

God Protects Moses

Exodus 1:1–2:10

As we begin this passage, we see that God was beginning to fulfill his promises to Abraham that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. In the 400 years that had passed since Joseph helped rule Egypt, the Israelites had grown so numerous that the ruler of the mighty kingdom of Egypt felt threatened by them.

The fact that the “new king” didn’t know about Joseph probably wasn’t a result of ignorance. The Hebrew wording indicates that the king didn’t want to acknowledge Joseph’s contributions to Egyptian history. “Forgetting” about Joseph may have been convenient because this new king wanted to suppress the Israelites for fear they would conspire with his enemies against him.

From examples in history, the king’s oppression of the Israelites should have had two effects. First, it should have slowed their growth, since a population almost always grows more slowly under oppression. And second, it should have broken their spirits and eliminated the desire to rebel. However, Pharaoh’s plan didn’t work. The Hebrew people continued to multiply as God continued to fulfill his plan among them.

The midwives who received Pharaoh’s instructions to kill Hebrew male babies disobeyed an earthly authority because the command they were given went against God’s will for his people. God was kind to the midwives, not because they lied, but because they followed him and did what was right for God’s people.

We tend to picture Moses’ mother just setting him afloat on the Nile, praying and hoping that someone would find him and save him. However, the story that unfolds makes it

clear that Moses’ mother intentionally chose the exact place and time in which to surrender Moses. Pharaoh had decreed that any Egyptian who found a Hebrew male baby must throw the baby into the Nile. Only someone of influence would be able to save a Hebrew baby from death, and Moses’ mother apparently knew where and when someone like that bathed. So Moses’ discovery by Pharaoh’s daughter was no accident; it was part of his mother’s plan as well as God’s! And Moses’ sister’s suggestion that she get a Hebrew woman to take care of the baby was definitely a part of God’s plan, if not a part of Moses’ mother’s plan as well! God was protecting Moses.

God protected Moses from certain death. And God gave Moses both a God-honoring upbringing and a king’s-class education in Pharaoh’s court. God was preparing Moses to lead his people out of Egypt.

Devotion for Leaders

The One Thing: Life can be difficult and dangerous. God protects everyone who trusts and follows his Son, Jesus.

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: When Moses’ life was threatened, God protected him in a most creative way. Can you recall the supernatural protection of God in your life or the life of someone you know? Thank God today for his love and protection over you, your students, and the people you love.