

=BASIC BIBLE STORIES=

Lesson 3

Baby Moses

AIM: to teach my pupils the wonderful truths behind the Baby Moses

POINT OF CONTACT: Discuss little babies for a while. Children may want to discuss something about a little baby brother or sister. This would be a good way to enter into the lesson.

Another way would be to memorize Romans 8:28. Probably no place in the Bible is Romans 8:28 so vividly presented as it is in the story of Baby Moses. Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

Still another point of contact would be to discuss the qualities of our mothers. Since Moses’ childhood is so wrapped around the life of his mother, and since his future success was so much a direct result of a godly mother, why not discuss some of the attributes of our mothers.

- I. THE BABY MOSES HAD A GODLY MOTHER. This is a tremendously inspiring story. Perhaps we should call the story “The Great Mother” rather than “The Baby Moses.” Her name was Jochebed. Probably most people do not know the name of Moses’ mother. She has been completely lost in the shadow of her famous son as far as man is concerned, but rest assured that mothers like Jochebed will not be forgotten at that great rewarding time. She is mentioned only twice in the Scriptures, and then only incidentally. You will find her mentioned in Exodus 6:20 and Numbers 26:59. She is one of the greatest women who ever lived. She was married to a man named Amram, who is mentioned only a few times and that in the general genealogy of the tribe of Levi in the Old Testament. Though Jochebed is unknown to most people, God has given her a place in the Scriptures like few others. She is known as the mother of Moses, but maybe in Heaven Moses is known as the son of Jochebed. Let us thank God for good mothers. Let us teachers become the kind of parents that we ought to be. (Especially encourage girls to plan to become the right kind of mothers.)
- II. THE CONDITIONS SURROUNDING BABY MOSES. Study Exodus 1:8-22; 2:1-10. These Scriptures teach us that the birth of Moses certainly came in a dark era. These were days of despair and hopelessness for the slaves of Israel. Most of the Jews had given up in despair and discouragement. Of course, if all the male children were murdered, it would only be a generation or two until they were completely wiped out as a nation. Pharaoh had this in mind. These were the days of the story of the Baby Moses.
- III. A COUPLE WHO WOULDN’T GIVE UP. Among these slave Israelites there was a couple—Amram and Jochebed, the parents of Moses—who did not give up. They had no fear of the king. Jochebed was expecting a child, and one can imagine the thoughts that passed through her mind: “Suppose the baby should be a boy? What will I do?” According to the king’s commandment, they would have to cast him in the Nile River to perish. Such a thought would drive many people to despair. In spite of this, Amram and Jochebed had hope. Ah, let us keep our faith in God and our faith that God will see us through! Regardless of how dark the night, let us have hope and faith in our God.
- IV. THEY HAD FAITH IN GOD’S WORD. See Hebrews 11:23. The reason we know they had faith in God’s Word is that Romans 10:17 says that “...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Hebrews 11:23 says that Moses’ parents had faith. This is because of the Word of God. Notice the three reasons for their faith:
 1. The Word of God taught them faith.
 2. They saw that Moses was a proper child. There are those who would say that this means he was “the” proper child. God had told His people about a promised and chosen Deliverer of His people. Jochebed and Amram knew that Israel could never perish, for the promises God had made to Abraham were that His nation would never perish. Consequently, this couple had faith that God would fulfill His promises. They, no doubt, realized that Moses was the proper child and believed

that God would care for him. Thank God for parents who have faith, who trust God to care for their children.

3. They were not afraid of the king's commandments. Again we find this in Hebrews 11:23. They feared God more than they feared the king. This is certainly needed today.

