



Moses

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Often, when we look at the story of Moses, we fail to recognize the profound roles that his mother and sister played in his life. If it weren't for them, Moses would not have become the strong, Biblical figure that we know today.

Moses was born during a time of hardship and oppression towards his people. The Pharaoh of that time had issued a decree ordering that all the male children born shall be thrown into the river because the population was so rapidly growing. Since Moses was a healthy child, his mother, Jochebed, hid him for three months. When she realized that she could no longer keep him a secret, she did the hardest thing a mother can do - to part from her child. This is where Moses' life begins. His mother showed him the true, unconditional love; the love that God shows us when we need help. She thought of her child's well being rather than her own. Of course, her decision didn't come easy. Who would put their own child in a basket and leave the basket to float wherever the current of the water may take it? Her decision required an immense amount of faith and wisdom; she put her life in that basket.

Moses' sister, Miriam, also played a significant role in carrying through God's plan. After the basket had been set to float, Miriam stood behind to watch what



would happen to her younger brother. When Pharaoh's daughter found the basket, she did not kill the baby boy (according to her father's orders); instead, she had compassion on him. Miriam, at that same instant, proposed the idea of having a Hebrew woman nurse the baby. So Pharaoh's daughter agreed and offered to pay wages to the nurse. So, through Miriam, God had manifested His plan for safely allowing Moses back into his mother's arms. She left quickly to fetch her mother and tell her the good news. Amazingly enough, after doing some research, I found that the wages that Pharaoh's daughter paid them for nursing Moses were just what they needed to continue supporting the family properly.

After Moses was taken back into his home, his mother instilled in him all the Hebrew traditions and taught Moses about his past. She told Moses about their God, and how to worship Him and how to love Him. She laid down the foundation for a prophet who would, later, be commanded by God to save his own people from misery and death.

Miriam, while she was still a slave, would send words of encouragement to her fellow Hebrew slaves. She would always assure them that God was there and that He heard their cry. She knew that the Hebrew people would be delivered from their bondage soon.



Miriam even encouraged Moses during his time of doubt.

Above all, Jochebed and Miriam are primary examples of what happens when you let God take control of your life. When you look into the story of Moses, you will find that their lives revolved around their profuse faith in God. They always had their free will, but each time, they chose to do things God's way, which is why He showered them with blessings.

There will be times in our lives when we doubt what's best for us. There will be times in our lives when we doubt if God knows what's best for us. What we must do is follow the example of Moses' mother and sister. We must realize that God ALWAYS knows what's best for us and always will know. Once we get past our worries, our doubts and our fears, that is when we can all begin to trust and experience God's infinite power and love for us.

Joseph

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Now Israel loved **Joseph** more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors (Genesis 37:23-24).

So it came to pass, when **Joseph** had come to his brothers, that they stripped **Joseph** of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him. Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it (Ch. 37:26). Then Midiannite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled **Joseph** up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took **Joseph** to Egypt (Ch. 39:1). Now **Joseph** had been taken down to Egypt. And Potipher, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.

From here the story begins to get interesting.

Joseph's master's wife liked **Joseph** a lot. She liked him so much to the extent that she wanted to sleep with him and cheat on her husband. Here is one of the points that we can learn as youth that I wanted to talk about. The Lord Jesus Christ had not yet come down to sacrifice Himself for our sins, so it was really hard for the people who believed in God to have a strong relationship with God. **Joseph** had not seen God and yet he says no to Potipher's wife. He could have easily done it, and say that he doesn't know God and that he will not save him and so on. But whatever happened, he stuck to his faith. After that he was thrown into prison and God was still with him. If that ever happened to us, not being thrown into prison but if something bad happened to us, we, as youth, would probably be mad at God and say that he has abandoned us or something.

But **Joseph** kept his faith and God didn't leave him

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