

Exodus 1-2

For this teaching I will put my study notes online with the teaching.

So we move into the Book of Exodus.

Now Moses, in the previous book of Genesis, had given the History of the Antediluvian, or pre-flood world, from the Creation and the start of time forward, then he gave us the history from the Great Cataclysmic Flood on.

And from this Great Deluge we saw one righteous man Noah and his family set apart to start out in this new world to be fruitful and multiply.

Not long after this, a government was formed in stark rebellion to Almighty God, a Mighty Hunter of men's souls named Nimrod came on the scene, and he created an empire built on animosity toward the One True God.

Nimrod's Empire became very powerful, and with one language and in unity they began to build a Tower to Reach the heavens, God met them in their rebellion and confused the language of man.

Not soon after this Nimrod had a contemporary named Abram who God set apart.

God spoke to this chosen Abram and commanded he leave this rebellious people, and go to a new land, away from all that was familiar and his heritage.

God promised this man Abram and his barren wife a son and through this son of promise a nation would come forth.

Through this Nation a Promised Messiah, a Savior, the Promised Seed of a woman that God had declared at the fall of man in the Garden of Eden.

This Chosen One would come through this man Abram's lineage, God changed Abram's name to Abraham.

He would become the father of all who would put their faith in the One True God Yahweh, and this promised Savior.

Abraham and Sarah in their old age conceived, and brought forth this promised child, Isaac.

For which God commanded Abraham to take up on Mount Moriah and sacrifice his only son, for which Abraham obeyed.

God stopped Abraham in this test of faith, and provided a sacrifice, and the boy lived, he grew into a man and married Rebecca, who too could not conceive right away.

God opened her womb, she bore twins.

For which God chose one to carry this promise through, God chose the younger, in contrast to the norm of the day.

The younger Jacob would be the chosen patriarch of this Holy dynasty.

He took to wives, and two concubines from a distant relative's land, for which 12 sons came from.

These sons would become what we know as the 12 tribes of Israel.

These 12 sons will be named one more time by our author here in Exodus.

And after this they will assimilate into what we know as the Nation of Israel.

We have between 300 and 400 years from Genesis to Exodus.

Remember what God promised Abraham in

Gen. 15:13-16 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

And as God has said, it was true.

Now here in the fourth generation God is ready to revisit this promise.

The Author is most definitely Moses as affirmed by Jesus many times; for Example, in

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Moses is accredited to writing the Law found in these first 5 books of the Bible by Jesus

Mark 7:10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'

There are many who dispute Moses' authorship, but we will trust here what Jesus said Himself.

Now there were no breaks in the writings of Moses, these first Books probably came as 1 volume, but over time they were broken up.

Exodus is a good name for this book, but it was not the original name.

So Book, Chapter and verse breaks were entered later, which makes it a lot easier for us, because now I can say, please turn to Exodus 1, so we can begin...

Israel's Suffering in Egypt

1:1 Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; 3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; 4 Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. 5 All those who were descendants of Jacob

were seventy persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already). 6 And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. 7 But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

So this book starts out with the word “Now” or could be “And.”

The story continues from Genesis...

Remember the promise God gave to Jacob back in **Gen 46:3** So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.

God of course is true to His promise.

Remember the Egyptians despised shepherds, so Joseph in his wisdom asked his brothers to come before Pharaoh and explain that their occupation was that of shepherding and cattle raising.

Egypt was so racist and had such a system of apartheid that Israel could grow there over several centuries without being assimilated. Guzik

This is interesting, because now hundreds of years have passed, and this separation allowed them to grow into a mighty nation.

This could never have happened in Canaan, remember the inhabitants there tried to intermarry with the Jewish bloodline.

So remember when Jacob and his family came into the land of Egypt, they were 70 in total.

It says of them early on **Gen 47:27 So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly.**

The Lord's favor and blessing are on this people so much so that they grow into a mighty army within the borders of Egypt.

At this point in the history for Egypt the Hittite Empire was threatening invasion, and the question for the rulers of Egypt was "what would this mighty Nation in the midst of us do?"

