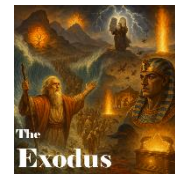


The Exodus Begins: A Baby, a Basket, and a Bigger Plan Exodus 2:1-25 (Lesson #2)



Moses as A Type or Shadow of Jesus Christ

As we come to the birth of Moses, I want you to consider a verse in Deuteronomy:

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers — it is to him you shall listen — ” (De 18:15 ESV)

In what ways was Jesus like Moses? Stated differently, in what ways did Moses prefigure the coming Messiah?

1. Pharaoh gave the edict that all male Hebrew children were to be killed (Ex 1:22), Herod gave the order that the boys in Bethlehem two years old and below were to be killed (Mat 2:16).
2. Moses fled from Egypt (Ex 2), Jesus was called out of Egypt (Mat 2:15).
3. Moses was an adopted son of a King (Ex 2), Jesus is the rightful Son of The King (Luk 1:32).
4. Moses spent 40 years as a shepherd in Midian (Ex 2-3), Jesus is the good-shepherd who gave his life for the sheep (Joh 10:11).
5. Moses was a prophet (Deut 18:15), Jesus was the promised Prophet (Act 3:22).
6. Moses delivered the law at Mt Sinai (Ex 20), Jesus reinterpreted the law of Moses and gave new commands to his followers (Mat -7).
7. Moses dedicated a covenant between Yahweh and Israel (Ex 34:27), Jesus is the mediator of a new and better covenant (Heb 9:15).
8. Both led God's people out of captivity. Moses out of Egypt, Jesus out of sin and death.
9. Both fed multitudes miraculously. Moses with manna in the wilderness, Jesus fed thousands with fish and bread (Joh 6).
10. Both spoke intimately with God. Moses (Ex 33:11) Jesus (14:9).
11. Moses intercede for Israel (Ex 32:32), Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us (Heb 7:25).
12. Moses was willing to die for his people (Ex 32:32), Jesus actually died for His people (Jn 10:15).

There are more, but for now we will stop here. **Let's get to our study today:**

2:1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.

So as the story of God's plan for the nation of Israel and God's plan to bring in the promised Messiah continues to develop.

As part of that growing plan and revelation, God brings in a boy, who as we saw in many different ways is a **type of the Lord Jesus Christ**. He is a boy, who will picture, prefigure, and serve as a type of the ultimate promised Messiah.

Here we are told that a man from the house of Levi married a woman from the house of Levi.

Levi is the third son born to Leah and the third son overall of Jacob (Israel).

At this point in the story Moses only tells us a man from the **tribe of Levi** married a woman from the tribe of Levi. He does not tell us their names. We know their names from other verses (Ex 6:20).

Amram married his aunt and was both Moses' father and great uncle by marriage. At the time marriage to close relatives was not uncommon. This would later be forbidden by the Mosaic law.

So Amram and Jochebed are married, and they have two sons mentioned here, Aaron and Moses.

Aaron, was three years older than Moses (Ex 7:7).

Apparently, Aaron was born prior to the command to kill the male children, prior to Pharaoh's horrible edict.

Moses also has an older sister, we will officially meet her in a few verses.

Now, put yourself in the shoes of Amram and Jochebed, this edict goes out across Egypt and you are pregnant, or you get pregnant following this horrible law. You have already had two children, but now you are pregnant, and the Pharaoh has issued this edict that all male children will be put to death, by the Egyptians.

Put yourself in their shoes? What are you thinking?

Then what they likely feared happened, they gave birth to a baby boy.

Amram and Jochebed, not wanting to sin against God, and no doubt because they loved their son hid him for three full months.

Can you imagine hiding an infant?

Now notice how Moses describes this: *when she (Jochebed) saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.*

The Hebrew word translated "fine" means **good**, or **pleasant**. It is a very common word in Hebrew used almost 560 times in the Hebrew Bible.

I want you to see how Stephen describes this event as he is preaching before the Sanhedrin (Acts 7:17-20).

Notice, Stephen says it is more than just their love for their new son, they saw something else, he was **Beautiful in God's sight**.

The writer of Hebrews expresses it like this (Heb 11:23).

