



**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
Moses' mother did indeed "throw" her baby into the Nile, albeit with a strategy. And from the Nile, Pharaoh's own daughter would rescue the baby whom God used to rescue His people

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**  
Thank You, Father, that You show up in the little things as well as the big things

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
5 Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. 6 And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

(Exod 2:5-6 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Oct 20, 2022)

**Series: God's Exceptional Choice**

**UNIT 2: Out of Slavery to Nationhood**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Song of Moses**  
(Deut 32:3-6, 10-14, 18)

## The Birth of Moses Exodus 2:1-10

**Lesson Background and Introduction**

Centuries before the events of this lesson's Scripture text, God had promised Abraham, a nomadic herdsman from Mesopotamia, that his descendants would be numerous (Genesis 15:5). One such descendant, Joseph (25:24), was removed from his ancestral land and taken to Egypt. Through God's power and directives, Joseph ended up in a position of high regard in service to the Egyptian Pharaoh (41:41-57). Ultimately, Joseph brought his extended family to live with him in Egypt (Genesis 50:22; Exodus 1:1-5). His descendants would become the Israelites. Centuries later, they "were exceedingly fruitful, multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them" (1:7). God's promise of numerous descendants had become a reality. Jacob's descendants would be in the land of Egypt for a total of 430 years (see Exodus 12:40). Eventually, a new Pharaoh came to power, and was concerned regarding the growth of the Israelite population (1:8-10). The exact identity of the Pharaoh in question is unknown. The construction of cities Pithom and Rameses (Exodus 1:11) has led some scholars to estimate that the Pharaoh in question was Rameses II (approx. 1290–1224 BC). He oversaw vast construction projects and kept numerous slaves, realities that align with the first chapters of Exodus. However, Scripture describes how Solomon began construction on the temple 480 years after the Israelites left Egypt (1 Kings 6:1). This timing would place the exodus at approximately 1447 BC, outside of the reign of Rameses II (compare Exodus 12:40-41; Galatians 3:17). Specific details regarding the exact timing of the exodus and the Pharaoh involved may never be recovered. The Pharaoh in question saw the growing presence of Israelites as a threat. To suppress their increase in number and to exert power over them, the Pharaoh established hard labor for the Israelites and placed slave masters over them (Exodus 1:11-14). The Pharaoh's oppressive treatment intensified in his declaration that "every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile" (1:22). Despite this oppression, God blessed Jacob's descendants. Because of the shrewdness of Hebrew women (see Exodus 1:15-20), more Hebrew boys survived infancy than the Pharaoh intended. This lesson highlights the response of several women to the Pharaoh's unjust declaration. A seemingly small event, the birth of a child and his upbringing—served as the way by which God provided a just response to an unjust situation.

The story surrounding Moses' birth and upbringing triggers more questions than answers. One of the biggest unknowns concerns the motives of the Pharaoh's daughter and her desire to help. Scripture does not indicate whether she feared God or not. Despite her connection to the governing power, she was not overcome by its brutal demands. She was a beneficiary of the same system that allowed the Pharaoh to act oppressively. But she managed to defy her upbringing and provided a just response to an unjust situation. However, the real heroines of this story are the child's mother and sister. They took great risk to protect Moses. They trusted that God would see their response to the injustice and provide a way out. Their bold actions gave way to the bold actions from the daughter of Egyptian royalty. God provides justice where injustice reigns. He invites his people to reflect his character by taking bold (and sometimes risky) steps to protect and care for vulnerable individuals. The justice that God requires of his people is not hypothetical, it is active and embodied.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Birth and Protection of Moses (Exodus 2:1-4)**

#### *Born as a Levite (1-2)*

Levite father and mother (Exodus 6:20)

Levites were the main tribe to choose following God over the golden calf (Ex 32:25-35)

Levites were to be in charge of the tabernacle (Num 1:48-50)

Levites were appointed to be priests by God (Num 3:10)

Levites had God as an inheritance instead of land (Deut 18:1-2)

#### *Hiding of Moses (3-4)*

Hidden because of not being an ordinary child (Acts 7:20)

Hidden because of fear of the kings' edict (Heb 11:23)

Hidden to protect like Rahab did the two Israelite spies (Josh 2:3-6)

Hidden to protect like Joseph did Jesus (Matt 2:13-15)

### **Nursing and Adoption of Moses (Exodus 2:5-10)**

#### *Finding by Pharaoh's daughter (5-6)*

Found because Pharaoh's daughter took him as her own (Acts 7:21)

Found because God was his refuge (Ps 46:1)

Found because God controls authorities hearts (Prov 21:1)

Found because God always provides a way of deliverance for His people (Jonah 1:17)

#### *Moses sister's intervention (7)*

Intervention because God hears His people cries (Ps 69:33)

Intervention because God looks down from on high (Ps 102:19-20)

Intervention because God rescues His people (Col 1:13)

Intervention because God upholds His people causes (Ps 146:7)

Intervention because of God's favor (Isa 49:8-9)

#### *Moses' mother assigned as nurse (8-9)*

Mother assigned because God sustains and never forsakes (Isa 46:3-5)

Mother assigned because God keeps His covenants (Ezek 16:8)

Mother assigned to teach Moses about his people (Heb 11:24)

#### *Adoption of Moses (10)*

Adopted because of being redeemed (Rom 8:22-23)

Adopted because of being blameless and pure (Phil 2:14-15)

Adopted because of bringing God's children to glory (Heb 2:10)

Adopted because of participation in sufferings (1 Peter 4:12-14)