

JOCHEBED A MOTHER WHO BEAT THE ODDS

Exodus 2:3

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.

Introduction

One can never underestimate the influence of a godly mother. Jochebed, the mother of Moses, is a personification of all godly mothers. It goes without saying that Antioch-Lithonia has many-I said many- godly mothers. Jochebed protected her son, at all cost, from the infanticide of Pharaoh's murderous regime. She was a woman of faith, hope, and love long before Apostle Paul wrote about it in 1st Corinthians. She had faith in God and would not let her son be destroyed. She had hope that her son would develop into a God-fearing man, and of course, she loved her son, perhaps more than her own flesh. Her name describes her perfectly. Jochebed means "Jehovah is Glorious," or "Jehovah Is My Glory." She is the first person in Scripture to have a name compounded with "Jah," which refers to Jehovah. There are many biblical names which refer to Jehovah, such as Joshua, but Jochebed is the first. That's right a mother was the first. Although this narrative is about her protection of baby Moses, let us not forget she was the mother of two other historical characters. She was the mother of Miriam, who was a gifted prophetess, poetess, and musician, and Aaron, who was the first high priest and the founder of the Aaronic priesthood. Let's look at the sequence of events of how this mother nurtured her son in a dangerous time. Perhaps this will be an inspiration for mothers who are rearing their children in these dangerous times.

Exposition

1. Grave Reactions by Pharaoh against the Hebrews
(A Decree to destroy all Jewish boy babies)
2. Great Risk to Protect Her Child
(She put her baby in an ark in the Nile River.)
(It was a risk to Jochebed and to Moses.)
(This was an act of great faith.)
3. Great Reason Matched with Great Faith
(Miriam was tasked with watching baby Moses-Exodus 2:4.)
4. Grand Rescue by Pharaoh's Daughter
(She adopted little Moses.)
5. Godly Rearing of Her Son by Jochebed
(She did not let Moses forget his heritage.)
6. Gracious Rewards for a Loving Mother
(The mother became the paid nanny.)
(See how God works.)

CLOSING THOUGHTS

I close by talking to our youth. If you make your mamma cry, please make her shed tears of joy-not tears of sadness. Make her proud of you. I am sure Jochebed was a proud mother. Moses became a great liberator and the lawgiver. Aaron became the first high priest. Miriam became the first prophetess, a poet and a songwriter. Make your mother just as proud of you as

Jochebed was of her children. Please be respectable. Please live a decent life. Study hard in school. Stay out of trouble. Most importantly, get saved! God is willing and able to help you. Give God glory! Give God all the glory!

Related Scriptures

Exodus 1:7-22; Exodus 2:1-10; Exodus 6:20; Numbers 26:59
Acts 7:19-22; Hebrews 11:23

End Notes

1. Many scholars believe putting little Moses in a basket in the Nile River was a temporary strategy to protect him from the search and destroy raids by Pharaoh's hit men. Her intent was to bring him back home when each raid was concluded. She was given advance notice about the periodic raids. God intervened and had Pharaoh's daughter to come to the river at the right time and little Moses cried at the right time. It was still risky because of the currents of the river and the crocodiles and other predators.

2. Many scholars also believe that Pharaoh's daughter thought Moses was a gift from the pagan, river god, Sobek. (We know there is only one true God.) If we correlate Egyptian written records with Sacred Scripture, she would have been Halshepsut, who was infertile. This proves that all things work together for good for godly people (Romans 8:28)

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