

## One of a Kind: Moses

### Exo 1:6-14 NIV

*"Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them. Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. 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." So, they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labour, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so, the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with harsh labour in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labour the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly."*

- The blessing of the Lord brings multiplication and fruitfulness but does not preclude oppression, ruthless resistance, and unfair and harsh treatment.
- Often the blessing of the Lord invites envy (Joseph) or fear as we see above.
- When the enemy fears what is upon your life, inevitably resistance follows.

### Exo 1:15-16 NIV

*"The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiprah and Puah, "When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.""*

- Sometimes the blessing and fruitfulness invites an assignment against you or what you are called to birth.
- The enemy can use "our people" to try and come against us and fulfil this assignment. We know that the midwives feared God and disregarded this order. For some of us, we would have viewed this as the breakthrough and the keeping hand of the Lord. Maybe it was. But the King then increased the intensity of the assignment against God's people:

**Exo 1:22 NIV**

*"Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile but let every girl live.""*

- How would you have felt then? If you were an expecting mom for dad at that time and feared for your unborn child, could you have felt abandoned by the Lord possibly? Rejected? Alone?
- But it was at this point that God was getting ready to bring Moses into the mix. God specializes in bringing forth His deliverers, His deliverance, His answers to our prayers in the least likely of circumstances. In the most impossible of situations.

**Exo 2:1-25 NLT**

*<sup>1</sup>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. Right about the time when the assignment against the Hebrews and their unborn baby boys was the most intense God decides it's the perfect time to bring forth a baby Hebrew boy who will deliver his people.*

- And He used a Hebrew mom and dad. No army of angels. No extra special protection unit. Just a mom and dad who saw with the eyes of faith. Who saw like God sees?

**Heb 11:23 NIV**

*"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."*

- Are you seeing the treasure in those God has called you to?
- Could God want to use you to see and play a role in the formation of a kingdom shaker? A history maker? An answer to your prayers for your people? An answer to the prayers for your nation?
- When we see how God sees, and when we operate by faith, the extraordinary is born. The extraordinary is miraculously preserved even amidst death and destruction when God brings it forth

**Ex 2:3**

*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.*

- Whose idea do you think that was? To place the baby right in the very place he would be most vulnerable. It defies our logic. Pharaoh had ordered all his people to drown Hebrew babies in the Nile. So that was right where God put him. But God always sees ahead and makes a way. That was the place that the Lord needed him.
- Can you imagine what Moses' mom was going through? Some of you can't leave your little ones for a night without missing them and worrying about them. Can you imagine placing your 3-month-old baby in the very place where they were drowning babies just like him? How she must have prayed and trusted God!!
- I want to speak to us parents. We pray for God to use our children for His purposes. We ask for His hand to be upon them. Have you ever wondered what some of the parents of the great men and women of God in the Bible must have gone through?

**Imagine the parents of Abraham:**

**Gen 12:1-2 NKJV**

*<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.*

"Mom, dad, the Lord has told me to leave here. To leave my family and support system, everything familiar, and go."

"Go where, son?"

"Um, I don't know. He said I must go to a land He will show me. He will make my name great, and I will be a blessing..."

Imagine what Noah's parents went through if they were still alive...

"Mom, Dad I am going to build an ark."

"A what?"

"An ark. It's a type of boat that will float and carry 2 of every kind of animal on the earth"

"Why, son?"

"It's going to rain"

"What? Rain? But what's that? And it's never rained! Like, ever! Are you sure you heard right?"

Imagine what Hannah must have gone through leaving her only son, a miracle son for months at a time in a place where his primary influences were far from ideal:

**1 Sa 2:21-22 NKJV**

*<sup>21</sup>And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD. <sup>22</sup>Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.*

Imagine what Elizabeth and Zechariah must have gone through, if they were still alive, when their son, the great John the Baptist, their miracle child, was sitting in prison waiting to be beheaded and Jesus knew of it and did nothing?

**Mat 11:2-6 NKJV**

*<sup>2</sup>And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind sees and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."*

Imagine what Mary, mother of Jesus went through watching her son die on a cross at the hands of his accusers whom he freely forgave.

