

Read Exodus 1 v 8 - 14, and 2 v 1 - 10

**Some people seem to arrive in this world
already appointed to be great!**

MOSES was one such person !

He was a very beautiful child.

Even His birth is an event that was destined to change a nation.

Just like you and me then ?! Rather just like Jesus ... !

But... you don't know what God has already done through your
life,

or what He intends to do through YOU yet.

JOSEPH had been an incredibly great man

and God had used him to save and mould and shape Egypt

But that was a long time ago

Times change it's not a new phenomenon !

The people of Israel multiplied in the land of Egypt

and became a great nation within a nation !

Of course they were not really intended to be in Egypt !

God had called them to the land of Canaan ...

that was the land of promise ... THE PROMISED LAND
AND

Somehow ... they had to be taken back there !

Change usually revolves around leaders

And the Pharaoh's who knew what a blessing Joseph had been to Egypt
were succeeded by

a dynasty of Pharaohs who did not know Joseph.

The new Pharaohs attitude to the Israelites was governed

by fear and determination to control and subjugate.

the very people who had been such a blessing

and who even now were serving them and

building the most amazing buildings in Egypt for the Egyptians

Pharaoh's / Rulers are usually terrified of losing control

Read Exodus 1 v 8 - 14, and 2 v 1 - 10

And of course they feel responsible for the security
of their own people.

Alas the methods they use to remain in control
frequently amount to abuse

It is the same today in many parts of the world

By the time MOSES arrived on the scene
the command had been given for all Israeli baby boys to be killed
As soon as they were born!

The Egyptians who enforced this
and Pharaoh who commanded it

Would later regret their actions
when God repaid them with plagues - and the final plague
on Egypt the death of the firstborn !!

The mills of God grind slowly
but they grind exceeding small ! Plutarh - Gk Philosopher - Somerset Maugham

AND Probably quoting Longfellow - These words were
Isn't it strange and sad - desperately sad used by both Winston Churchill and President
that although the Pharaoh (for fairly obvious reasons) Roosevelt during WW2
wanted to have all the Israeli **BOYS** killed referring to the persecution of the Jews by
TODAY the Nazis !! Wow! Exceeding small !

In India and in China and probably elsewhere
millions of people are finding out the gender
of the baby they are expecting
so that if it is a **GIRL** they can have it aborted / killed !?

Let us pray that the dreadful curse
of ABORTION [the killing of an innocent child]
and the pain and heartache it brings to Women - mothers to be
may be brought to an end
in this country and across the world.

I could say so much more so could you
But we must press on

Read Exodus 1 v 8 - 14, and 2 v 1 - 10

You all know of the ingenious plan devised by Moses Mother Jochebed and Father Amram

[[We find their names in Numbers 26 v 59]]

and carried out largely by his older sister Miriam

The command was to **throw** him in the Nile

so that he would **drown**

they would **place** him in the Nile

in a basket or “Ark”

exactly where Pharaoh’s daughter would find him !

so that he would **live** !

Cunning.

Haven’t the Jews always been a cunning, clever, highly intelligent people?

Yes. And sometimes bossy and grouchy -

continual grumbling in the desert

But - so frequently intellectual and inventive and a blessing to all.

AND

frequently through history

universally hated and persecuted! SAME TODAY

The plan worked

The Ark and the child were found by Pharaoh’s daughter

when she came to bathe in the river

He was a beautiful child, and she fell in love with him at once.

I have no idea what devious womanly guile

persuaded Pharaoh to permit it, but

Moses was adopted into the Egyptian Royal Family !!

God has ways - [Jochebed’s plan was really God’s plan!]

seemingly strange ways

of responding to human cruelty and oppression

and

of saving his people from their enemies.

TODAY just as YESTERDAY !

Read Exodus 1 v 8 - 14, and 2 v 1 - 10

Let us spend a moment thinking about how the family of Jochebed must have felt when they knew she was expecting a child.

Would it be a boy ... who would be condemned to die
if so whatever would they do

AND what must the first three months have been like
when they tried to keep him from crying
and hid him so carefully
we can only imagine the creative ways they used
in order keep him from prying Egyptian eyes !!
think of their prayers and the anxiety
think how their faith in God may have been stretched
and how it may have been strengthened

The Book of Hebrews chapter 11 tells us that *Faith* is *Substance* v1
And in v23 we read

23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

I wonder who suggested

He is so beautiful

NOTE ... Every child is special ... there are no ordinary children
an arkplaced where Pharaoh's daughter will find him

I wonder what they knew about Pharaoh's daughter ?