Moses' mom and dad did what they did. Do you see it? **BY FAITH!**

Moses did not have much going for him. He landed in a very hostile world and his gender ensured his destruction. **But one of the few things he had was believing parents and this proved to make all the difference!**

APPLICATION: Some of us are still raising children, some of us have children who are no longer in our homes. Regardless of where they are, continue to pray for them, continue to share with them.

You are your child's greatest advantage. Do not give up.

3 When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. 4 And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.

But it reached the point where Jochebed and Amram, could no longer hide Moses, so she took him, and placed him in a basket, in an ark. Now maybe you are thinking Rich, it is a stretch to call this an ark.

The Hebrew word used here is: **תִּבְיָה (tebah)**. It is used a total of 28 times in the Old Testament. Two times here in Exodus chapter 2 and the other 26 times in Genesis 6-9 to describe Noah's ark.

Now although we cannot imagine placing our child in a basket and floating that child on the Nile, we are not living under a national law to kill our male children. What Jochebed did, she did by faith.

This ark, this basket was made of bulrushes, and she daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She sealed it so that it would float and not take on water. Then she placed this basket, containing her baby son in the ark and placed it among the reeds.

PAUSE: It is interesting that the command was for all male children to be cast into the Nile, and she placed her son, in a basket, in the Nile.

Warren Wiersbe wrote: **“Jochebed obeyed the letter of the law when she put Moses in the waters of the Nile, but certainly she was defying Pharaoh’s orders in the way she did it.”**

Can you imagine, she is fearing that they will be found and out Moses will be killed and she sends her son out on the water, out in an ark.

Then we are told that Moses’ sister stood at some distance to know what would be done to him. To see what would happen to him.

Moses’ sister, who notice again, Moses does not mention her name here, although we will learn soon enough that Moses’ sister is named Miriam (Ex 15:20).

For now, she is simply Moses’ elder sister. She stands off at a great distance to see what will happen to her little baby brother, left in an ark, in the edge of the Nile River among the reeds.

You can imagine the fear, the adrenaline, the prayers. The faith! Can you imagine?

Now if a Hebrew person finds Moses. What can they do? If an Egyptian person finds Moses, what have they been commanded to do? This is an impossible situation.

APPLICATION: Never forget, regardless of the situation (Mat 19:26; Jer 32:17).

Vs 5-6 - Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. 6 When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

But as fate would have it... **NO...** As **divine providence** would have it. The person that comes down to bathe is not the Pharaoh, it is not one of Pharaoh’s military members, it is not the average Egyptian citizen who would be worried what would happen to them if they disobeyed Pharaoh’s edict.

It was **Pharaoh’s own daughter!** It was the **daughter of the most powerful man** on the planet at the time. It was the daughter of the king who made the edict.

What are the odds?

We can imagine she is escorted by female servants, and they might have been guarded by Egyptian guards.

She is walking down the bank of the river and she sees the basket, floating in the reeds, likely intrigued and curious she sends one of her servant girls to go fetch the basket.

Her servant girl fetched the basket and brought it back to her and she took the basket from her and then lifted or opened whatever type of covering it had, and when she did, likely to her surprise and amazement, she saw

that it was a child and at that moment, as if on a **divine que**, as if **the grand orchestrator in Heaven** was orchestrating the event, the **little baby Moses, began to cry**.

This young woman had been conditioned in her upbringing to look on the Jews as something less than human, but here in this basket was a little, beautiful, crying baby.

No doubt seeing the little baby crying, she had compassion on the little baby, understanding where he had come from (a Hebrew had floated him out here) and understanding what was going to happen to him, he would be killed.

Her heart was touched by his tears, she saw him, **took pity on him**, she **extended compassion to him**, for she knew that this was one of the Hebrew babies and **what awaited him!**

Does it seem paradoxical that the deliverer of Israel had to be delivered himself from the Nile?

Warren Wiersbe wrote: **"When the Lord wants to accomplish a mighty work, He often starts by sending a baby. This was true when He sent Isaac, Joseph, Samuel, John the Baptist, and especially Jesus. God can use the weakest things to defeat the mightiest enemies (I Cor 1:25-29). A Baby's tears were God's first weapon in His war against Egypt."**

APPLICATION: If this pagan Egyptian princess could be moved by Moses tears, how much more do you think your heavenly Father, who loves you, is moved by yours (Lev 3:22-23).

Vs 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" 8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother.

Miriam, Moses sister, who had been standing off at a distance, seeing what is taking place, closes the distance and speaks to Pharaoh's daughter and offers her assistance.