**Luk 23:34-35 NKJV**

*<sup>34</sup>Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."*

This is not a message on parenting, but I wanted to draw your attention to the fact that Moses had parents. That they played a key role in setting him up to fulfil God's purpose on his life. At the same time, as his life unfolded, I am pretty sure it wasn't what his parents had in mind. Maybe they were heartbroken when he committed murder and fled into the desert. Maybe they never heard from him for 40 years and thought they had lost him. BUT GOD. God can and does use our children.

**Ex 2:4-10**

*<sup>4</sup>The baby's sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>"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. <sup>10</sup>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, for she explained, "I lifted him out of the water."*

- I find that so fascinating. Even his name has connotations of deliverance. How many Hebrew baby boys had been drowned in that water? Yet, Moses was delivered. You see Moses had to be delivered from exactly what the enemy had designed to destroy him. He had to be delivered himself before he could be the deliverer that God was sending to His people, to deliver them from what the enemy was trying to use to destroy them.
- We too, need deliverance and help. God often needs to work in our lives before He can use us in the lives of those, He is sending us to.

**Ex 2:11-12**

*<sup>11</sup>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.*

- Who do you think put that fierce protective instinct in Moses for His people? Who do you think gave him the care, the compassion, the desire to deliver His people? God. We can't try to fulfil the call of God in our own strength. It must be God's wisdom, God's way, God's timing, God's plan, with God leading the process. The end does not justify the means.
- Which people group has God given you a compassion for? The young, children, teens, single mums, married couples, men, the poor, businessmen, a nation, a people group? Who has He called you to? What has He called you to? He has a way, a plan, timing, and everything.

### **Ex 2:13-22**

*<sup>13</sup>The next day, when Moses went out to visit his people again, he saw two Hebrew men fighting. "Why are you beating up your friend?" Moses said to the one who had started the fight. <sup>14</sup>The man replied, "Who appointed you to be our prince and judge? Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?" Then Moses was afraid, thinking, "Everyone knows what I did." <sup>15</sup>And sure enough, Pharaoh heard what had happened, and he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in the land of Midian. When Moses arrived in Midian, he sat down beside a well. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>Later she gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, for he explained, "I have been a foreigner in a foreign land."*

- This really touches me deeply. You can almost feel Moses' pain here. He was a Hebrew brought up in the palace. He knew who his people were. He saw them abused and mistreated. It bothered him. He didn't quite fit in at the palace.
- He escaped to the land of Midian and married a Cushite woman. He was a foreigner in a foreign land again. It seemed to be the story of his life. Never quite fitting in and belonging.
- Do you feel like that? God uses these types of heart challenges to mould us and shape us.

I remember a prophetess prophesying over me once and she said, "God has used your family to come against you to teach you that your total dependency must be on me..." Do you know how hard those types of lessons are to learn? The ones that change you at a heart level. Maybe you are going through one now. Maybe you are coming out of one or about to enter one now. Do you know how valuable they are? The hardest life lessons are sometime the most valuable in terms of character formation and preparation for God's calling. A prayer I have prayed so often is, "Lord please never let the gifting on my life supersede the character to carry it. I don't want to be a statistic at the end of the day. I never want to start strong and not finish or crash and burn and cause damage to the very kingdom I have spent the better part of my life dedicated to building (God's Kingdom). No, these lessons are very valuable even though they are so hard.

**Ex 2:23-25**

*<sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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.*

These are very encouraging verses:

- God heard their cries. God heard their groaning. God is aware of where we are at. God sees. God knows. And God responds to our prayers.
- God remembers His Word and His promises. Come on! If there is a promise in scripture you need to stand on, I encourage you to do so! If there is a prophetic word God has given you, I encourage you to stand on it, to wage

warfare with it. To be patient and pursue it before God because God is not a man that He should lie!!

**Isa 55:10-11 NKJV**

*"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."*

**1 Ti 1:18-19 NKJV**

*"This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,"*

- Have faith, fight the fight of faith. Be patient. Allow God to fulfil His word. Don't violate your conscience. Moses had the right idea but fought physically and violated his conscience. Fight the fight of faith. Wait on the Lord.

**Psa 27:13-14 NKJV**

*"I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!"*

**Heb 6:12 NKJV**

*"That you do not become sluggish but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."*

**Rom 5:3-5 NKJV**

*"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."*

- We must persevere and continue to stand on God's word. He is shaping us and moulding us, training us, and making us more like Christ if we allow Him.

