

Israel Oppressed in Egypt

CHARACTERS: Jochebed, Miriam, Amram, Pharaoh, VIZIER, Puah, Shiprah

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON Exodus 1 & 2

AMRAM: Joseph all his brothers and all that generation died.

JOCHEBED: A new king, who had not known Joseph, came to power in Egypt.

VIZIER: (*worried*) Pharaoh, the Israelites are fruitful and extremely numerous.

PHARAOH: True. The Israelites are more numerous and powerful than we are.

VIZIER: (*disturbed*) The land is filled with them.

PHARAOH: Let us deal shrewdly with them; otherwise, they will multiply further,

VIZIER: and if war breaks out, they may join our enemies.

PHARAOH: They might fight against us, and leave the country.

VIZIER: Let us assign taskmasters over the Israelites to oppress them with forced labor.

PHARAOH: Have them build Pithom and Rameses as supply cities for me.

VIZIER: This isn't working. The more we oppressed them, the more they multiply and spread.

PHARAOH: (*distastefully*) I dread these Israelites.

JOCHEBED: Amram, my husband, the Egyptians work us Israelites ruthlessly.

AMRAM: Our lives are bitter with difficult labor in brick and mortar and in all kinds of fieldwork.

PHARAOH: Call in the Hebrew midwives.

VIZIER: Here are Shiphrah and Puah.

PHARAOH: When you help the Hebrew women give birth, if the child is a son, kill him, but if it's a daughter, she may live.

SHIPRAH: (*aside to Puah*) I cannot do this as I fear God.

PUAH: (*aside to SHIPRAH*) Neither can I do as the king of Egypt commands.

SHIPRAH: Let us obey God rather than Pharaoh.

PHARAOH: Shiphrah and Puah, why have you let the boys live?

PUAH: The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women.

SHIPRAH: They are vigorous and give birth before a midwife can get to them.

PUAH: God is good to us because we feared God.

SHIPRAH: (*happy*) God has blessed us with families.

PHARAOH: Listen Egyptians! You must throw every son born to the Hebrews into the Nile, but let every daughter live.

JOCHABED: Amram, we have a son. Isn't he beautiful?

AMRAM: We must hide him so he will not be thrown into the Nile.

JOCHEBED : Miriam, we have hidden your brother for three months.

MIRIAM: Mother, what shall we do? We cannot hide baby Moses any longer.

JOCHEBED: Bring me a papyrus basket and I will waterproof it with asphalt and pitch.

MIRIAM: Mom placed the child in it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.

JOCHEBED: Miriam, stand at a distance in order to see what will happen to your baby brother Moses.

MIRIAM: I see Pharaoh's daughter coming to bathe at the Nile. Her servant girls walk along the riverbank.

PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER: I see a basket among the reeds. Bring it to me.

MIRIAM: Pharaoh's daughter is opening the basket. I can hear Moses crying.

PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER: (*feeling sorry for him*) This is one of the Hebrew boys.

MIRIAM: Should I go and call a woman from the Hebrews to nurse the boy for you?

PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER: Yes.

MIRIAM: Mother, come.

PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER: (*to JOCHEBED*) Take this child and nurse him for me, and I will pay your wages.

JOCHEBED: God worked it out so I nursed my own son

MIRIAM: When Moses grew older, mother brought him to Pharaoh's daughter

JOCHEBED: She adopted him as her son.

PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER: I name him Moses because I drew him out of the water.