

Birth of Moses

Exodus 2:1-10

Bible Memory Verse

Psalm 34:15 NIV

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry.

Bible Story

The backdrop for this story occurs in the chapter preceding (Exodus 1). The king of Egypt (Pharaoh) had issued a decree that all Hebrew boys upon birth were to be thrown into the Nile River (Exodus 1:22). The Israelites are doing all they could to prevent such a tragedy to their children, however, the Egyptians were exerting powerful influence and dominion over them. And yet, even in spite of this cruel and barbaric command, the Israelites were continuing to multiply and increase in number. The Egyptians still could not suppress the rapid reproduction rate of the Hebrews. However, there was still much to fear.

The story opens with a pregnant mother giving birth to a “fine” male child. She succeeded in hiding him for three months, but was unable to hide him any longer (for some specifically unknown reason). So she built a basket, placed the child in it, and set it afloat along the banks of the Nile (ironic that this is where the Egyptians were commanded to toss any Hebrew/Israelite male child). The child’s sister was assigned to watch the fate of the basket and its contents.

To further the sense of irony, the author of Exodus explains that Pharaoh’s daughter was the one who discovered the basket along the river bank. She instructed her slave girls to fetch the basket and soon discovered that a baby boy was tucked inside. She felt sorry for the child and commented that this was one of the Hebrew babies. The child’s sister appeared as an innocent bystander and asked the princess if she should fetch a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby. In subtle narrative defiance of her father the king, the daughter of Pharaoh sent the young girl, who brought back a Hebrew woman—the boy’s mother (whether or not that was known to the daughter of Pharaoh is not clear).

“So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, ‘I drew him out of the water’” (Exodus 2:9-10).

The sense of irony is great here in this story, and it is further understood when we realize that Moses is most likely the author of this book. Perhaps the emphasis of this narrative story is the hand of God in the rescuing of his people, and the fact that He orders the events of this world and not the like of some king of Egypt, who thinks he can go around killing the covenanted people of God. The Lord tends to use the impossible to make a distinct point.

The active reader will also notice the focusing of the story from the scene beforehand. The account goes from an oppressed people by a king who issues orders to slay every male child, to the dramatic saving of a male child by the king’s own daughter. There must be something special about this child that so desperately needs to be saved.

Life Application

God is in full control of the events of this story. He did not pause after Pharaoh made his decree and ask himself, "What should I do now?" God is the author of Creation, the spoken word that crafted the universe and everything we see before us today.

- He is omnipotent, all-powerful
- He is omniscient, all-knowing
- He is omnipresent, everywhere, all the time
- God is a Rock, a steady fortress in times of trouble
- God is our Shepherd, our guide and protector
- God is the Bread of Life, our provider and sustainer

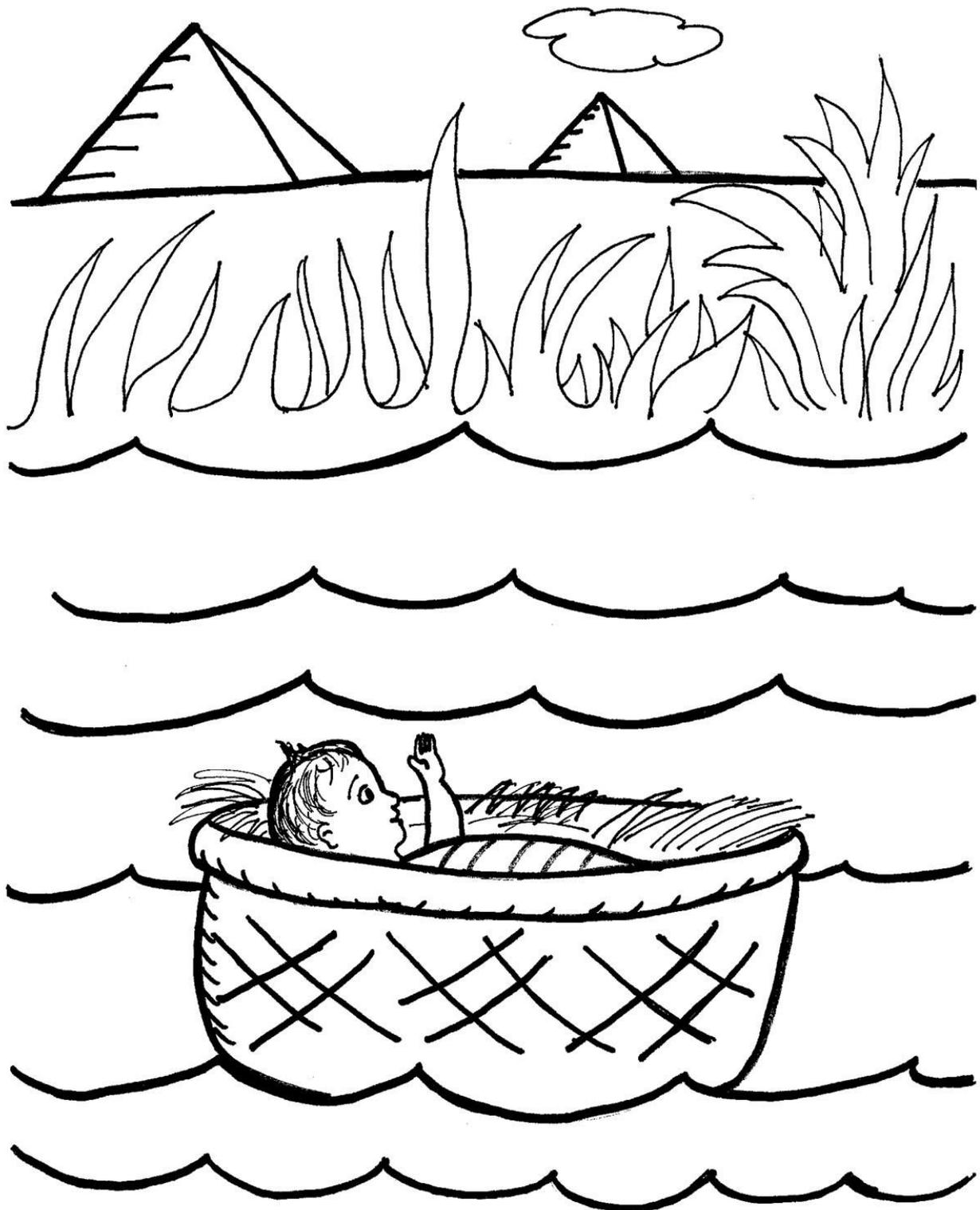
Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, provided a deliverer for his covenanted people. He arranged the events according to His purposes and came through for them. Not according to the Israelites, or even to ourselves, but according to His divine purpose and plan. He asks us to trust Him... to trust that He is good... and put our trust, our faith in Him.

Review Questions

1. What was the name of the male child who was put in a basket in the River? Moses.
2. How long did the boy's mother successfully keep him hidden? 3 months.
3. What river did the boy's mother place him in? The Nile River.
4. Who was sent to watch over the fate of the boy in the basket? The boy's sister.
5. Who discovered the basket and the baby boy inside? Pharaoh's daughter.
6. Where did the baby boy, Moses, live after he was discovered and rescued? In Pharaoh's house.

Coloring Sheet

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