



JOCHEBED

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Who is Jochebed?

Jochebed means “YHWH is glory”. She was a daughter of Levi and became wife of Amram, man of the house of Levi. She was the daughter of Kohath’s sister (Exodus 6:20) (Kohath was Amram’s father – Exodus 6:18). She bore 3 children, namely, Aaron, Miriam and Moses.

In those days, Pharaoh had sent a decree to put to death all the new born male babies of the Hebrews. So, she hid Moses for 3 months after birth. When she wasn’t able to hide anymore, she put him in a basket and left it on the riverbank of Nile among the reeds. She sent her daughter, Miriam to watch over the basket from a distance. When Pharaoh’s daughter found the baby in the basket to be a Hebrew and looked for a nursing mother, Miriam approached her asking if she could bring a Hebrew nursing mother. So, Jochebed became the paid nursing mother for her own son, Moses. When the child grew, Jochebed brought him to the Pharaoh’s house.

Bible Accounts:

Exodus 2:1-10; 6:20; Numbers 26:59;

Exodus 2:1-10 - And a man of the house of Levi went and took *as wife a daughter of Levi*.² So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he *was a beautiful child*, she hid him three months.³ But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid *it* in the reeds by the river’s bank.⁴ And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.⁵ Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it.⁶ And when she opened *it*, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.”⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?”⁸ And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go.” So the maiden went and called the child’s mother.⁹ Then Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give *you* your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him.¹⁰ And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, “Because I drew him out of the water.”

Exodus 6:20 - Now Amram took for himself Jochebed, his father's sister, as wife; and she bore him Aaron and Moses. And the years of the life of Amram *were* one hundred and thirty-seven.

Numbers 26:59 - The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed the daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt; and to Amram she bore Aaron and Moses and their sister Miriam.

Lessons from Jochebed:

- ❖ Jochebed was a very caring and loving mother. She hid her son and brought him up.
- ❖ She was clever and used the wisdom to keep her son safe.
- ❖ She was a strong courageous woman and a true worshipper of YHWH God.
- ❖ Though her name is not mentioned in the New Testament, her faith and her persevering to preserve her son is read in Hebrews 11:23 - By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw *he was* a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.
- ❖ She brought her three children in the discipline and faith of true God of Israel amidst their stay in Egypt.

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