

A number of years ago, Disney made the Moses of the Bible the star in their animated musical: “*The Prince of Egypt*.” Some of the voice overs were a who’s who of Hollywood stars: Michelle Pfeiffer, Sandra Bullock, Jeff Goldblum, Danny Glover, Steve Martin. Val Kilmer was the voice of Moses. Yes, they took some artistic license to enhance and embellish the Bible Story, but they didn’t really need to since the actual story of Moses from the Bible, has more than enough twists and turns of its own with problems, drama, danger and rescue.

As we think about the Birth of Moses, and peek into The Floating Basket, we’ll quickly realize the problem is real. The drama is real. The danger is real. The rescue ... is real, nothing short of miraculous.

The problem was real because of an evil king who wanted the Israelites, God’s people, dead. How did we get to this point in today’s story? If we rewind about 350 years or so, to Genesis 37, Joseph, one of Jacob’s 12 sons, had been sold by his brothers. He ended up as a slave in Egypt to a man by the name of Potiphar. While in Egypt, the Lord used many years and many events in Joseph’s life to make it so he would become second in command in Egypt.

Eventually, Joseph would bring his whole family: his dad, Jacob, and his brothers (yep, the same brothers who sold him), down to Egypt during a famine. Since God had used Joseph to save millions of lives, the Egyptians were indebted to him and grateful for his family.

If we fast forward to today’s story, to Exodus 2, Joseph and everything he had done for the Egyptians was a forgotten memory. Jacob’s 12 sons and their families had grown and multiplied. Egypt’s newest king got nervous. They may join forces with an enemy of Egypt. Somehow, somehow their growth needed to be stopped.

That’s why the king gave this order: *Drown all the Israelite baby boys in the Nile River!* What a horrible thing to do. Here’s where we pick up today’s story of the floating basket.

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to

a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. In Exodus 6, the Bible identifies Moses’ dad as Amram, and his mom as Jochebed. Instead of being excited and happy about this gift from God’s hand, Amram and Jochebed had to hide this newest addition to the family!

Our reaction as parents is to do the same with our children, not necessarily hide them, but at least protect them from the world around them. We try to monitor what they eat, what they watch, the amount of time they’re on their electronics. We try to raise them to love their Lord, respect adults and be polite.

But like Pharaoh, the devil is very aggressive in his attacks on our children. We can’t always monitor the images and videos they see, or the music and ads they listen to, or the games they play, even when they’re at home. They’re taught they need a phone, and to wear the right kind of clothes. They’re taught that every authority-figure is either not with it or bad, or both. And while all this is going on, their faith is under constant attack – creation is a fairy tale, sin is a choice.

What can we do? Some Christian parents choose to send their children to Christian schools. Others are protective about the friends they choose. Like Amram and Jochebed, we try our best to protect our children from evil.

But no matter how hard we try to keep our children set apart from the world and monitor what they watch and who they play with, sooner or later they’ll be exposed. The devil studies us – he sees what doors are open, even if it’s a tiny crack – and he attacks. If you have a weakness for discipline, he gets your children to expose it. If you have a weakness for anger, he tempts you to show it.

It doesn’t matter if your child is in a Christian atmosphere or not, sooner or later he’ll find a weakness and expose it. Like Moses, who could only be hid for 3 months, there is only so long we can shelter our children.

Pharaoh wanted every Israelite baby boy dead. The problem is real. But it goes even deeper. God promised the Savior would come from the Israelite

people. If all the baby boys are being killed, eventually a nation and a people would die off.

In every story the drama builds and builds until there is danger. What will happen next? Somebody needs to come to the rescue. God stepped in with a rescue that is real, and nothing short of miraculous.

Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Bible. Listen as he continues to tell us: **When she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar & pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.**

There are crocodiles in the Nile River. How could a parent do something so dangerous? How could they take such a foolish risk with their child? Maybe it was a calculated risk, since Pharaoh was murdering all the baby boys anyway? The Bible's own judgment (which is the one that counts) tells us it how. Hebrews 11:23: **By faith Moses' parents hid him for 3 months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.**

It took faith and courage for Amram and Jochebed to have sons. Somehow, they had managed to protect Aaron, Moses' older brother. There was no danger for Miriam, their older sister.

Here's the miraculous rescue. **Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.**

Miriam, observed how the princess was immediately attached to her baby brother and so she quickly proposed: **"Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" "Yes, go," she answered.** The Hebrew woman, turned out to be the same woman who took care of Moses during the first 3 months of his life, his mom.

Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the

child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

Did you catch some of the miracles surrounding this?

- God used the daughter of his people's enemy, to save his people.
- Not only was Jochebed given her baby back, she was even paid to do what a mother does take care of him.
- Pharaoh's order to kill the baby boys would lead to the training of the man God chose to free Israel and be their leader.
- Moses' mom would take care of him for 3 years and nurture in him the faith needed to sustain him through his years as Egyptian royalty.

Against all odds, when things seemed their worst, God stepped in with a miraculous rescue ... The Floating Basket: Moses' Birth.

Against all odds, when things seemed their worst, God stepped in with a miraculous rescue ... The Bethlehem Manger: Jesus' Birth.

- While Jesus was crying out: *"my God, my God, why have you forsaken me,"* God was saving sinners.
- Instead of the cross being a dead end, God raised Jesus back to life. Now we, who once were dead in sin, have life in his name.

God promises all Christians, the same rescue in Romans 8: **"we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him."**

- Maybe your parents didn't throw you in a river as a child, but they did some bad stuff to you.
- Maybe your spouse divorced you for no reason.
- Maybe you've been given bills or health problems that seem to leave you at the end of your rope.
- Maybe you think your child or friend is beyond hope, that God could never bring them back.

God loves those kinds of situations ... against all odds ... when things seem their worst. Even in death God is able to bring eternal life!

If God could rescue Moses by placing him in the Floating Basket in the Nile River, imagine what he can do for you.