

Jochebed: Moses' Mother

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet sources)

Introduction:

A. Ex. 2:1-10

B. Who was Jochebed?

1. Yocheved, "Jehovah is glory" was a daughter of Levi, and the mother of Aaron, Miriam and Moses.
 - a. Moses is an Egyptian name, not Hebrew. It means "son from the water"; over time it came to mean "deliverer" in Hebrew
2. She was the wife of Amram, as well as his aunt - Ex. 6:20.
 - a. Amram was the son of Kohath, who was a son of Levi. This would make Jochebed the aunt of Amram, her husband.
 - b. This kind of marriage between relatives was later forbidden by the law of Moses - Lev. 18:9, 20:17; Deut. 27:22
 - c. Some Greek manuscripts of the Septuagint state that Jochebed was Amram's father's cousin, and others state that she was Amram's cousin.
3. She lived in Egypt, where the descendants of Israel were being oppressed. The Pharaoh had decreed that all their baby boys were to be thrown into the Nile, because he feared that they might become too powerful.
 - a. It is believed that she was an itinerate midwife by occupation, which would make her well acquainted with Pharaoh's decree
4. When Moses, her youngest child, was born, Jochebed hid him for three months until she could hide him no longer. To save her son's life, she made a wooden chest of bulrushes, made it watertight with asphalt and pitch and put the child in it. She then let the chest float in the Nile while Miriam, her daughter, kept watch over it from a distance.
5. It was found by the Pharaoh's daughter, who had come to bathe in the river. Moved with compassion when she discovered the child, she decided to adopt him. The sister of the child, Miriam, offered to find her mother who was appointed to take care of him. Jochebed nursed her son until he was old enough and brought him to the Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her son.
6. No other details are given concerning her life.

C. She was a godly mother in a godless land among her people who were forgetting about their God.

1. Abraham Lincoln once declared, "No man is poor who has had a godly mother."
2. A Spanish proverb reads, "An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest."
3. Charles Dickens wrote, "I think it must somewhere be written that the virtues of mothers shall be visited on their children."
4. Robert de Lamennais said, "The instruction received at Mother's knee, together with the pious and sweet souvenirs of the fireside, are never effaced entirely from the soul."

I. HER CREDENTIALS

- A. Jochebed was an Israelite, one of God's chosen people.
 - 1. She was of the tribe of Levi from which would come the priests
 - 2. She and her husband Amram dedicated and religious people. They were willing to defy the order of Pharaoh to keep the will of God.
- B. Every mother needs a faithful relationship with the Lord. Nothing will make more difference in the lives of your children than having good, godly examples in the home.

II. HER COURAGE

- A. The decree of Pharaoh - Ex. 1:15-22
 - 1. Jochebed refused to give in to a godless system that would have cost the life of her son.
- B. We need parents who aren't afraid to take a stand for right in these sinful days
 - 1. Men and women who demand more for their children than the world can give them, who demand more of their children than the world expects
 - 2. "My child is going to learn the way of the Lord." - Joshua 24:15
- C. It is interesting to note that these days, often the young people have more of a heart for God and His work than do their parents.
 - 1. Once a little boy asked his father what a Christian was. For a long time, the father sat with the son explaining in great detail exactly what a Christian was supposed to be. When he was finished, he felt he had done a good job of describing a Christian, including himself. His confidence was shattered when his son asked, "Dad, have I ever met one?"

III. HER CONFIDENCE

- A. Her faith was so strong that she was named in faith's hall of fame - Heb. 11:23
 - 1. Job, David, Daniel, Elijah, and Samuel didn't make the list, but Jochebed did
- B. Resist the world - The world was crying out for the death of her son, but this mother stood strong in the face of this attack and placed her son above the will of the world - Prov. 6:22; Deut. 6:4-9
- C. Release the child - It took faith to place the child in the river. It was the same instrument being used to destroy the other babies - Ex. 1:22.
 - 1. It took faith for this mother to take her hands off the life of this child and leave him to the will of God.
 - 2. Some parents live in denial and try to hold on to their children far too long, but the day is coming when that child must be allowed to become an adult. It takes faith to just leave them in the hand of God
 - 3. The child who has a praying mother and a past filled with the Bible has the advantage and will do well.
- C. Raise the child - It took great faith for her to raise the child in Pharaoh's house teaching him about Jehovah in the shadow of Egyptian temples
 - 1. Give them all of God you can, and then give them back to God

How to be a Lousy Mother (Anonymous)

1. Discipline your children only when you lose your temper. Let them get away with anything until you're fed up; then, in a spirit of hostility and anger, let 'em have it! Blow your top, holler, get wild, clobber them, and really make a brawl out of it. The children will get a bang out of you.

2. Don't make yourself approachable, you might have to listen and reason with them. If you get too chummy, they'll want to talk things over with you. And who's got time to waste with kids? You've got more important things to do.

3. If they've done wrong, never let them forget it. Keep rubbing it in; they'll loathe you for it.

4. Give your child all the spending money he wants; don't make him earn it. Money in large quantities is an acceptable substitute for love. After awhile he'll want only your money and couldn't care less about you. It's something like starving him on cream puffs.

5. Compare your child with someone else to make him smarten up. Use that beautiful expression, "Why can't you be like Johnny?" He'll despise you and Johnny both.

6. Mother and father should disagree in regard to the rules for their youngsters. Children will then learn to play one parent against the other.

7. Never let the kids think for themselves. They haven't the equipment. (The reason may be in their heredity or environment.) Make all the decisions for them so they'll never be able to handle life.

8. Treat them with suspicion. Never trust the sneaky little characters. If they turn out well, it won't be your fault. It'll be a miracle of the highest order.

IV. HER CHARITY

A. She gave of her self - She poured out her life into the life of her son.

1. That is why it is important for children give their mothers the honor they have earned

2. Ex. 20:12; Lev. 19:3; Deut. 5:16; Matt. 15:4, 19:19; Eph. 6:2

B. She gave her son - Very literally, Jochebed was raising her son to give him to the Lord - John 3:16; 2Cor. 5:15

V. HER COMPENSATION

A. Her son became a great man of God.

1. He was the one man the Lord chose to be the deliverer of the people of God, and the one who was destined to be known as the Great Lawgiver of Israel.

2. I doubt she knew what he would become; no parent ever knows for certain. But they must raise each child as if he or she will grow up to be a Moses or an Esther

B. Often parents think they have been successful when a child finishes college, or when they make lots of money in some favored career. True success is not achieved until our children let go of mother's hand and take hold of God's.

1. Jochebed remains after all this time as the standard of a godly mother