

PICK THE BABY UP

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

February 13, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

ORPHANS ... right here, all over world. Lost Boys Sudan (25,000), Street kids Brazil (7mill.). God takes notice (dear to His heart) and sends deliverers (all of us) to pick the babies up.

Please open your Bibles. Page 40.

PG-13 Warning ... subject matter that could be disturbing to children ... right out of the Bible, front page. Last week view from the heavens; looking down on story of Exodus; Every true believer has an Exodus story, delivered, made righteous, living in relationship ...

Colossians 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Joseph has passed on ... regime change.

READ 8-10 Oppression rises out of fear.

Fear they would revolt and overthrow, or grow weary of oppression and leave huge hole in labor pool. Israelites foreigners, didn't have rights of Egyptians. Abused and used. – don't think God doesn't notice.

Read 11-22 Crescendo of human rights abuse ... building in three waves.

When children are abandoned, abused, murdered; God says, "enough is enough" ...

A. TASKMASTERS MADE THEIR LIVES BITTER... USED AND ABUSED, they just got stronger.

Maybe at one time or another you have worked for an Egyptian taskmaster, or been one.

Ill. Julio, haunted by the vision, standing before God asked me, "Why are you stealing from Julio?"

B. MIDWIVES COMMANDED TO KILL BOYS ON THE BIRTHING STOOL. (under authority)

Notice how (civil disobedience), QUIETLY SAVING BABIES ... not picketing, not obstructing, quietly.

Showed great courage by risking their lives to disobey Pharaoh.

When summoned, gave a plausible explanation rather than a condemnatory, in your face sermon.

Midwives ... reverence for life. Answered to Pharaoh, what drove them, knew they answered to God.

Frustrated that plan not working, enlists the help of everyone. Culture of infanticide.

C. EVERYONE COMMANDED TO TOSS BOYS IN RIVER.

Nile was regarded as the manifestation of deity. Thus an act of worship to the gods of the Nile.

The Egyptians wouldn't do it either ... "no way".

Application ...

Lost Boys of Sudan ... 27000 children, mostly boys ages 7-17 Orphaned in one of Africa's cruelest civil Street Children in Brazil ... The UN estimates there are 100 million such kids, seven million in Brazil.

In our city ... Westside Pregnancy Resource Center (midwives) Harvest Home, Hope Gardens, Across the border El Faro. Jim Wadsworth, Feed the Children

When children are abandoned, abused, murdered; God says, "enough is enough" ...

God sends a deliverer. Read 2:1-10

1. Miraculous Birth. Jochebed and Amram (Ex 6:20) hid Moses because they trusted God.

Hebrews 11:23 23 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.

2. Miraculous salvation. Tossed Moses in the Nile.

Wicker basket same Hebrew word for ARK in Noah story. Genesis 6:14 ARK ... basket. Only usage.

In both cases, the "ark," instrument of deliverance, was carefully prepared by people themselves.

Who was this daughter of Pharaoh? Hatshepsut ... Powerful woman who later assumed the throne

and became the 5th Pharaoh in the 18th Dynasty. Ruling class was male dominated ... fake beard

Ceremonial bathing in the Nile; Egyptians believed waters of Nile possessed ability to impart fruitfulness and prolong life.

3. Miraculous upbringing ... Miriam in the reeds.

The power of parental influence in early life cannot be underestimated. 1st 2 years?

4. Miraculous preparation/education.

Acts 7:21,22 ²¹ Pharaoh's daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. ²² Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

As the adopted son of Pharaoh, Moses enjoyed the highest privileges in education.

The child was lovingly cared for by his mother, his sister and by the queen who found him.

Most importantly, cared for by God.

Application:

Most important ministry we have is to children.

Whatever we can do to encourage, inspire children to love and serve God. Use gifts and abilities.

Not worship them, but love them, care for them, protect them, champion them, lead them to God.

John and Nina ... their children, Abby, Faith and Joanna – Stewart who has joined them.

Ill. Kevin and Debbie McCall ... **Caitlin**.

Amy & Team. Sunday mornings, Wednesday nights

CCS - Education, teach the children, model for the children. Amazing ministry. Lasting impact.

Conclusion:

God values life, especially tender toward those who are helpless and vulnerable ... when they get hurt He gets riled up. Raises up deliverers. Moses? Jesus? US ... you and me. Imploring us ...

"Pick the baby up". They are our future.

What are we doing, what are you doing to serve the children?