

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Fourteen

GOD CALLED MOSES (1) (Exo. 1:1--2:10)

Burden to Impart:

Through the cooperation of those who fear and love God (like the midwives and Moses' parents), God's called ones (like Moses) will be preserved from Satan's schemes and will be raised up by God to fulfill His calling.

In this lesson we see how the children of Israel multiplied in Egypt and became the slaves of Pharaoh. Because the Hebrew midwives feared God they did not obey Pharaoh's cruel command to kill all the baby boys born to the Hebrews. Also, because Moses' parents feared God, they kept their baby boy alive. Through God's sovereignty, a Hebrew boy who should have been killed was raised up as a prince of the King of Egypt.

Memory Verse:

"By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was lovely, and they did not fear the king's decree" (Hebrews 11:23).

Facts to Teach:

1. Jacob's family, the children of Israel, multiplied exceedingly in Egypt.
2. After Joseph's death there arose a new king who did not know Joseph. Neither did he love the children of Israel.
3. Being afraid that one day the Israelites would take over Egypt, the king (Pharaoh) made all of them slaves and forced them to do hard outdoor work and build him treasure cities.
4. The Egyptians became increasingly harsh, strict, and cruel to God's people so they could control them. Yet, the children of Israel multiplied more and more, and grew stronger and stronger.
5. Finally, "Pharaoh gave the most horrible order; he commanded the midwives to kill all the male babies born to the Israelites.
6. The midwives would not obey Pharaoh's cruel command, for they believed in God and feared God more than Pharaoh.
7. Pharaoh then commanded all the people of his nation to be on the watch. If any Israelite woman was found with a male baby, it should be thrown in the river and drowned.
8. One Israelite woman had a beautiful baby boy and hid him three months. (That must have been a hard thing to do!)
9. This baby's mother believed in God and feared God more than Pharaoh. No doubt, she prayed a lot to the Lord asking Him what she should do. The Lord gave her wisdom and she thought of a marvelous idea.
10. Being able to hide her baby no longer, she made a small basket-boat out of reeds and waterproofed it with tar. She placed the a basket with her baby inside into the river among the reeds, near where Pharaoh's daughter would go to bathe each day.
11. The baby's older sister, Miriam, stayed nearby to observe what would happen.

12. Pharaoh's daughter saw the basket and asked one of her maids to bring it to her. Just when she opened the basket God caused the babe to cry. This caused her to have compassion for the babe and want to keep it. She named him "Moses."

13. Moses's sister then asked her if she wanted a Hebrew mother to nurse the baby for her. She did. She called Moses's own mother and presented her to Pharaoh's daughter.

14. In this way Moses was safely raised in Pharaoh's palace, as a son of the king of Egypt, with the highest education and training the world could offer him. Yet, he was raised by his own Hebrew mother during the first few years of his life. She was able to teach him about the true god, the God of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. She also taught him that he was a Hebrew, not an Egyptian, and that he should love the Hebrews, for they were God's people and they were also his people.