Would they side with the invading armies, and turn on the Egyptians?

The unknown was too much for the Pharaoh of the day.

You see the time Joseph rose to power the Pharaoh that is dated around his time would have been from the Hyksos dynasties, which were from a foreign bloodline.

After years of Tribal war, they rose to power.

They were actually not of pure Egyptian blood, and it is thought that is why they showed favor to Joseph and his family of foreigners.

But hundreds of years have passed, and by the time we get to Moses' arrival there is a new Pharaoh ruling.

After much struggle and division in Egypt, the Hyksos were overthrown, and the rule came back to the Egyptian bloodline.

At this point in history it is thought that possibly Ramses the first is ruling or his son the great conqueror Seti, most popular opinion is Thutmose the first or his son Thutmose the second is ruling.

Really of not great importance, but what we do know is this new Pharaoh could care less for the great salvation that came from these Hebrews.

He after hundreds of years knows nothing of the great deliverance Joseph brought to his people.

And a precautionous plan was put in place to keep this people whose numbers could be over 1 million by now in a place of submission to the Tyrannical Ruler of Egypt.

They despised these foreign shepherds, they were nothing more than a people worthy of hard labor, and a daily whip to their back.

So Moses records for us next...

8 Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; 10 come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest

they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land." 11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses. 12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. 13 So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. 14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage — in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.

So we see there is nothing more powerful, more mighty than the Word of God.

This Pharaoh, the mightiest man in the known world, had multitudes of soldiers, wealth beyond measure, wisdom that was superior to any contemporary of his day.

Well he finds himself helpless to come against a spoken promise of God.

Heavier burdens he demands, and God's people are strengthened.

More rigorous work he commands, and God's people flourish.

Bitterness and bondage are his tools of suppression, but all the more God's Word prevails, and the nation

whom God has set apart as His own grows more mighty.

And although this is well past the times of the great pyramids, other Egyptian architecture and monuments were made by the brick makers of God's chosen people.

This chosen family went into Egypt unpredictable, disobedient, rebellious and disorderly.

And is now enduring the rigor of slave labor.

And through this miserable drudgery God was in fact instilling in them order, obedience, humility, and strength.

So at the time of God's choosing, when these people think they can take no more, one more demand from this tyrant might just break them, we see in reality God has divinely created himself a mighty army.

Is not our modern soldier created through a series of mental and physical rigor, that so pushes a human being to the brink of calamity?

And at the end of his bitter toil, and months of a drill sergeant shouting demands equal to the shrewd shouts of an Egyptian task master.

This soldier will come out a stronger man, one that a common civilian would be a fool to square up against.

So here God, in His Divine Boot camp, builds an army of slaves, that will leave Egypt in ranks, prepared for

battle and ready to conquer a land that was promised to them.

So Pharaoh's attempts to weaken this people seem to be futile against this Mighty God's plan.

And in a bout of frustration his wicked heart, with the whispers of that serpent in his ears, he makes another demonic demand.

15 Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah (Beauty) and the name of the other Puah (Brilliance); 16 and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live."

We must as we journey through the scriptures always understand the Meta-Narrative of the Bible, the bigger picture, beyond the flesh and blood, beyond the things seen and beyond the tangible aspects of the written Word.

There is a constant unseen battle going on between the devil and God, that is happening in the spiritual.

Eph. 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

And may it be that madman Herod who slew the babies in Bethlehem at the time of Christ's Birth, or

this wicked ruler in Egypt, we see a constant attack against the Promised Seed that was promised to come through this nation.

Satan always scheming, always waiting for opportunity to come against the innocents in this messianic lineage.

And Satan knows that a Savior will one day be born through these people, he will stop at nothing to defeat this Promised One, who will put an end to his rule.

Who will one day smash the head of this serpent.

But God, always one step ahead of this doomed devil.

God has two midwives stationed strategically who fear Him.

