

025 The Baby Moses

MEMORY VERSE: "The Lord is on my side, .I will not fear." Psalm 118:6

SCRIPTURES: Exodus 1:6-22; 2:1-10

AIM: To teach that God's ways will prevail over man's schemes..

"All these Israelite people who are descendants of Abraham frighten me," said King Pharaoh, the new king of Egypt. "There must be more than two million of them. What if they try to take my kingdom away from me? I know what I'll do," said the king. "I'll make them slaves. Then they will have to work so hard they won't have the time or power to fight against me. If I don't do this, they will join my enemies and go to war against me."

So the Egyptians made the Israelites slaves. They had to carry heavy bricks while cruel masters watched over them. They couldn't even take a few minutes to rest. The task masters made life miserable for them.

But God was taking care of the people of Israel and instead of fewer people, more people were being born all the time. The Egyptians were alarmed. "Better make them work even harder!" King Pharaoh said. He may have thought if the task masters worked them to death, there would be fewer people left to fight.

But more and more people were born to Hebrew parents! Then the king thought of a terrible, wicked plan.

"I know what I'll do," he said. "I will have all the little Hebrew boy babies killed as soon as they are born. Then they can never grow up to be soldiers."

What an awful thing for the king to do! The king commanded the Egyptians to throw all the newborn Hebrew boys into the Nile River!

One Hebrew mother named Jochebed looked at her little baby boy and said to her husband, Amram, "Look at our sweet baby. Isn't he beautiful? We will never, never let him be thrown into the river like the king commanded"

"I have a plan," Jochebed said. "I'll hide him so the king's soldiers won't find him and kill him." But the baby grew and grew and now he didn't cry in a little voice, but in a big voice.

"The soldiers will hear him cry," said his mother, "and they will take him away."

"But I have another plan. I'll make him a little boat of papyrus reeds and tar and put the baby in it and let it float in the river." And that's just what she did. Then she hid him among the tall brushes at the river's edge.

"Watch him, please," she told Miriam, the baby's sister. As Miriam watched, the princess, the king's own daughter, and her maid came walking along the river's edge. The princess had come to take a bath in the river.

"Look!" she said to her maid. "See that little boat in the water? Bring it to me." When she opened the basket there was a baby! The baby started to cry. "Poor little baby," said the princess. "I will take you home with me and you can be my very own baby."

When Miriam heard this, she ran up to the princess and said, "Shall I get you a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?"

"Yes, please do," said the princess. And who did she run home and get? The baby's own mother!

When Jochebed came, the princess said, "Take this child home with you and nurse it. I'll pay you well."

So the baby went home where he was born, right back to live with his own family. Jochebed probably said, "Thank you, thank you God! I shall teach my baby all about You so when he grows up he will want to love You and obey You."

The baby stayed home for a long time. When he was older, Jochebed brought him to the palace to live with the princess.

It took great faith in God and much courage to do what Moses' mother did. It may seem a small thing to Moses to hide a baby in a little boat, but God's plan was to use His servant change a whole nation, and no obstacle could stop God's plans.