
Words of Truth

Hebrews 11:23

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Outside of Jesus, Moses just might be the most well-known person from the Scriptures. The beginning of his life is an amazing account. The Hebrew penmen wrote this: *“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”* (Hebrews 11:23).

To appreciate the short account above, let's start by taking a look at why Moses had to be hid. Notice: *“Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour. And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses. And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive”* (Exodus 1:8-22).

Now, notice the account from which the penmen of this letter are drawing their account: *“And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of*

bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water" (Exodus 2:1-10).

Moses was a "proper child" in the Hebrew account. In the Exodus account above he was called "a goodly child." The second letter to Theophilus says: *"In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months" (Acts 7:20).*

It should stand out to us that they were not afraid of the king's commandment. This is rather abnormal. It takes a lot of courage to stand in opposition to a king. Solomon wrote: *"The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it. In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favour is as a cloud of the latter rain... The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favour is as dew upon the grass... The fear of a king is as the roaring of a lion: whoso provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own soul" (Proverbs 16:14-15, Proverbs 19:12, and Proverbs 20:2).*

When the time arose that they could not longer hide Moses, they acted in a way that ultimately put Moses in Pharaoh's house. We will talk about how that ended up in our next article. For now, consider that Moses' parents did not act in a manner that would have ended their child's life. They were brave. Where did their bravery come from? The account we are looking at in this Hebrew letter says it came from their faith.

Strength and faith certainly tie together (1 Corinthians 16:13). We see this in the time that Jesus walked this earth. There was a storm at sea. The disciples were with Jesus. They feared they were going to perish (Matthew 8:23-25). In response, Jesus said: *"And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm" (Matthew 8:26).* When God was working directly with the children of Israel, what was there to fear for the faithful? A Psalmist wrote: *"I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place. The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me" (Psalms 118:5-7).*