ordinary slave life. They were members of the tribe of Levi; and his story is the same one we find over and over again in the Bible. The story is: man and woman get married and have a child. Well, that’s about the nitty gritty of what human life is all about on earth. Moses seems rather reticent. Can anyone name Moses parents? ~

3 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.

~ There are some super pious people today who would have gone about all of this very differently. These people would have said, “....we’re just going to trust the Lord!” Well, wonderful; but – would that really be trusting in the Lord or would that be playing the fool? These slaves didn’t have much privacy and one of the slave drivers would have heard this little kid screaming at the top of his lungs one day; and that would have been the end of Moses. Some think God would have miraculously kept Moses safe; but our faith isn’t a leap in the dark, my friend. If it seems like a leap in the dark then I would say don’t leap! Trusting Christ is a leap into the light! Trusting Christ is good and solid – and heavy. God will never ask you to do anything foolish. Believing God is not just the working out of some silly circumstances. God gave you a brain and He expects you to use it – to think about what to do. The thing Jochebed, Moses mother, did was as sensible as shoes when she put him in that little basket. At least her baby had SOME chance to live if she floated him downstream. Acting sensibly is the evidence that she was truly trusting God, my beloved....

4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.

~ Moses sister Miriam, whom we will meet later, was likely a very little girl at this time. This is probably one of the earliest memories she had of her baby brother. I think Moses big sister was put there by mom to watch and see what happened. Let's keep this real, friends - most people - most self-professing believers - aren't really trusting Christ today. They refuse to study the Bible in an educated, sincere manner. They don't have a vital, effective and productive prayer life. This section of Scripture presents the type of trust where the hand of God is revealed; but again, we have to act in a sensible, reasonable and thinking manner. Jesus Himself tells us to be as wise as serpents but harmless as doves. Well, that's exactly the way I see Jochebed acting....

5 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.

6 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.

~ Even the lost world can be moved with compassion, friends. God says so. You can be sure the Lord Himself pinched little Moses at exactly the right time for him to cry out and melt the heart of Pharaoh's daughter. God brought together two things in this world that go together better than milk and cookies - and that is: a baby's cry and a woman's heart. It was impossible for the daughter of Pharaoh to pass by this crying little baby....

7 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?

8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.

~ I think Miriam followed the basket a very long ways and she makes a helpful suggestion; one of which she won't let Moses forget, by the way. The Bible is a very human story that man has put too much pious nonsense

into today. Only is it when we can be very real can we find what God is really trying to say to us. We can hear God speak on every page of Scripture and in every verse if we will set aside our preconceived notions and learn to listen. This tremendous turn of events reveals how the Lord moves in our lives when we act sensibly in faith. Moses mother is going to be called to nurse her own son and she's going to get paid to do it. It doesn't get any better than that; because God reveals His very best to us when we act rationally, sensibly and according to His leading....

9 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.

10 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.

~ There is a whole lot of theology wrapped up in the meaning of Moses becoming the adopted son of the daughter of Pharaoh. A childless queen was on the throne and that would have meant Moses was next in line to be Pharaoh! Moses will spend the next forty years being raised in the court of Pharaoh. Moses was trained in Egypt and, like Joseph before him; Moses acted, walked and talked like an Egyptian. When Moses gets to Midian he is recognized by the way he acts. Moses would have been educated in the Temple of the Sun, the great university of that day. While the education did provide important knowledge it didn't prepare Moses in ANY way to serve God.

We tend to dismiss or underestimate the extent of knowledge concerning technology and science that the ancient civilizations, particularly the Egyptians, had understanding of. They knew and did things we have forgotten today and we have forgotten those things to our own hurt. This university knew the exact distance to the sun. The astronomy of the Egyptians is phenomenal. Their comprehension of the universe differs greatly from the Greek scientists of their near future who, for one thing, thought the world was flat. The Egyptians never believed the world was

flat. There is no record of a flat earth in Egyptian philosophy. The flat world theory cannot be found in their writings anywhere.

They also, obviously, had a tremendous grasp of chemistry. Their embalming techniques and the manufacturing of paints and coatings are far, far advanced from today's processes. The museum in Cairo has artifacts that are four thousand years old. The colorings on them are so vivid that any modern paint manufacturer would pay any price for the formula that was used on those relics. The colors are not only bright and beautiful; but they are startlingly clear. The modern house will be faded completely to drab in about five years; even with a "lifetime" guaranteed paint! The ancient Egyptian was educated, friends; and they had a library that was beyond extensive, also. So, this is where Moses came from - and this is the way he was educated. Steven said in Acts, "...Moses was learned in the ways of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and in deeds." Let's not underestimate the outstanding intellect and wisdom of this man Moses. Let's also keep in mind that all these degrees on Moses wall didn't comprise ONE WORD of Moses training to deliver the children of Israel from Egypt....

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.

~ Apparently, committing murder and hiding the body in the desert isn't anything new. Moses looked around - but he didn't look UP where he should have been looking. If Moses had looked up the Lord would not have permitted this thing to happen. Moses isn't trusting God here, friends; he's about forty years ahead of God's timing in the attempt to deliver the children of Israel! Most people today are in the same condition – WAY out in front of God. There is no leading in their lives. They do what they want – after looking this way and that and calling it the "will of God" – as Moses did. As a result, God will proceed to take Moses to the backside of the desert for some real Godly training. Interestingly, in order to motivate

Moses into moving to Midian the Lord put him on the top ten most wanted list....

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.

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.

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 And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

18 And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day?

19 And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock.

20 And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? Why is it that ye have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.

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

~ Moses easily passed as an Egyptian – because that’s how he had been raised. At this time, you wouldn’t have detected a trace of Hebrew in Moses mannerism, character or countenance. Many Old Testament figures, such as Joseph before and David later, are types of Christ; and

Moses was one also - albeit not as the murderer. Moses was rejected by Israel, at this time, when he took his wife. We live in the day when Christ is rejected; but Christ is calling out His bride, the church, nonetheless. Well, forty years has passed us by in this chapter from our so called Spiritual Safari. In our next report we will see the absolute greatest truth concerning our Christian lives: redemption. How and what is it? God says He is ready to deliver Israel and it's on the same basis that you and I are delivered today – if we are to be delivered. I hope all of you dear readers can continue on with us from here ~

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