

Exodus 2:1-10

“Unsung Heroes of the Bible: Jochebed”

What would it take for a mother to place her baby into a basket, in hopes of saving her baby’s life, and send that baby down the river believing the baby would eventually arrive to a place of safety and provision? Well, it takes the same thing that it takes for one to believe that through Jesus he or she arrives to place of safety and provision with God. It takes faith, and not just any faith, God given faith. With this said, I want to share three lessons we draw from this story. Jochebed’s (Jock-a-bed) story.

Faith in God enables us to see what the carnal eye cannot. V1-2a

“Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child she hid him three months.” What Jochebed experiences here when she lays her eyes on Moses is more than a mother’s intuition. What mother doesn’t believe their children to be special? What Jochebed sees in Moses is that which God by his Spirit reveals to her. She, most likely, sees what her husband was not even able to see initially, God’s hand upon this child. But what’s both convicting and encouraging about Jochebed’s faith is her actions in light of what she did not know. Jochebed wasn’t given the whole picture concerning her child. There is no indication that God revealed to her exactly what He would accomplish through Moses. We have no indication that she was even certain that Moses would survive the journey in the basket. But we know by her actions is that she believed in the God of Israel. Oh, that we could see all things as God/Jesus sees them, but we can’t. But we can trust God/Jesus in all things.

Psalms 37:5-9 “Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you. ⁶ He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun. ⁷ Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act. Don’t worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes. ⁸ Stop being angry! Turn from your rage! Do not lose your temper— it only leads to harm. ⁹ For the wicked will be destroyed, but those who trust in the Lord will possess the land.” **NLT**

Heb 11:23 “²³ It was by faith that Moses’ parents hid him for three months when he was born. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid to disobey the king’s command.” **ESV**

Faith in God will make us courageous, doing what seems irrational given the circumstances. V2b-4 “She hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. ⁴ And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.” Babies were being tossed into the Nile River, home to the Nile crocodile, in mass and we have no indication that there was any resistance to this barbaric edict of Pharaoh. Given the people’s status as slaves, we should not fault them for not resisting. For to do so would have only intensified the atrocities of Pharaoh. But Jochebed (Jock-a-bed) and her husband resisted, understanding to be caught meant death for their entire family. Not only that. They place Moses in a basket and send him up the crocodile infested waters of the Nile River as a means to preserve his life. This makes no sense... if you don’t have faith in God. One theologian explains it like this: “Moses never had a stronger protection about him, no, not when all the Israelites were round his

tent in the wilderness, than now, when he lay alone, a helpless babe upon the waves. No water, no Egyptian can hurt him. When we seem most neglected and abandoned, God is most present with us.”

Can we see now how she and her husband could do such a thing as send their baby in a basket down the Nile River? When God is for us who can be against us!

Romans 8:34-37 “³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us. ³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”) ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.” **NLT**

As the people of God, disciples of Jesus the Christ, what is there to be afraid of? Faith in God/Jesus will make us courageous, doing what seems irrational given the circumstances.

Final lesson we draw from Jochebed’s (Jock-a-bed) story, God brings about our deliverance from the most unlikely place. V5-10 “⁵ Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.” ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” ⁸ And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹ And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take

this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰ When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, “Because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”” Jochebed (Jock-a-bed) family’s deliverance comes from the very household of the one she was seeking escape for her baby, Pharaoh. Specifically, Pharaoh’s daughter. Listen, God will make your enemy your footstool. The very thing the enemy intends for your demise, God will use for your liberation. Let me build bridge. The enemy thought the cross would be the end of Jesus. But it has become the very symbol of deliverance, the very symbol of our salvation. The cross, an instrument and symbol of Rome’s power and cruelty becomes the very symbol of God’s provision, of His Christ, Jesus. What was meant for Jesus’ demise becomes the symbol of his love, his forgiveness, his faithfulness, his gospel, our salvation. God brings about our deliverance from the most unlikely place, Calvary.

Luke 23:26,33 “²⁶ Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear *it* after Jesus... ³³ And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.”

NKJV

Thank God for Jochebed’s example of faith. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**