WE may never know

but we can know that

when there is turmoil in our families or our hearts

God loves us and if we trust Him

He will provide wisdom and guidance just as it is needed

and ... He will control the situation for His glory and our blessing.

Even if it does not seem to be working out that way!

I laugh when I think about how craftily Jochebed arranged that she would become the child's surrogate mother !!

And how God answered her prayers

Read Exodus 1 v 8 - 14, and 2 v 1 - 10

In spite of the fairly obvious fact that
Pharaoh's daughter was not deceived !
She must have realized that Miriam would be bringing
the child's own mother to nurse him
She (Jochebed) would have milk to nurse him
And - Pharaoh's daughter must have understood
that absolutely no one would care for Moses
as well as his own mother !!!

I laugh / I cry... but how Jochebed must have **praised the Lord**
and worshipped Him.

So

Although Moses would be taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians

He would **first** have a solid foundation of faith in God

And solid teaching about the history of God's people

Adam - Enoch - Noah - flood and Ark - Tower of Babel - Shem -

Abraham - Offering of Isaac - Joseph / dreams and blessings

.....

WOW! AMAZING! I bet he knew more than you do about Genesis !!!

What a mixture of fear and gratitude must have been in Jochebed's heart
when the time came for her to hand Moses over
to Pharaoh's daughter !

Of course, as we know

the whole matter was actually planned and brought about
by none other than our Gracious and Omnipotent God.

Our times are in His hands - Psalm 31 v 5

It was true for David - who wrote the psalm

And for Moses and Jochebed and the family

It is true for YOU TODAY

Exodus 2 tells us

not only the details of Moses birth, adoption and care

Read Exodus 1 v 8 - 14, and 2 v 1 - 10

It also tells the story of how

When he was grown he felt a deep sadness and anger
when he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew.

You know the story

Moses killed the Egyptian slave master
The next day he discovered that what he had done
had become pretty much headline news

AND

not all his own people approved of him and his actions.

NOW

It must be clear that in Egypt

A royal prince would be able to kill a slave master

without any problem ... human life was cheap

no possibility that anyone would accuse him

he was a prince

the slave master was expendable human labour was cheap

BUT

Moses must have been showing signs

of his sympathy with the Israeli people

His people - Israelis - valuable slaves

AND

Pharaoh who may not have really approved of Moses adoption
in the first place

was probably very nervous

about reports coming back to him

of what Moses had done

A small act but with enormous possible consequences

the possibility of giving rise to real trouble

After all the reason the Egyptians were so harshly persecuting Israel
was that they were afraid of them !!!

SO

Moses fled.

To the backwoods of the desert

Read Exodus 1 v 8 - 14, and 2 v 1 - 10

the backwoods of history

The backwoods of civilization, invention, power, wealth

A land of desert shrubs and sheep

and more desert and more sheep !!

In Midian Moses met the daughters of Ruel

The Priest of Midian

The story of his chivalry towards the girls in their need

is strangely but wonderfully similar to the story

of how Abraham's servant [Eliezer of Damascus .. Gen 15v2]

was courteous and gracious to Rebekah - the daughter of Bethuel

Genesis 24

Bethuel was the son of Milcah .. who was married to Abraham's brother Nahor

So Bethuel was a nephew of Abraham

His name means someone who dwells with God

Bethel ... means house of God.

AND

so similar to the story of Jacob helping Rachel - Genesis 29

2nd daughter of Laban ...

Laban was the son of Bethuel and sister of Rebekah

WOW!

Have I really sorted that out ?

Chivalry seems to be sadly lacking in today's society

Anyway

Back to MOSES ... and the daughters of Ruel .

Moses must have been quite some man

He stood up for the girls against the Shepherds (plural !)

Probably he still (like Joseph before him) showed all the

physical attributes of being *well built and handsome*

and he probably showed every sign of being an Egyptian !

