

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of June 9, 2019

**THEME: "Moses and God's Miracles"
A CHOICE**

Sunday Read Hebrews 11:23-26

"By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command." Praise God for parents of faith in God! Moses was very fortunate to have a mother and father who trusted God above all else. They were living in Egypt, the foreign land where the descendants of Abraham had become slaves. But God stayed faithful to His promise to Abraham that He would make of him a great nation. It is true that it did not look good for the Israelites when the Pharaoh made a decree that all their male babies be killed. But God turned that imperial decree into a miraculous victory by using it to raise up a man who would be the leader of His people to free them from the bondage in which they found themselves. God is the sovereign Ruler of nations! The promised nation would become Israel, a nation that still exists and is the nation where Jesus will take His throne in Jerusalem to rule the earth. All of that because a couple of parents made the choice to defy a cruel imperial decree and obey God who, in Ephesians 6:4, instructs parents *"to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."* I praise God as well for the choice made by the midwives in their making up an excuse for not complying with the Pharaoh's decree to kill the babies. Apparently, the Pharaoh accepted their explanation, but he proceeded in his cruelty to babies. So we see the two choices for every human being: obey or disobey God, the very thing Jesus later said in Matthew 11:30: *"He that is not with me is against me."* That is the ultimate choice for every person in the world today!

A CRISIS

Monday Read Exodus 1:15-17

"Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiprah, and the other Puah: and he said, When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birth stool, if it is a son, then you shall kill him: but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." The king of Egypt was apparently unaware or totally ignorant of his nation's history which had experienced the wonderful blessings bestowed upon them by the God of the Israelites. Remember Joseph, the Israelite who was brought to Egypt by slave traders and purchased by someone in the Pharaoh's palace. Joseph was the great grandson of Abraham, the one to whom God had promised to be the father of a great nation. It would appear, from a human perspective that God's covenant was in trouble by the way things were going, particularly with this crisis generated by the pharaoh's orders to kill all male babies. When things took on a turn for the worse by Joseph's being unjustly thrown into prison, God used that to put things into motion as a step toward the creation of the great nation that He had promised. The Israelites had won favor in the sight of the Pharaoh as a result of God-given wisdom to Joseph to interpret dreams that worked out very favorably for the nation of Egypt. As years went by, that comfort turned into a crisis, but God ruled!

TEMPORARY FAMILY

Tuesday Read Exodus 2:7-10

"And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son." How good of God to control circumstances in such a way that the baby Moses would be in his birth family for those early years of child development and then ultimately brought back to his own family after a stay with a temporary family for safekeeping. His parents had the God-given wisdom to locate him strategically where he would be found by the Pharaoh's daughter. That saved his life! The family of Moses had posted a watch over the baby in the little home made ark. When his sister saw the Pharaoh's daughter discover her brother, she wisely offered to find a nurse for the baby; and the daughter of the Pharaoh thought that to be a good idea, not even thinking that the nurse would be the one who had defied the Pharaoh's decree! Yes, Moses sister took her baby brother home to mother! That gave these God-fearing parents the joy and privilege of rearing their son in a home that practiced faith in God. How vital are these formative years in a child's life, as the life of Moses proved! That early training had a profound effect on Moses for the rest of his life. When he was of age, Moses moved in

with his adopted family in the Pharaoh's palace. As time went on, it became obvious that Moses always had his real family in mind and probably was searching for an opportunity to return home to be among them! The time in Pharaoh's house strengthened his faith.

A REAL FAMILY

WednesdayRead Exodus 2:9-11

"And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown...he went out unto his brethren." There is no question where Moses wanted to be. Yes, he may have had it pretty good if you think only of material wealth and cultural pleasures, but Moses aimed a lot higher than that! Such a life would be very limited, the life of unbelievers who miss out on the amazing and wonderful plans of God for His earth. Human beings are born as eternal beings with a spiritual hunger that can be satisfied only by fellowship and communion with God, our Creator. To live to satisfy only physical needs and desires is a very limited life. That is the point Jesus was making when He said this as recorded in John 10:10: *"I am come that they might have life and have in more abundantly."* Seeking only the temporal and satisfying only the physical is a formula for, not only disappointment in this world, but eternal destruction as well. Moses had interests far greater than what living in the luxury of a ruler's palace had to offer. That all ends; seeking and doing the will of God lasts forever! The psalmist alluded to that very thing in Psalm 16:11: *"Pleasures for evermore."* The detail in Hebrews 11:25 tells of that choice of Moses: *"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."* Family: a good choice!

A CULTURAL FAMILY

ThursdayRead Exodus 2:15-21

"Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Median." Because of his loyalty to his own people when he killed the Egyptian who was roughing up one of the Israelites, Moses had to flee for his life. This stepson of the Pharaoh had to leave the country to survive. His love for his people, the chosen people of God, made him a fugitive as a result of his defending God's people. Again, the life of Moses was in jeopardy, just as at the time of his birth; but God was watching! Now Moses was in a new culture, and this is where he began his own family by marrying the Midianite woman that God had arranged for him to meet at the well. That resulted in his going to her home to meet her folks. Praise God for His Divine arrangements to guide the lives of His people! I think of what the psalmist said in Psalm 23:4: *"He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."* Yes, God led Moses as a young fugitive to the very place where he would meet his wife and begin a life in still another culture. Looking back, is it not obvious that God was preparing him for an adventurous life ahead, for which Moses had no idea at that time? Faith in God and committing to His will surely is the most exciting and rewarding life!

THE CALL

FridayRead Exodus 3:7-8

"And the Lord said, I have seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters: for I know their sorrows; and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and large, flowing with milk and honey." While all that adventure was going on in Moses' life in a strange country, God's people were put under ever-increasing distress back in Egypt! They cried unto God, and God heard their call! Little did Pharaoh know that the very thing he was doing to suppress God's people was actually laying the groundwork to set them free! Just about the time that Moses was happily settling down into his new life, God appeared to him in a *"burning bush."* In today's Bible reading and the Scripture cited above, we read of God's plans that he shared with Moses. God wanted Moses to go back to Egypt and lead His people out of their bondage into the land that He had promised to Abraham years before! The initial reaction of Moses was that he was the wrong guy to do that, that he was not a convincing speaker. His humility is the very thing that qualified him, but God did indicate that He would give him help, his brother Aaron.

THE PASSOVER

SaturdayRead Exodus 12:1-14

"And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where you are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of

Egypt. And this day shall be unto you a memorial: and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever." Moses and Aaron did indeed confront the Pharaoh with the request to take the Israelites to leave in obedience to their God. Pharaoh refused, and God then repeatedly plagued Egypt, but the Pharaoh resisted until the last plague, the killing of the first born except in the homes where the blood of a spotless lamb had been spread. The Passover ordinance became an ordinance for the Jewish people and was the very memorial where Jesus centuries later introduced God's new covenant that is sealed with the perfect Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Himself! That event kicked off the exodus of the Israelites that took them on a dramatic journey through the Red Sea, the Wilderness Journey, and finally to the Promised Land. En route, God gave us the Ten Commandments!