*<sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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.*

- Can I ask you a question? When God decided to act, was that the time that he caused Moses to be born? No! He had already foreseen this situation. He had already known that things were going to get worse in terms of the oppression of the Hebrews. Maybe they had been crying out for His deliverance for a while, but the reality is that God had already made provision for Himself. He had provided a deliverer for Himself. Moses was already born and grown and ready to fulfil God's purpose.
- God knows and sees and really does make provision for us (When we have prayed. It appears His answer of deliverance was in response to prayer).
- God's answer for the nation was a man. One man. Could it be the God is shaping you as the answer to someone's prayers? Could it be that God wants to use you to bring freedom and deliverance to a particular group of people?
- Moses is a type of Christ. A deliverer. God only needs one man to change the course of history. Maybe you are that man, or woman.

### **Exo 3:1-10 NKJV**

*<sup>1</sup>Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So, he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." <sup>4</sup>So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup>Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." <sup>6</sup>Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. <sup>7</sup>And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows." <sup>8</sup>So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to*

*bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."*

- God knew exactly where Moses was. He was at the back side of the desert and God knew where and how to find Him to send Him. It reminds me of:

**Psa 139:7-12 NLT**

*<sup>7</sup>I can never escape from Your Spirit! I can never get away from Your presence! <sup>8</sup>If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. <sup>9</sup>If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, <sup>10</sup>even there Your hand will guide me, and Your strength will support me. <sup>11</sup>I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— <sup>12</sup>but even in darkness I cannot hide from You. To You the night shines as bright as day.  
Darkness and light are the same to You.*

- There is no darkness too dark that God can't find you in. There is no place so remote that He will lose sight of you.
- Story of C2T.
- When it is time, God knows where to find you. Look what the Lord says to King David through Nathan the prophet:

**2 Sa 7:8 NKJV**

*Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.*

- God took David from being a shepherd boy and made him a great King. God saw this heart and the leadership on him even before his family and father did.
- God knows where to locate us.

*<sup>3</sup>Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." <sup>4</sup>So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."*

- Could it be that God is waiting on us? Could it be He is watching our responses to what is happening around us to gauge our readiness. Could it be that we have lost our sense of wonder and child-like curiosity because of the business of life? Could it be that he needs us to have time to be curious, have time to watch and look?

**Ex 3:7-8**

*<sup>7</sup>And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. <sup>8</sup>So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey..."*

**Ex 3:9-10**

*<sup>9</sup>Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."*

- This is such a vivid picture of the intense assignment against the lives of God's people. I think God used the intense oppression to cause His people to cry out for deliverance. Let's be honest, when we are comfortable and content, it is not easy to get us to move on, or to even cry out for it.
- We look and see Moses as one of the great men in the Bible. A type of Christ. A role models. A powerful man. Why did God create the platform for him and allow him to lead and serve the people? God loves His people. It wasn't about Moses; it was about God's people. It wasn't about Moses' ministry, it was about the deliverance of God's people and bringing them into their promised land. Sometimes I think we get it the wrong way round today. The platforms, the influence, the ministries, the great name, the fame so to speak, it's not to fulfil my calling for me.... It's about God's people that he loves that He desires to bring into their promised land!
- Isn't it interesting that God's answer to a nation's prayers for deliverance was one man? God's choice to bring a whole nation into their promised land, was one man? God needs someone. He needs a man. He needs a woman. And then He can do the miraculous. You might say, "Well, what can I do? I am not....". "I don't have...." Well, as you will see, Moses said the same thing, and God's answer is always the same, "Nevertheless, I will be with you..."

**Exo 3:11-12 NKJV**

*<sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup>So He said, "I will certainly be with you. ...*

- When God desires to use us, He is enough. He will be enough. I'm not saying don't get that education or don't prepare yourself, I am just saying that the disqualifications that we impose on ourselves, never disqualify God, He is always enough.
- How is God wanting to use you? What has He been laying on your heart? Or maybe it's time to turn aside and ask Him and be curious.

We have begun to walk through the pages of the history of Moses life. I hope and trust you have gleaned something from what we have covered thus far. We will continue looking at his life next week and see what we can further glean from the great and humble man.