

"The First 40 Years of Moses Life"

Part 1

Exodus 2

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of The Life of Moses we have now come to chapter two of the book of Exodus. This chapter will take us through the first forty years of the life of Moses. Therefore, there is much for us to see within this chapter. In chapter 1 of Exodus the Holy Spirit used the pen of Moses to paint a very dark background. It will be against that dark background that we shall see the birth of Moses. The birth of Moses introduces us to a man who was ordained by God to bring about the destruction of Egypt and to bring about a great fear into many nations for centuries to come. Egypt would be destroyed but it would not be by a military. There would not be one shot fired. There would not be one battle fought. It would be by the power of God.

I. The Birth of Moses

1. The time.

The timing of Moses birth is very encouraging to us when we consider some of the details. The king of Egypt has issued a direct command that all boys born to Israel are to be cast into the Nile River. It will be under this dark cloud that Moses will be born. His parents will exercise a plan to preserve his life and God will honor their planning and Moses will be nursed by his mother and then placed in the palace to be raised by the king's daughter.

In the midst of the slavery, the oppression, and all the spiritual darkness God was still in control and He was still sitting upon His throne. Satan was unleashing his worst fury against the children of Israel trying his best to stop the promise of the coming Redeemer, but God was in control. He preserved the life of Moses and He prepared him to be the great emancipator of Israel. God promises and His plan would not be stopped no matter how deep the darkness.

Application:

Now let me explain what this means to us. We live in a world full of darkness and there is more and more hatred growing toward those who stand for the Truth of the Bible. But God has a plan. He is setting the stage for the Tribulation and like a Master chess player God is moving all the pieces into their proper places. There may be times when it looks like evil is winning but that is not the case. God is greater than anything which we face in this world. Let me show you a vision which Ezekiel had pertaining to God.

Ezekiel 10:10-12

¹⁰ And as for their appearances, they four had one likeness, as if a wheel had been in the midst of a wheel.

¹¹ When they went, they went upon their four sides; they turned not as they went, but to the place whither the head looked they followed it; they turned not as they went.

¹² And their whole body, and their backs, and their hands, and their wings, and the wheels, were full of eyes round about, even the wheels that they four had.

The eyes here speak of God's omniscience and the WHEELS speak of the fact that it is impossible to out maneuver God. He sees all and He is in control of all that is happening no matter what the situation looks like.

Maybe you are facing a time in your life that is rather dark and discouraging. Let me encourage you by reminding you that God is in control of what is happening around you. Just as here in Exodus, God often waits until the situation is in the deepest part of the darkness before He steps in. This is to bring glory to Himself. It is against the darkest backgrounds that God's glory shines the brightest. He often waits until there is no human solution, that way He receives all the glory. Just as with Abraham and Sarah when God waited until both were beyond the child bearing years before He stepped in and fulfilled His promise.

2. The tribe.

Notice Exodus 2:1

Moses would come from the tribe of Levi. Levi was not considered a prominent tribe of Israel at this time. The prominent tribes would have been Reuben, Judah, and Joseph. Reuben was the firstborn, Judah was a born leader, Joseph was very prominent because of how God used him in Egypt. But the tribe of Levi was "average". But this is often the people whom God desires to use to accomplish great things for Him, average people. Let me give you some examples.

Let me show you what Gideon said about himself.

Judges 6:14-15

¹⁴ And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

¹⁵ And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

Here was a man that was very poor, and he was the least in his father's house. He was certainly not prominent in the community. But God would do wonders through the leadership of Gideon.

Another man whom God used in a mighty way was Jephthah. Let me show you what we are told about him.

Judges 11:1-3

Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he was the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah.

² And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said unto him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of a strange woman.

³ Then Jephthah fled from his brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob: and there were gathered vain men to Jephthah, and went out with him.

Let me show you another.

1 Samuel 16:10-13

¹⁰ Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

¹¹ And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

¹² And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So, Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

David was the youngest, he was just a shepherd and he was not even considered by his father to be a king. But he was the man God chose to be the king of Israel.

These are just a few people but from these we can see that God uses "average" people to accomplish great things. We do not need to be highly educated, wealthy with the world's goods, and we do not need to be prominent in our society. We just have to be willing to step out and follow God.

There is yet something else concerning the tribe of Levi that we need to see. The tribe of Levi was under a dark cloud due to the shameful incident at Shechem. Let me show you what had happened.