We don't know about their encounter with God, if it was in fact their own Hebrew Heritage, or if they were Midwives to the Hebrews only and perhaps it was the witness of the Hebrew women they ministered too that won their hearts over to Truth.

But Shiphrah and Puah as we will see next feared God...

17 But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. 18 So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?"

19 And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them."

So these two women seem to be the chief midwives over the others who ministered to the Hebrews.

They are called before Pharaoh to explain the fact that the male boys were still being multiplied among the Israelites.

So they give their explanation, that the women are lively and give birth before they even need the assistance of these who are trained in this specific medical field.

Now this could be a lie, which some say it is, or they could be telling the truth.

If it is a lie, God never rebukes them for their deception, if it is a true statement, then of course we have a divine intervention, as these babes come quickly in the labor room.

I don't know what a lively or vigorous birth would look like or translate for us today to understand, but I know there is not a woman alive who would not prefer a quick lively birth verses a long drawn out painful birth.

These mothers were truly set apart by God, and this nation was divinely protected by God.

And we see next the midwives are rewarded by God, not Pharaoh.

So despite Pharaoh's attempts he comes up short once again, and God's decrees are feared more than his own.

20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. 21 And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.

22 So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

So Pharaoh in his desperation now appeals to the parents themselves.

And he enacts a law that demands infanticide of all the Hebrew sons.

Now this is deplorable for this nation.

How much more can these people take? Things are so hopeless.

Oh the despair these mothers and fathers would be in as they are commanded to feed their babies to the Nile's unforgiving torrent.

The pain and anguish these people are enduring.

It just seems hopeless, where is their God?

I imagine they are wondering if the God that spoke to their forefathers was real.

Maybe the stories they have heard were no different than the Egyptian folklores of their many gods'.

After all they have heard nothing of this God for hundreds of years, if He is real, surely He has forgotten where they are!

If their God was real, would he allow such conditions for this chosen nation?

How many of us have been here?

Just when we think things cannot get any worse, one more thing hits, and we feel as though our backs are breaking because of the crack of our task masters whip.

Snap, you lose your job, snap, where are we going to get food this month, snap, the death of a loved one, snap sickness hits, snap your husband leaves you to care for your kids, snap your wife has been unfaithful, and the task master of this life is relentless.

Well, don't discredit your God, He is very much real.

Remember what Job said, in the midst of his turmoil, and as he answered the rebukes of his companions.

Job 9:2-12 "Truly I know it is so, But how can a man be righteous before God? 3 If one wished to contend with Him, He could not answer Him one time out of a thousand. 4 God is wise in heart and mighty in

strength. Who has hardened himself against Him and prospered? 5 He removes the mountains, and they do not know When He overturns them in His anger; 6 He shakes the earth out of its place, And its pillars tremble; 7 He commands the sun, and it does not rise; He seals off the stars; 8 He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea; 9 He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, And the chambers of the south; 10 He does great things past finding out, Yes, wonders without number. 11 If He goes by me, I do not see Him; If He moves past, I do not perceive Him; 12 If He takes away, who can hinder Him? Who can say to Him, 'What are You doing?'

You see our God is real, your trials are temporary, just know this task master beating your back now, is preparing you for what God has in store for you next.

Be patient through the silent days, when you hear nothing from Him, He surely has not forgotten you, He is at work in your life, even through the silent times.

This place of bitterness and humiliation for the nation of Israel is all still within the plan of God.

Surely now that they are totally depleted of any pride, any self-worth, they are immobilized into a place of hopelessness.

The elders of Israel can give no plans of deliverance; the people are too tied down by the chains about their ankles.

There is no place for them to go, and no one for them to turn.

And this is where God wants them.

Now! He can enact His plan of deliverance for His people.

Now from this point of despair He alone can get the glory for what is about to happen.

And in the midst of their austerity God starts to work...

A chosen leader will be molded and readied to mobilize this mighty nation.

So don't lose hope Christian, the severities of this life do not mean God has left you, He has plans of deliverance, He has plans to raise you up, He has plans to get glory from your life.