She says this to Pharaoh's daughter: ***"Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"***

She greases the skids for Pharaoh's daughter's compassion to take action. Would you like me to go fetch a Hebrew woman who can nurse this child for you?

Pharaoh's daughter responds in the affirmative, GO. Then Miriam goes and gets her mom, who was also Moses' mother, **Jochebed**, to nurse her own son.

PAUSE: Can you imagine the joy that flooded Jochebed's heart. Can you imagine the way faith welled up in Jochebed's heart.

APPLICATION: Do you know what can grow your faith and confidence in God? **Exercising your faith and confidence in God**. Faith is like a muscle. It must be worked, and when worked it grows stronger.

Do you know what limits God's activity in our lives. Our lack of faith. We can be like the people of Jesus day.

Jochebed did the unthinkable, no doubt trusting God for the outcome and God showed up and showed out and now she is nursing her own son under the divine direction and authority of Pharaoh.

Vs 9 - And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

Jochebed arrives, and you can imagine her heart is pounding. Pharaoh's daughter looks at her and directs her to nurse the child and she will be **paid for her services**.

I have heard teachers comment on Pharaoh's daughter's ignorance that she did not realize this was the boy's mother. **I suspect she realized it**, I suspect she **did not care**. She was adopting this boy and this woman could nurse him. **So Jochebed took her son and she nursed him.**

APPLICATION: Here is a point we should not miss, God rewarded Jochebed's faith and she got the opportunity to raise her child that should have been executed.

Although we cannot be sure how long Moses was raised by his mother, we are right to suspect it was during these times that he learned who he was (Hebrew) and God's covenant promises to the nation.

Vs 10 - When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Again, this is likely when the child was weaned. We cannot be sure of the age.

But at this point, we can imagine that Jochebed had been instructed to bring the child back to Pharaoh's daughter, and he would be raised as Pharaoh's daughter's son.

It was at this point that Pharaoh's daughter chose the name, **Moses**. She chose this name because, she said I drew him out of the water.

Thus, she named him **"drawn."** מֹשֶׁה (**Mosheh**), because she had מָשָׁה (**mashah**) **drawn him** out of the water.

We can imagine that she likely had little to do with his actual upbringing, he would be educated by the finest teachers in Egypt. He would be taught by the most skilled military commanders in Egypt.

Here is what Luke tells us in (Acts 7:21-22).

Moses would be raised up in the house of the Pharaoh, likely with the possibility to one day sit on the throne.

Egypt was a highly developed civilization for its time, particularly in the areas of engineering, mathematics, astronomy and medical sciences. Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of Egypt and he was mighty in words and deeds.

How amazing is divine providence!

APPLICATION: I do not know what you are facing today, but I hope you see that nothing is impossible with God!

Vs 11 - One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people.

So forty years pass in the turn of a verse. Moses is now a grown man. According to Acts chapter seven, which we will look at in a moment, he is forty years old. He is possibly in line for the throne.

He has everything the world can offer.

Moses, goes out, like he had probably done on many different days, he goes out to see his people and he looked upon their burdens.

PAUSE: It seems that although Moses is physically in the palace, his heart is with his people. This will unfold as the text develops.

As he was looking at his people labor, under horrible conditions, he saw an Egyptian (likely some sort of taskmaster) beating a Hebrew.

The author is Moses, please notice how he explains this. He may have been clothed like an Egyptian, but he was a Hebrew, he knew it, that was where his heart was.

PAUSE: Where did he get this idea.

The best answer is from his mom, his parents, his sister.

Moses was one of the most powerful men in Egypt, instructed in all the wisdom of Egypt, and he sees this Egyptian beating a Hebrew.

The writer of Hebrews gives us a glimpse behind the scenes here (Heb 11:24-26).

PAUSE: So you know: Josephus describes Moses leading Egyptian forces against Ethiopia, winning battles through strategy and valor. He even claims Moses married an Ethiopian princess named Tharbis during this campaign—a detail not found in the Bible (Antiquities, Book II, Chapter 10).

Vs 12 - He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

Notice, he looked this way, he looked that way, he saw no one. Then he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. **He murdered an Egyptian!**

At this point Moses decided to step in and help his fellow countrymen. He likely understood this would cost him. **But, Moses has now killed an Egyptian in cold blood.**

Now why would Moses do such a thing? Here is what Stephen said to the Sanhedrin (Acts 7:22-25).