Genesis 34:1-2

And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.

² *And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her.*

Shechem defile Dinah, Jacob's daughter. When the sons of Jacob heard this, they were angry. Shechem desired to marry Dinah and had his father seek the favor and the blessing of Jacob. Jacob's sons however had another plan. They said they would agree to give their sister to Shechem if their entire city would agree to be circumcised.

Genesis 34:13-15

¹³ *And the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, and said, because he had defiled Dinah their sister:*

¹⁴ *And they said unto them, We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one that is uncircumcised; for that were a reproach unto us:*

¹⁵ *But in this will we consent unto you: If ye will be as we be, that every male of you be circumcised;*

Hamor and Shechem agreed and went back to their city and convinced the men to be circumcised. But this was a trap being set by Jacob's sons.

Genesis 34:24-27

²⁴ *And unto Hamor and unto Shechem his son hearkened all that went out of the gate of his city; and every male was circumcised, all that went out of the gate of his city.*

²⁵ *And it came to pass on the third day, when they were sore, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males.*

²⁶ *And they slew Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah out of Shechem's house, and went out.*

²⁷ The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and spoiled the city, because they had defiled their sister.

It was Simeon and LEVI who slew all the males. Let me show you Jacob's reaction.

Genesis 34:30

³⁰ And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.

Then in Genesis 49 when Jacob was blessing his sons before he died we read these words:

Genesis 49:5-7

⁵ Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations.

⁶ O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall.

⁷ Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.

From all of this we can see the cloud that was over the tribe of Levi. But it would be from under this cloud that Moses would emerge. This should not surprise us for the book of Exodus is about redemption and deliverance from slavery and not just physical slavery but also spiritual slavery. So, for the deliverer of Israel to come out from the tribe of Levi is only fitting. He is a picture of our Deliverer, Jesus Christ. He came into this world as a man and was identified with the sinful race of mankind.

Application:

How does all of this apply to us?

We may come from a family or a background that is branded with disgrace due to a bad reputation. If that be the situation then there is before us a tremendous opportunity to remove the disgrace and place a new brand upon the family or the situation. Be determined to change the branding. Draw a line in the sand and declare that starting with you it is going to be different because you are a child of God.

There are certain sinful habitual patterns that follow families from one generation to another. That does not need to continue with us. We can make the choice to stand with the Lord and by His power the habitual pattern can be broken. But it takes the will to stand and say, "NO MORE! IT IS GOING TO CHANGE STARTING WITH ME!"

3. The thinking of Moses' parents.

Notice Exodus 2:1-2

When we read these verses against the back ground of chapter 1 it would cause many people to question the decision of Moses' parents. Let me begin by reminding you that Moses was there third child. Moses had an older sister and he had an older brother. They were Miriam and Aaron. So, in the midst of this darkness his parents were not intimidated by the king's commands. The writer of Hebrews tells us what it was that governed Moses' parents.

Hebrews 11:23

²³ ***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.*

It was FAITH that governed his parents. They were not intimidated by the king and his command. They had faith in God, and He honored their faith. Let us examine their faith a little closer.

a. The strength of their faith.

Let us remember what had happened to Israel in Egypt.

Ezekiel 20:6-8

⁶ *In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands:*

⁷ *Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.*

⁸ ***But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt:** then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.*

Many of the Israelites had adopted the false gods of Egypt. They were so deep in the false religion they rebelled against God as He began to move to bring them out of Egypt. But the parents of Moses were not involved in the idolatry of Egypt. The flow of society was away from God, but the parents of Moses remained steadfast regardless of what everyone else was doing.

Application:

The parents of Moses are an excellent example for all of us. No matter what our surroundings are like we can still live a life pleasing to God. It is not the conditions of society that determine our faith, but it is the condition of the heart. Man can come up with many excuses as to why he compromises his faith but there are really no excuses that will stand. Here was a family that was not intimidated by the king nor were they influenced by society. They had a strong faith and it controlled the way they lived their lives.

Conclusion:

It was the faith of Amram and Jochebed that would change the history of the nation of Israel.

Their faith was exceptionally strong. Not all the people of Israel were willing to stand as they did.

Acts 7:18-19

¹⁸ Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph.

¹⁹ The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.

Children perished because of the lack of faith in the people of Israel. In the same way today, people perish because believers are intimidated by leaders and are fearful to stand up for the Truth. They are silenced by "political correctness". Let us be willing to stand no matter the cost.