Do not despair, Christian, as long as you have breath in your lungs, God is still working in your life.

Let's Read on!

Moses Is Born(Heb 11:23)

2:1 And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. 2 So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months. 3 But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. 4 And his

sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

So we have a familiar story, a man and woman fall in love, they marry and have a child.

Moses, the writer, at this point does not give us the names of his parents.

But later on in the genealogical record he does...

Ex 6:20 Now Amram took for himself Jochebed, his father's sister, as wife; and she bore him Aaron and Moses.

Amram and Jochebed have an older daughter Miriam and a three-year-old son Aaron, and Moses would be the 3rd child.

We know Aaron is three years older because when they go before Pharaoh in Ex 7:7 it states **And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.**

Some think Miriam was 7 years old or older here.

Moses was special from birth, so beautiful that his mother had to resist the law, and she hid him for 3 months.

Maybe she knew even from birth, this beauty was a divine beauty, and she could not bear to throw him in the river.

Surely this baby was special, and maybe these three months were spent in prayer, as she pleaded with the Lord.

After three months the baby's cries were too powerful for his mother to conceal him any longer.

There was nothing she could do, if the babe was found, surely the Egyptian officer would kill the babe, and possibly Amram and Jochebed for disobeying Pharaoh's edict.

Who then would care for their toddler and daughter?
Oh the turmoil of this mother.

She decides to trust God, and obey the law at the same time.

She builds an ark of bulrushes, and seals it to keep the water out.

She is now in faith trusting the providence of God.

Notice her faith was not foolish.

To many people sit, and declare they are waiting for God to act on their behalf.

Their faith is the opposite of Jochebed here, they would rather wait for Pharaoh's soldiers to hear the baby and destroy them, the whole time sitting and declaring God will protect me.

Faith is an action word, and this woman acts in faith, and uses the wisdom God has bestowed upon her to act.

And as she sends her little one out into the Nile, she trusts God will have a plan for this special baby.

Let's see what happens.

5 Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. 6 And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

Now God in His sovereignty has brought to very special forces together, and united them in one magnificent moment.

A babies cry and a woman's heart meet, and the two intertwined are too irresistible to separate.

She identifies this little, helpless, very beautiful Hebrew baby.

And her heart has no choice to move to compassion.

Jochebed's faith was met by a God who sees, and there is hope now for her baby.

And remember verse 4... And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

Now Miriam is a typical older sister.

Now this is a noble calling.

How many older sisters do we know who were motherly in nature?

Who loved selflessly, and harshly at times to their little siblings.

My son has 3 mothers in the house right now.

The day we brought him home, I saw something ignite in my 4 year-old and my 2 year-old, a divinely put instinct.

They look after him, make sure he is fed, they protect him from the dogs running by, they took turns right away holding him, and cherishing him.

Even today my wife took Lola and Freedom to the Doctors to get shots, she said Lola went first, and was crying and just not happy with the whole thing.

She put her in the stroller while it was my sons turn...

She said when it was Freedom's turn, that as soon as Lola heard her brother crying she was ripping off the straps of her stroller, and those tears dried right up as she darted over to protect her baby brother.

She is 2 and has this instinct in her.

Older sisters should be honored, they are the ones who step in if mom dies, or if she is sick, or busy at work.

If a parent leaves the family, the older sister's nature kicks in, and takes a huge part in child rearing.

They take a heroic role in the home.

Even my own older sister kept back the school yard bully for me.

She took care of me when my parents needed her to when they were out of town or just working late.

And Miriam is no different, her calling as the older sister engages here, and her duty to protect her helpless baby brother keeps her watching him.

Now Miriam followed her brother and it says next...

7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"

8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. 9 Then 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 And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

What a wonderful display of God's Sovereignty, in a moment of hopeless desperation, Jochebed is forced to leave her son to the currents of the Nile River.

She was at her wits end, no place to go, other than complete trust in God.

And I imagine she wondered if God was in this at all, after the baby drifted out of her eye sight, I imagine her own heart just breaking.