Did you see what Stephen said? He, **Moses thought**, he **supposed**, he **believed** that his fellow countrymen would understand that God was giving them salvation by his hand.

It seems, and I am going to paint between the lines a little bit here. It seems **Moses** saw that all of this had happened to him so that he could deliver, bring salvation, to the nation of Israel.

It is worth noting, Jesus also stepped away from His rightful place in glory and joined us, so that He could deliver us!

Vs 13 - When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, "Why do you strike your companion?"

Then the next day, Moses again goes out and rather than running into an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, he runs into two Hebrews who were struggling together. These men were likely fighting.

Notice this carefully, and keep in mind Moses wrote this. He (Moses) spoke to the man in the wrong.

Do you see that, he observed long enough to determine who was right and who was wrong. He then made a judgment and decision and spoke to the man in the wrong.

He asked him why do you strike your companion? The Hebrew word translated strike can mean a number of different things, why are you **punching** him, why are you **beating** your neighbor, your fellow countryman?

We can imagine that Moses imagined that they would see in him, what he had already seen in himself, namely the belief that all this has happened to prepare me to be the judge and deliverer of Israel.

Remember what is in Moses' mind according to Acts 7:25: *"He supposed that his brothers would understand that God was giving them salvation by his hand."*

But then we read:

Vs 14 - He answered, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid, and thought, "Surely the thing is known."

He, the man Moses is speaking to, the man who was wronging his fellow countryman, the man responds to Moses and says: ***Who made you a prince and a judge over us?***

The rhetorical question, is meant to serve as a statement to Moses, no one has made you a prince and a judge over us. Who do you think you are? You live like an Egyptian, while we are crushed.

Who made you our prince and judge? Then he says: ***Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?***

At this point Moses, becomes afraid. He is fearful that his crime done in secret with only to witnesses has now become public knowledge. He is fearful and afraid and he concludes that this thing is surely know.

Vs 15 - When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

As Moses worried, word had gotten out, when Pharaoh heard that Moses had killed an Egyptian, Pharaoh then ordered Moses to be killed. We can imagine that Pharaoh was likely offended and felt betrayed.

This man was raised out of slavery in his palace, and he does this! He kills an Egyptian.

In an instant all of the advantages Moses had enjoyed were gone. We can imagine that Pharaoh is enraged. He gives the order to have Moses killed.

Moses flees from Pharaoh, he flees from Pharaoh's palace, he flees from his people in Goshen and he flees to Midian.

David Guzek wrote this: **"Moses, fleeing for his life, probably felt that God's plan for his life was completely defeated. He probably believed that every chance he ever had to deliver his people was now over and there was nothing he could do. At this point, Moses was right where God wanted him."**

APPLICATION: God has no interest in us accomplishing things **through our strength**. He does have a great interest in **us accomplishing a lot through His!**

Arriving in Midian he finally feels safe. Why did he travel so far?

SO YOU KNOW: Egypt owned copper mines in what we now call the Sinai peninsula. He had to get out of the lands that were controlled by Pharaoh, so he fled to Midian.

There in Midian he sat down by a well.

Imagine all that is likely going through his heart. He thought, he would be the one to deliver the nation of Israel, but this has completely blown up, afraid, humiliated, embarrassed, and confused. Moses sits down by a well.

APPLICATION: We have all likely been through times like these. It is what we do next, in the confusion of our darkness that matters the most.

Vs 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.

Moses then tells us that the Priest of Midian, had seven daughters. This seems, at first a little irrelevant, but the relevance will become crystal clear.

The priest of Midian had seven daughters, who came to the very well where Moses sat in his confusion and darkness.

They came to draw water and fill the water troughs and water the flock of their father, whose name happens to be **Reuel**. We will officially meet Reuel in a couple of verses. You can picture all of this in your mind.

Vs 17 - The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock.

As they are laboring to draw water, likely lowering a bucket into the well, other shepherds come, likely men, and they drive the women away from the well, for it is likely they wanted to water their flocks and they have no interest in waiting in the heat to do it.

They are more powerful than the ladies, so they drive the women away from the well and from watering the flock of their father. You will see in a second, but it seems that this was a common occurrence.

