

## A Lesson From Moses' Parents

By Pastor Francis Williams

It is in times of great crises that heroes are born. The last verse in Exodus chapter one contains a command by Pharaoh: "Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, 'Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive (1:22)'" Immediately following Pharaoh's command to destroy the Hebrew sons, we read of the birth of a Hebrew son: "Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months" (Exod. 2:1-2).

What motivated Moses' mother, Jochebed, to hide him from Pharaoh's henchmen? Why did she not give her son up to be cast into the Nile (Exod. 1:22)? This act by Moses's mother is celebrated as an expression of biblical faith. We read in Hebrews 11:23, "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict." Although Moses' father is not mentioned in the Exodus account, the author to the Hebrews includes Moses' father in this act of faith. In Exodus 6:20 we learn that Moses' father's name is Amram (see also Num. 26:59).

According to Hebrews 11:23, it was the beauty of the child Moses, which motivated his parents to exercise this fearless faith in preserving the baby, despising the command of Pharaoh. A.W. Pink suggests that "Most probably, the Lord made known to these parents that *their* child was to be the promised deliverer and furnished them beforehand with a description of him. This revelation which Amram and Jochebed heard from God they believed, and that, before Moses was born. When, in time, he was given to them, they "saw that the child was proper" – it was *the discernment of faith*, and not the mere admiration of nature."

In his speech before the high priest, Stephen says that Moses was "beautiful to God" (Acts 7:20). This indicates that it is something more than physical beauty; it is something divine. According to Pink, "They recognized that he was peculiarly graceful and acceptable to God: they perceived something remarkable in him, which was the Divine token to them that he would be the deliverer of Israel!

One lesson which we can learn from Moses' parents is that we should not be intimidated by the "powers that be" to the point where we are afraid to trust in the LORD. Proverbs 29:25 says, "The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted. Our faith in God must disrobe us of the fear of humans. Faith always triumphs over fear.