

### CHOSEN TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE

*It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months when he was born. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid to disobey the king's command.<sup>24</sup> It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.<sup>25</sup> He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin.<sup>26</sup> He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.<sup>27</sup> It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible.<sup>28</sup> It was by faith that Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and to sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons.<sup>29</sup> It was by faith that the people of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground. But when the Egyptians tried to follow, they were all drowned.*

**Hebrews 11:23-29**

#### 1. God has a plan regardless of MAN'S OPPOSITION.

*In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation.<sup>7</sup> But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land. Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done.<sup>9</sup> He said to his people, "Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are."<sup>10</sup> We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don't, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country."<sup>11</sup> So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor. But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread, and the more alarmed the Egyptians became.<sup>13</sup> So the Egyptians worked the people of Israel without mercy. They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands.*

**Exodus 1:6-14**

*Then the Lord said to Abram, "You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years."*

**Genesis 15:13**

#### 2. God's purpose is built upon BOLD FAITH.

*Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, gave this order to the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah:<sup>16</sup> "When you help the Hebrew women as*

*they give birth, watch as they deliver. If the baby is a boy, kill him; if it is a girl, let her live."<sup>17</sup> But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king's orders. They allowed the boys to live, too. **Ex. 1:15-17***

*Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River. But you may let the girls live." **Ex. 1:22***

#### 3. God's ways are not our ways. God's ways are BETTER.

*About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married.<sup>2</sup> The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months.<sup>3</sup> But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River.<sup>4</sup> The baby's sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him. **Exodus 2:1-4***

#### 4. God's purpose always leads to REDEMPTION.

*Soon Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, and her attendants walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her.<sup>6</sup> When the princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This must be one of the Hebrew children," she said.<sup>7</sup> Then the baby's sister approached the princess. "Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" she asked.<sup>8</sup> "Yes, do!" the princess replied. So the girl went and called the baby's mother. "Take this baby and nurse him for me," the princess told the baby's mother. "I will pay you for your help." So the woman took her baby home and nursed him, for she explained, "I lifted him out of the water. Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses. **Exodus 2:5-10***

#### 5. Our failures are not FATAL to God's PURPOSE.

*Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews.<sup>12</sup> After looking in all directions to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand. **Exodus 2:11-12***

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#### 6. God prepares and MATURES those He calls.

*Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters who came as usual to draw water and fill the water troughs for their father's flocks.<sup>17</sup> But some other shepherds came and chased them away. So Moses jumped up and rescued the girls from the shepherds. Then he drew water for their flocks.<sup>18</sup> When the girls returned to Reuel, their father, he asked, "Why*

are you back so soon today?"<sup>19</sup> "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds," they answered. "And then he drew water for us and watered our flocks."<sup>20</sup> "Then where is he?" their father asked. "Why did you leave him there? Invite him to come and eat with us."<sup>21</sup> Moses accepted the invitation, and he settled there with him. In time, Reuel gave Moses his daughter Zipporah to be his wife. **Exodus 2:16-21**

**7. God ALWAYS HEARS the cries of His people.**

Years passed, and the king of Egypt died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and he remembered his covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.<sup>25</sup> He looked down on the people of Israel and knew it was time to act. **Exodus 2:23-25**