

# A New Hope

Long Beach Alliance Church • May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

***She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it to her. When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.”***

***~Exodus 2:5b-6 (NASB)***

## **1) Hopelessness Finally Gives Way**

- A) The plight of Israel gets increasingly worse under the “new king” of Egypt (Exodus 1:8) as he attempts to crush the people under a three-fold plan of ethnic cleansing.
  - i) First, Pharaoh makes Israel a slave people and attempts to crush them with hard labor. However, the Israelites miraculously thrive (1:10-14).
  - ii) Second, Pharaoh attempts to compel leading Hebrew midwives to kill all the newborn Hebrew boys. The midwives refuse, and the Israelites along with the midwives themselves thrive (1:15-21).
  - iii) Third, Pharaoh engages the people of Egypt in infanticide by ordering the death of all newborn Hebrew boys through drowning in the Nile (1:22).
- B) The first chapter of Exodus closes as hope fades for the Israelites. But then, a new hope is born...

## 2) Thriving In The Midst Of Oppression

- A) Two descendents of Levi get married (Amram, the father, married his aunt, Jochebed, the mother – cf. 6:20), and bore a healthy baby whom Jochebed hides for fear of the Egyptians killing her son (2:1-2).
- B) After three months (2:2), the baby (too noisy?) cannot be hidden any longer so Jochebed places her newborn in a waterproofed basket and places the basket near the banks of the Nile River safely amongst the reeds (2:3).
- C) Interestingly, Jochebed “casts” her baby “into the Nile” (1:22), as Pharaoh has ordered. Of course, he is safely in his own personal “ark” near the shore and observed by his older sister for safety (2:3-4). Pharaoh’s oppression keeps producing people of God who miraculously thrive!
- D) Like Noah (Genesis 7-9), the baby is saved from the drowning waters carried by an ark. This both looks back to salvation through the water (Noah), and looks forward to salvation through the waters of the Red Sea (Exodus 14).

## 3) God’s People Are Drawn Out For God’s Purposes

- A) Miraculously, one of Pharaoh’s daughters finds the crying baby in the basket (2:5-6) and has compassion on him. The baby’s sister is quick to offer to help and find a suitable wet-nurse for the baby (2:7-8).
- B) In a touching moment, the baby’s sister goes and retrieves her own mother, who gets recompensed by Pharaoh’s household for weaning her own son (2:9).
- C) Miraculously looking forward, the baby is named Moses, because he was “drawn out” of the water (2:10).