

The Birth of Moses

Exodus 1:1 – 2:10

by Don Falkos

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A new Pharaoh came to power in Egypt who didn't know anything about Joseph. He feared the Israelites' numbers. So the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites. But the harder they were worked, the more children the Israelites had.

Pharaoh ordered the Israelite midwives, "When a Hebrew woman gives birth to a baby boy, kill him; if it's a girl, let her live." But the midwives feared God, so they let the boys live.

When Pharaoh questioned them, the midwives said, "Hebrew women are hardy; they have their babies more quickly than Egyptian women. By the time we get there, they've already given birth."

Pharaoh ordered that every newborn Hebrew boy be thrown into the Nile River.

A woman from the tribe of Levi gave birth to a son. She kept the boy hidden for as long as she could – about three months. Then she got a basket, waterproofed it, put the baby in the basket, and placed it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. The baby's sister watched to see what would happen to him.

Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe in the river. When she saw the basket, she sent a servant to retrieve it. The princess opened the basket and found a little baby boy, crying. "This must be one of the Hebrew babies."

The baby's sister asked the princess, "Should I go and find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?"

"What a good idea!" said the princess. So the girl went and brought back her own mother – the baby's own mother.

The princess said, "Take this baby and nurse him for me. I will pay you for your help."

After the boy was weaned, his mother took him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him and named him Moses.