

HEROES OF FAITH - PARENTS OF MOSES  
"They Trusted God Even as Slaves"  
Exodus 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION ... How quickly people forget their history! ... I wonder how many of today's youth know the reasons for World War-2... or the Great Depression. We forget what happened in the past, and we forget the lessons people learned from those events... so we make many of the same mistakes again - so that we can learn those same lessons again a second or third time!

The book of EXODUS begins - "Then, a new king came to power in Egypt. He knew nothing about Joseph." He forgot or never learned what wonderful things Joseph did for Egypt during a time of great drought - Joseph, that former Hebrew slave, to him God gave great wisdom, he became a great leader. But now 300 years had passed - and we know how little we learn about what happened 300 years ago! - and the new king could only see the many Hebrew people in Egypt Hebrew boy babies. "Throw them in the river Nile."

Here we meet today's HEROES OF FAITH - THE PARENTS OF MOSES ... their names - AMRAM and JOCHEBED ... they trusted the Lord not-matter while they were slaves in Egypt.

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"Good morning ... I'm AMRAM ...

"What should we do?' - that's what my wife and I asked ourselves, just as many other Hebrew couples were wondering. Our life has been difficult in recent years ... we are Hebrews in Egypt - a minority group, just like black or Hispanic or Asian people in the USA ... our king - the Egyptians call him PHARAOH - hates us ... really, I believe he is afraid of us, thinking we maybe join with an enemy to overthrow him ... so he made us slaves. You have seen pictures (like the movie, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS) that show the hard work we did to build great buildings - maybe the PYRAMIDS - with big stone blocks ... and their whips - awful! ... it's easy to hate those Egyptians masters, but we know the Lord wants us to love them.

"But now! - the king commanded us to kill all boy babies ... that's MURDER! - not-matter we not-yet have the 10 Commandments, God wrote that law on our hearts, and we know that murder is wrong, against God's will! ... how can we obey the king when he

commands us to murder? Some of our people say, 'Well, they're only babies - can't yet think or take care of themselves - maybe babies are not yet really persons - therefore, it's OK to throw them in the river.' I think some people in your time are saying that kind of thing, trying to make ABORTION seem OK.

"Now my wife and I have this baby boy ... we've been hiding him for a couple of months ... but soon someone will notice when he cries, and they will investigate, and they will kill him or force us to kill him ... what should we do? ... should we obey the king? - or not? What do you think? [Pause for discussion.]

"We knew that we could not kill this baby and sin against God - Maybe the Egyptian king or his soldiers punish or kill us! Not-matter. My wife made a basket for the baby ... and put it in the river where someone would surely find the basket and - surprise! - a baby inside ... we prayed that God would lead someone to find our baby who would take care of him. Someone did find him ... surprise! - it was the king's daughter, and she intended to keep the baby ... well, my daughter was watching, and she volunteered to find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby ... guess who she went to find - right, my wife!

"We didn't know then that God had special plans for that baby - the Egyptian princess named him MOSES ... He will use Moses to save us Hebrew people from slavery and to bring us back to the land that God promised to Abraham many years ago. We remember that promise, because it is more than a promise about land ... it is a promise about a Savior that God will send ... that Savior will save people from a worse slavery - sin ... we remember, and we trust that God will not forget His promise. You know that He did not forget, because that Savior did come - Jesus, the Son of God. You trust that Savior, because He gives you forgiveness and new life ... and He promises that He will take you to heaven, out of the troubles of your life. Remember how we trusted God's promises ... learn from our example of faith ... you - continue to trust the Lord and all His promises to you ... He will not fail you."

CONCLUSION: Now I finished tell you about my son, Moses. I finished tell you about God's promise, and God's command. My wife and I decided to trust God and obey him, not-matter what happen to us. Now, what about you? What situations are in your life when you must choose between obeying God and obeying people around you? What situations are in your life when you must choose to obey God, or obey people that are over you? Is that a hard decision, or easy? How do you decide?