V. JOCHEBED DID ALL SHE COULD FOR HER SON. Read Exodus 2:3. When Moses was born, his mother and father did not cast him to the crocodiles in the Nile River, but rather they did everything they could to keep him alive. Countless thousands of other Hebrew mothers had tearfully cast their little ones in the river. (Picture this for a while if you want to know and feel pathos.) However, Jochebed instead hid him as long as she possibly could. Maybe she hid him in a loft or a closet or a corner somewhere, but she did hide him for three months because she had faith in God. However, when she could hide him no longer, she then (when he was at the age of three months) built a little ark of bulrushes and put the baby into it. She daubed it with mud and pitch in order to make it watertight and then placed the little ark among the flags in the river. She did everything she could.

VI. THEN SHE TURNED IT ALL OVER TO GOD. After placing the little ark among the flags, she went back home in the faith and confidence that God was going to keep His Word. Somebody said, "We should work like everything depends upon us and then pray as if everything depends upon God."

Now get the picture: Here is the little baby in the bulrushes in a little ark made by his mother. She goes home to pray.

VII. ROMANS 8:28 IN ACTION. God begins to work. When a mother does all she can and puts her trust in God, God does the rest. God moved then upon the heart of a heathen daughter of a heathen king. So at the very time that Moses laid by the riverbank, this heathen daughter came to that very spot to bathe. Notice the miracles involved here:

1. She came to the very spot. The Nile River is a huge river, and yet this daughter came to this very spot.
2. Another interesting thing is why she would want to bathe in the dirty Nile River. She no doubt had the most expensive bath houses that money could buy. Some of the most elaborate bath houses of ancient times have been found in the ruins of Egypt. There came over the Princess an unexplainable desire to take a bath in the river. What a miracle! God continues to work out Roman 8:28.
3. The baby cried. This is so interesting. The Bible simply says, "And, behold, the babe wept." Now naturally Pharaoh's daughter would not care much about an Israelite baby. No doubt she had a hatred for them that had been bred in her mind from infancy; however, when she came to that unusual spot and had that unusual desire to take a bath in the river, the babe wept. God saw to it that the baby was weeping at this particular time. Though Pharaoh's daughter was a heathen princess, she was also a woman and had a mother's heart. The crying of the baby touched her motherly instinct. In spite of all her hatred for these Hebrews, her heart melted in compassion. No doubt she thought, "Poor little thing!" God is still working out Romans 8:28.
4. God used a junior-age child. The next step in Romans 8:28 is God's using of Miriam, the sister of Moses. Moses' mother had gone back home, but his sister had remained behind. We do not know why she remained behind, but we do know when she saw the Princess pick up the little baby, she rushed up and said something like this: "I know a woman who has just lost her little baby and is so saddened. She would just love to take care of this little one for you." The Princess told her that this was satisfactory. Miriam ran to get the baby's mother! Not only did Jochebed get her baby back, but she got paid for taking care of her own baby! Praise the Lord, Romans 8:28 is still in the Bible. Someone penned the following lines:

*God moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.*

Blind unbelief is sure to err and say His work is vain.

God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain.

*Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the storms you so much dread
Are big with mercy and will burst in blessing on your head.*

Get the picture now: Here is a little lady who was supposed to throw a baby in the Nile River to die. Now she cares for her baby and is paid for it. If ever Romans 8:28 was acted out in the Bible, this must be it.

VIII. MOSES, THE HEIR. Since this Pharaoh had no sons, Moses, adopted by the daughter of Pharaoh, would be in direct line of succession to the throne of Egypt. He later, of course, went to grow up in the palace of Egypt; and yet he turned down all of this to suffer affliction with the people of God. (Hebrews 11:24, 25) God used all of this to lead Moses to lead His people from the land of bondage, reminding us again of Romans 8:28.

IX. LET US NOTICE A FEW LESSONS THAT WE OUGHT TO LEARN.

1. Every boy should have a godly mother.
2. Every boy should have a godly father.
3. Even little girls like Miriam can be used of God to do such a big thing.
4. We should do all we can and leave the rest to God.
5. We should know the Word of God and have faith in it.
6. We should trust God to see that everything turns out okay if we do our best.
7. Suffering for Christ is better than popularity with this world.