Anyway

Ruel - as he is referred to in Exodus 2

is the same as Jethro

the name by which he is known through most of Exodus

The name seems to mean *Excellency*

Read Exodus 1 v 8 - 14, and 2 v 1 - 10

It seems likely that Ruel was his title as a Priest

And Jethro was his family name

We do not know - cannot be sure

Jethro in Exodus 18 became a wise counsellor to Moses

When Moses was wearing himself out leading and judging
the people of Israel in their desert journeyings

It was Jethro

who advised Moses to appoint leaders under himself
with varying responsibilities

and you - Moses - represent the people before God

and teach the *under shepherds* the ways of God

In other words the gentle but powerful art of **delegation**

Or ... as it has been termed ... **Jethrogation**

Jethro / Ruel appears to have been a believer in the One true
and Living God.

Exodus 18 is well worth reading

Every Christian Pastor / Elder / Deacon should read it carefully !

Moses married Zipporah [a little bird] one of the seven daughters of Ruel

and she produced two children for him

Gershom and Eliezer

Much later [presumably after Zipporah's death]

Moses married an Ethiopian woman.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN

1/ **God had his hand over Moses**

from the time of his birth - even his conception

and from then on ... God guided every step

even though Moses

like all of us - made mistakes and had times of failure.

It is the same for YOU - God knew you before you were born.

And - He had a plan for your life

Read Exodus 1 v 8 - 14, and 2 v 1 - 10

And is STILL working to bring it to its completion.

Trust Him

Rejoice in His love and grace

Let Him have his way in your life / your choices / your daily living !

It is the way of true wisdom and the way to blessing

2/ Pharaoh's will rise up / anti-Christ's will appear

They will have all sorts of devious ways

of opposing God's plan and God's people

And always ,, opposing The Gospel

There may be frightening times for God's people

It is so in at least a third of the world today

BUT

God remains in control

Even when it does not seem like it

..... How much we can learn from God's dearly loved persecuted people ... including Amram and Jochebed

3/ Moses Parents had plans quite different from those of Pharaoh !

They were clever people with amazingly ingenious plans.

They were also faithful believers

full of a determination to follow God in everything

in spite of all opposition

The Jews are still an amazingly clever, determined and ingenious people

ALAS now mostly in unbelief

BUT ... nevertheless in the Promised Land

Surely a fulfilment of prophecy

And increasing numbers of them following Jesus

Their true Messiah

BUT

Let me say that millions of Christians all over the world

have to be incredibly determined and full of faith

simply in order to survive.

Read Exodus 1 v 8 - 14, and 2 v 1 - 10

We need to pray for them ... regularly and seriously !

4/ God has His “Ruels” or Jethro’s in many situations today.

They can be in the most unexpected places

They can be a great blessing to God’s people

They can sometimes provide ... shelter ... work a wife !

God uses all sorts of people to bless us

Do not be surprised if God provides you with a Jethro

just when you need help the most

And it may surprise you that the person God uses

To bless you

May not be someone you would think of as “A standard Believer” .. definitely not your type of person !!

5/ Moses was a great man of God and a wise leader

But Jethro taught him a powerful lesson Ex 18

No matter how old you are

Or how many years you have served God

or what position you hold ... or have held

YOU CAN STILL LEARN NEW THINGS

and ... we should all be willing / even seeking

to learn from those we meet on our journey of life.

Let us be learning from Jesus

and from His servants

until the day we die.

6/ No matter what the outward appearance may be

God is working His purpose out as year succeeds to year!

Are you still alive?

Then understand that God has a purpose for your life

And he intends that you find and follow his plan

If you are not following where God leads you

That is disobedience!

Read Exodus 1 v 8 - 14, and 2 v 1 - 10

Moses was not following God's plan

When he killed the Egyptian slavedriver

And look what happened

Acting without Divine authority

Led Moses into total obscurity

And 40 "Wasted" years?

Much more of that next time

Let us all be sure that whatever else we are doing

We are earnestly seeking God's plan for our lives

AND

When we have found it

We are giving our whole purpose and energy to it.

God's plan for you is part of the divine jigsaw of his plan for the world !

May the Lord bless you and guide you

May He energize you and fill you with His Spirit

And may many people rejoice

Because God laid hold of you

....

Yet one more man learning to Walk with God ! AMEN

[30 minutes]

Next time

Are we ready for life ? ... I wonder ..

Can you run away from failure ? Persecution ? God ?

And what happens if you try ?

Can you put toothpaste back in the tube? Can God redeem wasted time ?

AND How to argue your case with God !

And much more. Look forward to meeting you again - soon.