

# Amram And Jochebed

**Introduction.** Former Hollywood bad boy Martin Sheen says watching his son, Charlie Sheen, lead a similarly decadent life fills him with remorse. He worries that he learned to be a father too late. He particularly regrets his failure to share his faith. "I never lost my faith," Sheen says. "But I felt for a time that I had outgrown the church. Now it is a bone of contention in my soul that I did not share my faith with my kids, as my parents did with me. It was a source of grace when I needed it. I have been greatly nurtured and inspired by my faith."

In examining the parents of Moses, Amram and Jochebed, we can see how this man and woman shared their faith, and it resulted in one of the greatest, most memorable men in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 34:10).

## I. *The History Of The Israelites*

- A. Jacob died in Egypt. He had overcome so much in his life, and in the end died the death of the righteous (Hebrews 11:13, 22). His sons took his body back to Canaan and buried him in the cave of Machpelah.
  1. Jacob and his sons numbered 70 when they went into Egypt. Some have estimated the number of those who left Egypt hundreds of years later at about 2 million.
  2. Joseph became a ruler in Egypt, and the Israelites became a strong nation. Joseph died at 110 and had requested his bones be carried back to Canaan (Exodus 1:1-7).
- B. Another Pharaoh came to power who did not know Joseph and did not look with favor upon the fast-growing Israelites. He held them in Goshen as slaves (Exodus 1:8-22).
  1. Taskmasters were set over the children of Israel to afflict them with burdens as they built Pharaoh's treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. They more they afflicted them, the more the Israelites multiplied and grew.
  2. The Israelites were horror-stricken when one day the message came down from the king's house: "Every boy baby that is born among you is to be killed."
  3. The king even commanded the Hebrew midwives (Shiphrah and Puah) to enforce the cruel law. But the midwives feared God, did not do as the king had commanded, and saved the children.
  4. When asked why they had done this, they said the women had delivered their babies before they got there, thereby saving their people from extinction.

## II. ***The Parents Of Moses***

- A. In spite of the trials of God's people, Amram, a man of the house of Levi, married Jochebed, a daughter of Levi (Exodus 2:1; 6:20; Numbers 26:59). Three children were born to them, each of whom were renowned in their own right.
  1. Aaron became Israel's first high priest (Exodus 30:30).
  2. Miriam was intimately associated with her two brothers in the history of Israel.
    - a) She was a prophetess, poet, and musician (Exodus 15:20-21). As far as we know, she never married.
    - b) There is one blot on her character when she persuaded Aaron to join her in a rebellion against Moses (Numbers 12:1-2). She was struck with leprosy, and Moses prayed to God to heal her. She remained without the camp seven days. Many years later, she died in Kadesh (Numbers 20:1).
- B. The cruel command to slay the male children of the Israelites was in force when the third child, Moses, was born (Exodus 2:1-10).
  1. Amram and Jochebed loved their baby as tenderly as any parents. By faith they hid Moses for three months (Hebrews 11:23).
  2. Moses was saved from the king's decree.
    - a) Jochebed made a little ark of bulrushes and placed her precious baby in it.
    - b) She took the basket to the river and there among the tall reeds by the water's edge she placed Moses and went away.
  3. Miriam, about 12 years old, was left to watch.
    - a) The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe herself in the river. She was walking along the river's edge when she saw the ark among the reeds and sent her maid to fetch it.
    - b) When she opened the ark the baby cried and Pharaoh's daughter had compassion on him, saying, "This is one of the Hebrew's children."
    - c) Miriam asked Pharaoh's daughter if she could go and get a nurse from the Hebrew women who could nurse the baby for her. She agreed, and Miriam notified her mother Jochebed.
    - d) Pharaoh's daughter told her to take the child and nurse it for her and she would give her wages. Apparently she did not realize this was his natural mother.
    - e) The child grew and his mother brought him to Pharaoh's daughter. He became her son, and she named him Moses because she took him out of the water.
- C. God rewarded Amram and Jochebed's courageous faith. They got to train their child for the great destiny for which he was born.

1. God had great plans for Moses (Exodus 3:10). He was entrusted to God-fearing parents, and placed in a home where they were willing to accept responsibility.
2. When God wants to train a child for achieving the best in life, He sends him to a godly mother and father to be schooled (Acts 16:1; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15).
3. Amram and Jochebed were willing and faithful parents.
  - a) They only had Moses for a little while, but they trained one of the greatest men that ever walked upon the earth (Numbers 12:3; Hebrews 3:2, 5).
  - b) One can certainly expect that Amram and Jochebed maintained consistent discipline and did not give up on their desire to have a respectful, well-behaved young man (Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15). Hopefully, the following tips can be useful for power struggles with your child.
    - (1) You must clearly communicate instructions to your child, including the consequences of disobedience.
    - (2) When the child challenges the parent's authority and shows disrespect, then the parent must confront the child. Spanking should be used selectively for clear, deliberate misbehavior, particularly when it arises from a child's persistent defiance of a parent's instruction. It should be used only when the child receives at least as much encouragement and praise for good behavior as correction for problem behavior. Milder forms of discipline, should be used initially, followed by spanking when noncompliance persists.
    - (3) Send the child to a "punishment room" (e.g., bathroom or bedroom). Do not embarrass the child in front of others. There is a twofold purpose for this step. First, it will give you time to compose yourself. Second, it will give you time to think of what you want to say to the child. You want the child to remember this moment, but not just because of the physical punishment.
    - (4) You need to stress that the child is responsible for what happens to them. Stress that by their disobedience, they asked for the spanking. Stress to the child that disobedience cannot be tolerated.
    - (5) Spank the child. Never jerk a child's arms, pull hair, or shake a child. When you heed Solomon's advice and use a "rod" (i.e., paddle, wooden spoon, belt), you disassociate yourself from the mode of punishment. As difficult as it may

- be, the discipline must have a degree of pain if it is to teach a lesson.
- (6) Tell the child you love them. If you discipline your child and do not tell them you love them, you have made a grave mistake (Proverbs 3:12).
  - (7) Forget the episode and return to normal. Take every advantage of opportunities to compliment obedience. Get the children on your side.
- c) Here a little, there a little, line upon line, precept upon precept, they filled his mind with love for his people and reverence for God (Isaiah 28:10-13). Parents need to fill the minds of their children with life-changing subjects:
- (1) Seek God's kingdom first (Matthew 16:24-26).
  - (2) Worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24).
  - (3) Maintain moral purity (2 Timothy 2:22).
  - (4) Marry one who will encourage spirituality (1 Kings 21:25).
  - (5) Assume responsibility for choices and actions (Ezekiel 18:26).
- d) Moses then went away to be schooled in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. He became Pharaoh's heir, but he later stood true to the teachings of his mother and father (Hebrews 11:25-26).
- e) Many mothers do not have husbands who can help with the children. They exhibit tremendous steadfastness, patience, and perseverance. They need a lot of encouragement to do the task God gave them.
4. Amram and Jochebed were not working for the princess, but for God. Their faith became his faith, and they made a great life for him. Perhaps they never saw his greatness. They might be among the great "cloud of witnesses" by which we are compassed about (Hebrews 12:1).

**Conclusion.** Moses became a law giver, deliverer, and prophet. He spent 40 years in Egypt and 40 years in the desert herding the flocks of Jethro. It was there that God called him back to Egypt and assigned the greatest commission a single man ever received. He was magnificent; no man ever had more to contend with as he molded this race of slaves into a mighty nation. What a wonderful contribution this home gave to the world. Truly our children are the center and hope of all our responsibilities (Psalm 127:3-5).