“My baby!” the cries of a mothers broken heart, but she like Abraham offered her son up in faith.

As the torturous moments went on, as she waited for Miriam’s return to hear the fate of her baby boy.

And as Jochebed hears from a distant the cries her daughter Miriam, “Momma, Oh Momma!” as the little girl comes rushing to her.

I imagine she was anticipating the worst of news, and as soon as Miriam catches her breath, she proclaims the good news.

“Pharaohs own daughter Momma, she found my baby brother, and she saw his beauty, and her heart connected with him momma.”

“The Lord gave me words to tell her, and guess what momma, she wants you to come and see her, she wants you to nurse your own son!”

And this Hebrew Woman’s faith in the One True God sets in action the plan of God.

All these years of silence, and God’s Supernatural Hand begins, through this simple act of faith, to work on behalf of this nation.

And Pharaoh's Daughter would love this boy as her own, as Jochebed in those formative years, poured into Moses the heritage of the Hebrews.

And in those few short years she told Moses of the Promises made to their Forefathers, perhaps God showing her that her son was set apart for this great calling of deliverance.

Those young years are so important to instill in our children the tenants of our faith, the Good News of the Gospel, and the Truth for which we believe.

Jochebed once again must have faith, that her young son, would not lose the heritage she is letting him go out of.

She must trust all that she has taught this little boy was enough to withstand against the teachers, and ultimately the professors of the greatest University of the known world there in Egypt.

He most surely was groomed as a potential successor to the Throne of Egypt, and went to Heliopolis the finest University along the banks of the Nile.

Stephan in the Book of Acts explains... **Acts 7:22**

22 And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.

Josephus even tells us Moses became a renowned soldier, and led the Egyptian army against the Ethiopian city of Meroe, for which he conquered.

Jochebed could only hope the things she taught this chosen leader, would stick with the imagination of his heart.

So the name Moses is given to him, which means “drawn out.”

He begins his rigorous training in the finest education in the finest culture of the day...

Then this Autobiography continues...

Moses Flees to Midian(Heb. 11:24,25)

11 Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. 12 So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

So it seems Jochebed’s instructions have somehow stuck to this young man’s heart.

Moses either moved by what he knew as his calling, as taught by Jochebed, or moved by the unjust treatment of the weaker slave he enacts an act of Heroism.

But Moses here only has the training of Egypt, which is the training of the flesh.

He only knows how to act in the flesh.

Maybe his mother words are coming back to him, perhaps he is just fed up with the treatment of what he knows as his brethren, and he thinks “Its Time!”

Stephan in Acts clarifies...

Acts 7:23-25 "Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. 24 And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. 25 For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand.

Moses understood his calling, but failed to understand that God must work through him.

No act in the flesh would bring glory to God, no one operating in the flesh will be used of God.

Moses will find God has another preparation for him, a great unlearning time period of 40 years in the deserts of Midian.

You see as those who operate in the flesh, only care for the eyes of man, Moses looked to the left and to the right, but failed to look up.

God alone will make him the deliverer.

The one chosen by God, could never be a man who in his own strength took out the Egyptian overlords.

God was building this nation not the man Moses.

Moses maybe expected that his brethren would defeat the Tyrannical rule through revolution, by one act of violence at a time.

But God had other plans, and not one person rallies behind the mighty carnal Moses.

In fact, Pastor Chuck Smith says you will know a good leader by who is following him.

If someone desires to have a ministry position, give them a shot, and you will know by their fruits if they are called to that position.

Moses at this point is not being followed, and we will see not even respected by his brethren.

His self-image was too great, he thought too much of himself.

His ego he received from the success in the Egyptian way of life must be dealt with, he must learn how to put that old man to death, and take on a new nature.

I am Irish, I used to excuse my anger and violent temper by the heritage I received at birth.

So many times I hear someone excuse their sinful ways by the bloodline they carry.

Well we all carry a deceitfully wicked bloodline, we received it from Adam, the first man.

Our first father passed down to us a horribly wicked nature.