But Moses, responded to the wrong he saw, he drove the shepherds back from the well and he, interesting word here **“saved”** them not only that, then he watered their flocks for them.

The Hebrew word translated “saved” is **יָשָׁא (yasha)**, and it means to save, to deliver, to help, or to preserve.

Vs 18 - When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come home so soon today?"

So it seems that getting ran off by the other shepherds was normal. Now today, because of Moses, the ladies arrive back home early and dad is wondering what is going on.

How is it that you have come home so early today?

Reuel (his name means friend of God) we were told was also “the Priest of Midian.”

SO YOU KNOW: He was not only a priest, but likely a descendant of one of Abraham’s other children through Keturah, let me show you:

“I ¶ Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. 2 She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.” (Ge 25:1-2 ESV)

Also, we will see that Reuel was also known as Jethro (meaning excellence or abundance):

"Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God." (Ex 3:1 ESV)

Most believe that Jethro was his title, Reuel was his name.

Vs 19 - They said, "An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock."

Their response is interesting! It does not appear then got his name. Equally, to them he looked like an Egyptian. He walked, talked, and even looked like an Egyptian.

He was a Hebrew, but they had no idea. But they do explain to dad (**Reuel**) that he watered the flock for them.

Vs 20 - He said to his daughters, "Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread."

Then Reuel said to his daughters: If he did that for you, where is he now? Why did you leave him at the well?

Call him, invite him to dine with us.

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

Apparently Reuel asked Moses to stay with them, likely to work for him, and we read that Moses was content to dwell with the man.

PAUSE: On the surface, this whole thing looks like a complete failure. Moses was one of the most powerful men in Egypt, perfectly positioned to be the deliverer of God's people. But he blew it, he killed a man in cold blood and now he is on the run.

He went from influence, position, and power to complete obscurity, what can God do through him now?

Further, we read that Reuel, gave his daughter Zipporah to be Moses' wife.

From prominence in the palace to obscurity on the backside of the desert. Maybe that should have been the title for the lesson.

Vs 22 -She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land."

Moses learns that his wife Zipporah is pregnant and then she gives birth to a son. Surely this will take some of the sting out of all that happened. Moses named his son Gershom. **Gershom** means **foreigner** or **stranger**.

SO YOU KNOW: We will read this later, but Zipporah will also give birth to a second son and Moses will name him Eliezer (Ex 18:2-4).

Then Moses records for us why he chose that name. For I am living in a foreign land. I am a man without a home or even a people. I am a foreigner.

I thought the Hebrews would embrace me so I stepped out and killed an Egyptian, and now Egypt is after me and Israel will have nothing to do with me. **I am a foreigner in a foreign land. I have no home.**

In Egypt Moses learned how to be somebody, in Midian he had an equally important lesson, **how to be nobody**. Or as John Macarthur's son once told him: "You're not very special at all."

Vs 23 - During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God.

This is interesting, but the king that was reigning when Moses killed the man, the Pharaoh that was in charge who wanted to kill Moses died during "those days" that Moses lived in Midian.

During this time also the people of Israel "groaned" because of their slavery, they groaned in pain, grief and misery. They groaned due to their slavery and they cried out to God for help.

Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. Now this is anthropomorphic language. God hears everything, but now it means God hears and He intends to act.

Their cries have touched the ears of the sovereign of the universe. Their cries made it to the ears of the mighty God!

Once again, the Hebrew name of God here is אֱלֹהִים (**'elohiym**). **The One God with a plural name.**

Vs 24 - And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

God heard their groanings. Again, God hears everything, what is being highlighted is that God intends to act on behalf of his people who are crying out to him. **God intends to step in on their behalf.**

It is possible over the 40 years that Moses had slowly forgotten about Israel in Egypt, but we can be sure that **God had not!**

More than that, God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Gen 12:1-3; 26:2-4; 28:12-15)

Vs 25 - God saw the people of Israel — and God knew.

God saw them, he sees everything, but His attention is drawn to them in the sense that He intends to step in and take action. And God knew.

God knew what was happening. God knew what they were enduring. God knew the promises He had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **God heard and God knew!**

APPLICATION: God knows what you are going through, God hears your cries, He hears your concerns, He hears your prayers, He knows. Trust in His perfect timing, and trust in His will.

Moses would spend 40 years on the backside of the desert learning to be a nobody, so that God could use him to deliver the nation of Israel. **Trust what God is doing in your life!**
