

Drawn from the Water

As centuries passed by the Israelite population in Egypt grew so much that the new king of Egypt, ignorant of the time of Joseph, felt threatened. Consequently he subjected Israel to slave masters and forced labour. Yet all the oppression made them multiply even more. Being terrified by this growing national threat from within, Egypt started working the Israelites ruthlessly, making their lives bitter. What's more, Pharaoh ordered all newborn Hebrew boys to be killed to stop the population grow. However, the God-fearing Hebrew midwives cleverly opposed that directive, for which the Lord blessed them.

It was into those life-threatening circumstances that a boy was born to a Levite couple who managed to successfully hide him for the first three months. Then, a unique yet desperate move saw their little son ending up in the arms of Pharaoh's daughter, who took pity on him. She even agreed for a Hebrew woman to nurse him, resulting in the biological mother now officially looking after her own son until he was weaned. Perhaps at the age of three, the boy was taken to Pharaoh's daughter, who now became his mother. She called him Moses ('drawn from the water'), because that is exactly what she had done.

When Moses was about forty years old he embarked on a rescue mission of a fellow Hebrew who was manhandled by a ruthless Egyptian. Killing the oppressor, he found himself on the run as Pharaoh, his step-granddad, tried to put him to death for murder. His flight ended in Midian, where he founded a family and settled for the next four decades until Pharaoh had died.

In just 47 verses the first couple of chapters from Exodus narrate eighty decisive years of Israel's history, containing an amazing account of God intervening and orchestrating events in apparently hopeless circumstances. So lets look at just three issues that might carry great importance for our lives and circumstances today:

- Isn't it incredible that the very one who's earmarked by God to lead Israel out of captivity of oppressive Egypt is (a) as a baby actually rescued (instead of being killed) by a member of the enemy's royal family, (b) with the blessings of the enemy king's daughter nursed by his own biological mother, and (c) then groomed and brought up at the royal court in Egypt? – Is there really anything God cannot do? Even in our dire, difficult, frustrating, hopeless, devastating, chaotic, evil, oppressive, unjust circumstances God still has a chance 'to come through' powerfully, if only we allow him and side with him instead of giving in to all the evil that's surrounding us.
- Clearly, before getting exposed to pagan Egyptian culture and worldview, Moses' biological parents must have used the first few years (when the mother was nursing him) by establishing a solid 'Christian' foundation in and instilling a sense of divine calling on his life. Obviously they did a remarkable job because after decades of pagan infiltration and brain washing he still sided with his fellow Hebrews. – How about us? How serious do we take our responsibility to establish a solid biblical foundation in our children's life from which they will never depart, as the Bible teaches us (Proverbs 22:6)? With so many cultures all over the world giving their offspring in other people's care (world system) to educate and equip them, are we not in danger of becoming guilty of 'destroying' God's potential leaders to rescue people from captivity (world system)?
- Moses was appalled by the way the Egyptians (his 'step-people') handled his fellow Hebrews. Perhaps rightly motivated, yet surely in pride and arrogance, he chose wrong ways of doing something about it and utterly failed. Forty years of Character training on the back side of the desert was the result. – Perhaps, like Moses, God has called us to a

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rescue mission of some sort. How are we going about it? Also based on human knowledge, wisdom and power? ...