In fact I like the way Spurgeon puts it...

“Brother, if any man thinks ill of you, do not be angry with him; for you are worse than he thinks you to be. If he charges you falsely on some point, yet be satisfied, for if he knew you better he might change the accusation, and you would be no gainer by the correction. If you have your moral portrait painted, and it is ugly, be satisfied; for it only needs a few blacker touches, and it would be still nearer the truth.”

Charles Spurgeon

You see in us is nothing good at all, unless Christ be in us.

And if we are in Christ, we must not ever excuse our sinful ways by our parent's genes, given to us.

If you are in Christ, you have received a new nature.

As Paul says in **Col 3:8-10** But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him

As Peter calls this new nature a divine nature in

2 Peter 1:2-4 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust

Moses was not ready, and God will now take this man, who was at the peak of his life, the peak of his confidence, the peak of his brilliance, and He will take him through a Great Humbling period!

Well let's look what happens next...

13 And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?"

14 Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?"

So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!"

So instead of a following of loyal rebels, Moses finds contempt, and he is even mocked.

You see Moses saw himself as a great man, a great leader, but he was viewed by others differently.

And even though this is a strike to his bravado, this is actually the beginning of Moses real preparation.

God will from this point take Moses down the path of humility.

And by the time God calls him to lead, Moses' fleshly confidence will be dwindled down to a healthy fear and respect for his calling.

He will be so unsure of his abilities he will even question God in his calling.

Moses will be so forced to depend on God, that God will then be able to get glory for all that will take place.

The confident Moses, educated with the finest degrees, he has a Master's in Egyptian Culture and leadership, but in order for him to be used by God he must now get his BSD Degree, Back Side of the Desert Degree.

15 When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

So Moses was seen as an enemy, the Egyptian Royal family took him in as one of their own.

They gave this Hebrew the best life, there was nothing withheld from him.

And Moses betrayed the very people who took him in.

He is a murderer, and is seen as the worst kind of traitor.

Capital punishment was the judgment given to Moses by this earthly court.

But the heavenly court has another ruling for this now vagabond.

Moses now retreats to Midian, and during the wars with the Hittites, Midian was a place of refuge, and an agreement was made by the two enemies that this area would be off limits, and prisoners and refugees could flee here untouched and unharmed.

Maybe this is why Moses chose this area.

16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

We see something here in the character of Moses.

He has been given a divine instinct to protect the weak from the strong.

This characteristic will be turned into a life calling for Moses.

There is something stirred up in this man when he is witnessing an injustice, it moves him to protect, and defend.

First we saw this in the weaker slave getting beat by the stronger Egyptian task master, now here in the weaker women verses the stronger men.

The daughters of the priest of Midian did the work of gathering the water for their herds, and these men came and ran them off, and they plan to avoid the more difficult part of gathering water for their own flocks.

But Moses, with the conditioning of an Egyptian Warrior stands in defense of these women.

And he gives water to these daughter's flocks.

This is a godly characteristic, to defend the weak and protect the innocent.

Christianity is not a pacifist religion; we are called to a position of strength when others are being treated with injustice.

We are a religion of Martyrs, yes, we go to the cross to be burned, yes, but defense of others is most definitely part of loving our neighbor.

We cannot close our eyes to the atrocities of this world and pass it off as loving our enemies.

Moses acts, and it opens the door to the next part of his school of ministry, marriage.

18 When they came to Reuel their father, he said, "How is it that you have come so soon today?"

19 And they said, "An Egyptian delivered us from the hand of the shepherds, and he also drew enough water for us and watered the flock."

20 So he said to his daughters, "And where is he? Why is it that you have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread."

21 Then Moses was content to live with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses. 22 And she bore him a son. He called his name Gershom (perhaps meaning Refugee or stranger), for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land."

So Moses will be given a wife and child. And his life in the desert begins.

Now I remember a man, when I was young and aspiring to the ministry, saying "I do not think a man should be allowed to be a pastor without first being married, and having a child."

And I was married at the time, but childless, so I took it to be very offensive.

