

STORY

Early Life of Moses - Exodus 1:1 - 2:10

TEACHER PRAYER

Lord God, be with me, Your servant, as I bring Your Word of Truth to those placed into my charge. Fill me with Your Spirit that I may lead them to see Your great love for us all in this world of sin. Help me to show them Your wondrous love in Christ Jesus in Whom we are delivered from the bondage of sin. Thus, may Your name be glorified through me and Your kingdom come to many. In the name of Jesus Christ my Savior and Lord. Amen

VOCABULARY

Taskmasters - Overseers who dealt harshly

Midwives - A woman who aided another in child birth

Ark - Basket of reeds and water proofing material (pitch)

Midian - Midian was a son of Abraham by Keturah (Gen. 25:1-2)

OUTER AIM

God's people suffered under Pharaoh and the cruel taskmasters of Egypt

INNER AIM

God strengthens His people to do His will and wait with confidence and faith for their deliverance.

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol. 1, pp. 146-151)

Jacob's family of seventy multiplied as God blessed them. A nation is brought into being. It is estimated that the descendants of Jacob now numbered between two and three million people. This became a deep concern of the Egyptian government. The people of Israel were good workers and provided an excellent work force for the Egyptians.

Nevertheless, there arose a fear that the people of Israel would become more powerful than the Egyptians and dominate them. This resulted in putting in place various work-related practices that grievously burdened the people of Israel. Besides, they tried to limit the growth of the nation of Israel or possibly bring it to extinction. All of the male infants were to be killed at birth. So God began His plan of deliverance of the people of Israel.

vs. 1-7

About 350 years had passed since Jacob's family entered Egypt.

vs. 8-14

Obviously the good relationship that existed between Joseph and Pharaoh was in the distant past. The Egyptian government began to fear the population growth of the people of Israel in the land of Goshen. Would they grow to such an extent that they would become a threat to the nation of Egypt?

To make certain this would not happen the following practices were introduced:

- Cruel taskmasters were placed over them
- Work loads were increased
- Harsh treatment became extreme
- "Hard bondage-in mortars, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field" was their lot.

The ancient Egyptians are known for their genius in erecting massive structures. Some of these huge buildings are still intact and have stood for about five-thousand years. During their erection, thousands of men worked for many years.

Brick making was an extremely laborious task. Clay was dug out of the swamps, worked into large square bricks and placed in the sun to dry. Next, it is thought by some that they were placed into huge kilns and exposed to intense heat for several days. They became as hard as stone.

vs. 15-22

- Hebrew midwives were instructed to kill all of the male offspring
- When the midwives who feared God refused to kill the male offspring, Pharaoh commanded the Egyptians to cast every male child of the Hebrew people into the river.

This might seem strange, but we can well imagine the racist climate which could have been perpetuated by Pharaoh against the people of Israel, for the Hebrews worshipped the one true God and would not join the Egyptians in their idolatry. They likely stayed within their own community and married their own.

Not integrating with the Egyptians likely resulted in a natural resentment against them. It may have become quite easy to convince the Egyptians to carry out such atrocity against these "foreign" people.

2 vs. 1-10

- A man and wife of the house of Levi conceived and bore a son and hid him three months.
- When hiding him became impossible the mother made a little water tight basket, placed her son in it and nestled it in the reeds by the river bank.
- The baby's sister watched over the child from a distance.
- Pharaoh's daughter bathed in the river and spotted the basket and sent a maid to get it.
- They found the male baby. He wept. She felt sorry for the little Hebrew child.
- The baby's sister came and offered to bring a Hebrew woman who could nurse the child.
- Pharaoh's daughter agreed and so the mother of the baby was brought and became the one to care for her own son. The child officially became the son of Pharaoh's daughter who called him Moses.

STUDENT PRAYER

Lord God, You always hear the cry of Your people and come to deliver them. We praise You for coming to us by sending us a Child, Your Son, Christ Jesus. By Him You have delivered us from the bondage of sin, death, hell and the power of the devil. We thank You for this undeserved mercy. And we pray that You will fill us with Your Spirit that do not judge people by the color of their skin or their nationality. Help us rather to share Your love with all people. And so may we live a life of thankfulness by our words and actions. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Because we live in a sinful world, God's people may suffer under cruel and Godless people. We may have no choice but to bear the burdens placed upon us. As we pray to our gracious God we can rest assured that He will deliver us in His own way and time. (Cf. II Tim. 3:10,11) However, regardless of our circumstances we must always obey God rather than man no matter how that will affect us. The Hebrew midwives would not kill the male babies that were born. They were constrained to obey God rather than man.

God saw the mistreatment of His people and planned their deliverance. Notice how God works within the circumstances that exist. In spite of the Egyptian government, God moves people to do what is right. He enters into the very palaces of the Egyptian government to raise up a leader for His people.

APPLICATIONS

1. Today our government permits the killing of unborn infants. This is called abortion. We believe our government is permitting ungodly action. We oppose this in any way we can.
2. Discuss some of the ways that we can legally do this individually and together with fellow believers.
3. Unlike the Egyptian government our government does not require abortion. Should that ever become the case we would disobey our government.
4. **Examples of murder**
 - a. *Abortion*: murder of an unborn baby
 - b. *Mercy death*: ending the life of a person who is terminally ill--also called "euthanasia."
Lynching: ending a person's life by taking the law into one's own hands.
 - c. *Assassination*: violent murder of a prominent person or a government official for political reasons.
 - d. *Homicide*: another word for "murder." "-cide" at the end of a word means "kill" (patricide, genocide, fratricide, etc). (Martin Luther's Small Catechism, Pastor Mike Sydow, 1988, p.54)
5. God planned our deliverance from the bondage of sin, death, hell and the power of Satan already in the Garden of Eden. In spite of all of the opposition of Satan, the unbelieving world and our sinful flesh God promised, planned and fulfilled His promise of our deliverance in Christ Jesus. We are not in His kingdom of grace and are looking forward to our final deliverance from this world of sin when we are ushered into the mansions of heaven prepared for us all in Christ Jesus.
6. We must realize how serious it is to judge others simply because they are different from us in some way. We need to ask ourselves, "Does God love them?" Well, if God loves them we ought to love them also.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Exodus 20:13 - *You shall not murder,*

Acts 5:29 - *We ought to obey God rather than men.*

Middle any of the above and...

Romans 8:31b - *If God is for us who can be against us?* (Cf. Rm. 8:31-39)

Psalms 37:5 - *Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.* (Cf. Ps. 37:5-15)

Upper any of the above and...

I John 3:18 - *My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.* Isaiah 41:10

HYMN CHOICES

"If Thou But Suffer God To Guide Thee" (TLH #518)

"If God Himself Be For Me" (TLH #528)

"Commit Whatever Grieves Thee" (TLH #520)

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (TLH #262)