

### CHOSEN TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE

*By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.*  
Hebrews 11:23-29 (NIV)

❖ God always has a PLAN.

*Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."*  
Genesis 15:13-16 (NIV)

1. It often starts SMALL.

*These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt.*  
Exodus 1:1-5 (NIV)

2. It usually involves strong OPPOSITION.

*Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died,<sup>7</sup> but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.<sup>8</sup> Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt.<sup>9</sup> "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us.<sup>10</sup> Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."<sup>11</sup> So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor...*  
Exodus 1:6-11 (NIV)

3. It always demands bold FAITH.

*The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, "When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.*  
Exodus 1:15-17 (NIV)

*The name of the righteous is used in blessings, but the name of the wicked will rot.*  
Proverb 10:7 (NIV)

❖ God always has a PURPOSE.

*Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."* Exodus 1:22 (NIV)

1. God's purpose is based on HOLINESS.

*Now a man of the house 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. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and 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.* Exodus 2:1-4 (NIV)

2. God's purpose is built on FAITH.

*Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe... She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. She opened it and saw the baby... and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then Moses' sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got Moses' mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So she took the baby and nursed him.* Exodus 2:5-9 (NIV)

3. God's purpose always leads to REDEMPTION.

*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."* Exodus 2:10 (NIV)

❖ God always has a PERSON.

*One day, after Moses had grown up...* Exodus 2:11

1. God's Person must be careful not to run AHEAD of God.

*Moses went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known." When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.* Exodus 2:11-15 (NIV)

2. God's person can trust God's plan to PREPARE and MATURE him.

*Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock. Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock. When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, "Why have you returned so early today?" They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock." "And where is he?" "Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat." Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage.* Exodus 2:16-21 (NIV)

3. God's person understands that God never WAVERS from His purpose.

*During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.*

**Exodus 2:23-25 (NIV)**