

## Exodus 2

Exodus 2 The Birth of Moses (Ex 1: 22 “Every son that is born to the Hebrews...cast into the Nile.”)

Exodus 2: 1-10 Hebrews - “the people of Israel; the sons of Israel.” Included any who spoke Hebrew, a semitic language. More cultural than genetic. Included all who lived in the land of Goshen and were under the influence of Pharaoh.

Chapter 2 identifies the saving of Moses (vs. 1-10) as an infant and as a young man (vs. 11-22). There are several motifs that mirror the preservation of Jesus from Herod and the creation account – the birth of Israel as a nation.

The child Moses is placed in a reed basket and is watched over by his sister. The daughter of Pharaoh sees the basket and has the child brought to her. The sister of Moses approaches Pharaoh’s daughter and suggests a Hebrew woman who could nurse the child – the mother of Moses. Moses sounds like the Hebrew verb *mashah* – to draw out. The name also may be related to a common Egyptian word for “son”. Pharaoh had decreed all Hebrew “sons” be cast into the Nile and here we see a “son” being drawn out of the Nile, out of Egypt, just as God will draw out Israel, His “son”, out of Egypt.

How did Pharaoh’s daughter know the baby (Moses) was a Hebrew child? (Gen. 17: 9-14)

Talmud, Midrash, and Aggadah – Commentaries and Jewish Traditions

Exodus 2: 11-22 Moses Flees to Midian

Stephen in Acts 7:23 identifies the age of Moses as 40 as related to vs. 11. Moses identifies as a Hebrew, and not an Egyptian. He kills an Egyptian beating a Hebrew and the next day is accused by two Hebrews fighting as one who has no right to be “prince and ruler” over them. This is something Moses will hear repeatedly while leading the Hebrew people in the Wilderness. He flees to Midian, present day western Saudi Arabia, meets his future wife at a well, just as his ancestors Isaac and Jacob did. His is brought to the home of the priest of Midian – Reule –

later known as Jethro. The daughters identify Moses as Egyptian, yet he identifies himself as Hebrew. Moses becomes a man “without a country or an identity.”

Exodus 2: 23-25    God Hears Israel’s Groaning

These verses tie in with Exodus 1:1-7 with the reminder that the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will not remain slaves, but by their covenant relationship with God, the One who has heard their cries (and saw their afflictions and knew their situation) and would remember His promises to them. During these “many days,” Acts 7: 30 counts as 40 years, which will make Moses 80 years of age when he receives the call of God to deliver Israel. Just as God remembered Noah in the Ark, He remembered His people in captivity.