I arrogantly shoved off the statement, and continued pastoring.

Well after my first child was born, I saw the man again in Mexico, and he heard me teach again in Mexico.

He came to me and said, you may not know it, but you now have a more humble approach to God's Word, fatherhood has greatly changed your preaching.

For which I had to agree.

Of course marriage reveals to the man how selfish we truly are.

We have now another person constantly in our lives, watching us closely, seeing the good, the bad and the ugly.

It is humiliating at times, but a necessary step to maturity, as you are expected to not only provide and care for yourself, but for your woman as well.

So Moses, leaves his youthful years and becomes a man of his household.

Now when children come, a whole new set of worries come, new challenges, and enormous amounts of character building.

I don't know about you, but when I saw my first child for the first time, I was immediately humbled, and I was like "Lord are you sure you want to entrust me with this great duty?"

This little innocent life was now my responsibility to care for, to teach, to provide for.

Oh man, it humbled me even more, and every day as I watch my children grow, I realize all the more how much I need the Lord in my life.

Moses, now a husband and a father, he will learn to shepherd his household, to lead them, to tend and provide for them.

All of this is preparation for his great calling.

He will spend the next 40 years unlearning all that Fleshly Egypt instilled into him, he will learn hard work, he will learn humility, and grow a great dependency on God.

And that is where God needs him, in order to use him!

So now we go back for a moment to the nation God is preparing for this great leader to lead...

23 Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. 24 So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.

Now this is the final preparation for this nation.

A new leader came to the throne, they had hopes this new ruler would lighten their burden, because they could take no more.

They were so loaded down, so broken, at the end of their rope.

Mercy is what they hoped for, what kind of man could look at their situation, and not show mercy.

But Satan the Destroyer knows no mercy, he comes to kill, steal, and destroy.

He sees his opportunity to completely annihilate this people of promise.

And this devil's influence over the rearing of the next Pharaoh shows all the more.

Instead of leniency, he brings cruelty, instead of mercy, he unleashes wrath.

He presses harder on the backs of the enslaved Hebrews, the crack of the whip comes more swiftly and painfully.

More agony, more anguish.

And finally, look here to who the people of Israel now look to find their hope.

It says God heard, God remembered, and God acknowledged them.

He has not left them, nor has He forsaken them.

His Word, His Promises are true, not one Jot or Tittle will by no means pass away until all is fulfilled.

And little does this nation know that over the horizon, on the back side of the desert God is preparing a man for their deliverance.

Christian, I don't know what burdens you are carrying this evening, I imagine some of you are going through bondage that is causing such despair and hopelessness.

Listen to me, I believe in this God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

I believe He has given us today such sweet and precious promises.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

I believe He is not done working yet, and He hears your cries, He sees your tears, he knows your pain.

And as it says in verse 25

25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.

I believe He is here tonight, and He is looking for those who would believe, He wants those who are done looking to this world for their hope.

This next election we have before us, some might be hoping it will give us the leader that will loosen the burden in our culture.

If you are looking to the next Pharaoh you will be greatly let down.

Look to God, find the end of your rope and reach out to God, let Him reveal Himself to you this evening.

Your Deliverer is coming Christian, look up your redemption draws nigh!

Don't leave here tonight with those burdens you are carrying, the elders and I will be available for prayer if you want to come up during this last song.

God is here, and present in your day of trouble.

I will end with this Psalm

Ps 20

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble;

May the name of the God of Jacob defend you;

2 May He send you help from the sanctuary,

And strengthen you out of Zion;

3 May He remember all your offerings,

And accept your burnt sacrifice.

4 May He grant you according to your heart's desire,

And fulfill all your purpose.

5 We will rejoice in your salvation,

And in the name of our God we will set up our banners!

May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.

6 Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed;

He will answer him from His holy heaven

With the saving strength of His right hand.

7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses;

But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

8 They have bowed down and fallen;
But we have risen and stand upright.

9 Save, Lord!

May the King answer us when we call.

Amen?