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Recommended Citation

Vaught, W. O., "The Amazing Parents of Moses" (1979). *Vaught Sermon Notes: Hebrews*. 81.
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THE AMAZING PARENTS OF MOSES

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 106
HEBREWS 11:23

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A Plan For Your Life

It should be quite clear to everyone who has ever accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, that the Lord has a plan for your life. This is not a hit or miss proposition but a definite designated plan which began in the mind of God millions of years ago. People have often been led astray by many superficial dedication types of programs and have been made to believe that if you are sincere and if you are emotional enough, you can work yourself into a great experience and live the maximum Christian life. This is not true and this is why the Bible battles at every point to get all believers to take in truth and build life on the truth of the Word of God.

I used to hear Dr. George W. Truett say--

To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge;

To find the will of God is the greatest discovery;

To do the will of God is the greatest achievement.

This is true. And before we can do the will of God, we must know the truth of Bible Doctrine. Knowing and doing are all wrapped together in the Christian life.

The Plan Of God

The plan of God begins at the cross where Jesus Christ took our place, became our substitute and bore all of our sins. Inside the soul of every person ever born into this world is something called the old sin nature. From this old sin nature, both sins and human good come. When Christ went to the cross, he bore every sin of the entire human race. All the sins of all mankind were rolled upon him and he bore those sins, every one. Those sins were judged then and there. But all human good was rejected. Therefore, human good can have no place in the plan of God. In God's plan, God does the work and we get the benefit from it. But our human work and our human effort can never be a part of the plan of God. This is why in 1 Cor. 3 human good is called wood, hay and stubble. It will all be rejected when we stand in his presence. Any way you look at God's plan, you have to finally conclude that man has had nothing to do with making it. It all originates in the mind of God and is being carried out by God without our help.

The Barrier Broken Down

The wall that separated a man from God can never be penetrated by man. It must be penetrated by God and God penetrated that wall in the plan through Jesus Christ. He comes to us. We never go to him. No human effort has ever been strong enough to inch man toward God even for one millionth of an inch. Man goes on positive volition and beams his faith toward God (by the aid of the agent called the Holy Spirit) but this does not mean man does anything in his salvation. At that moment of man's positive volition, God goes into action and he breaks through the barrier and gets to man and saves him. Any way you take it, faith is a non-meritorious act and is never the accomplishment of man. It is always God's achievement. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

God's Great Grace Provision

Once we have saving grace, then God provides living grace for the rest of our lives so we can grow in his likeness. As we take in doctrine,

we advance into super grace. Then one day we will experience dying grace, and then we will move into surpassing grace. In living grace, God has provided three things for us--

- a. He has provided us with a classroom--the local church.
- b. He has provided us with a perfect textbook--the Bible.
- c. He has provided us the authority of a pastor-teacher. He gives us the interpretation of the Word of God.

The Plans Of Your Life Not An Accident

All of this truth reminds us that our lives are not an accident. They are a part of the plan of God. Your life plan and mine was designed in eternity past. You are alive and breathing at this moment because of the goodness and power of God. This thought ought to color every action of yours and mine and ought to make life one exciting adventure. God has a plan for you just as certainly as he had a plan for Amram and Jochebed.

HEBREWS 11:23 "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment." This verse presents to us two of the most unusual parents that ever lived in the history of the world. Those two slave parents actually held the destiny of the world in their hands, under the permissive will of God. In the end of Hebrews 11:16, we read, "For God hath prepared for these same ones a city." Levi had a son named Kohath, and Kohath had a son named Amram and Amram married his father's sister who was named Jochebed. Amram saw his beautiful aunt named Jochebed. She was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen and he fell in love with her and married her. But according to the will of God, it was right man and right woman. One of the children that came from that union was Moses, and he will later on in Leviticus 18 write that it is not for relatives to marry. Moses will write that a marriage like this is equal to incest. But Moses came from the union of Amram and Jochebed and we know it was according to the will of God for this to happen.

Look At The Parents Of Moses

Two children had already been born into this family before Moses came along. Miriam was born and then several years later, Aaron was born, and then Moses came into this house of slave parents. Amram means "high people" with the idea that these people were high in their worship and adoration of the Lord. Jochebed means "whose glory is the Lord." In Exodus 6:20, Jochebed is called the sister of Amram's father. This means that Amram married his aunt. Many years later, Moses must have had a twinkle in his eye when he wrote down what God told him to write prohibiting this kind of a marriage. But God never makes any mistake and according to the plan of God, these two super grace parents were brought together for this very work God has cut out for them.

So in verse 23, we have, "By means of the doctrine resident in the soul of his parents, when Moses was born..." "When Moses was born" is the aorist, passive, participle of gennao. This is a constative aorist and gathers all that went into the birth of this amazing child. Moses had been prayed for and planned for and all preparation had been made for his coming. This is a temporal participle and means "When he was born." There was a crisis in the land. The Pharaoh, Thutmose I, had seen that Israel continued to be a vigorous race even under the terrible

conditions of their slavery. They were too tough for the Pharaoh to handle. He noticed that the Jewish women were very beautiful, so he sent forth an edict that all female children were to be saved alive but no male Jew was to be permitted to live.

Next we have the words "He was hidden." This is the third person masculine, singular, aorist passive, indicative of krupto. But these devout parents refused to go along with the direction of Pharaoh and they hid Moses instead. But they didn't mind this at all for deep in their minds was the burning conviction that what they did was right. Next we have hupo pater and this should be translated "by means of his parents." Thus far in this verse, we have, "By means of doctrine resident in the souls of his parents, Moses, when he was born, he was hidden for a period of three months by means of his parents."

Moses was born in 1520 B.C. during the 18th Dynasty, a new and vigorous regime. They had just thrown the Hyksos Dynasty from power. This new dynasty was greatly disturbed by the vigor of the Jewish slaves. In Exodus 1:15, the Pharaoh (Thutmose I) outlined the method he had for the destruction of all Hebrew males. This was reiterated in Exodus 1:22. This was the pressure the parents of Moses faced and Exodus 2:1-2 explains what actually occurred.

Next we read, "And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months." Now that is a very limited translation and badly needs amplification. We need to have a better explanation of that word "beautiful" and we do have. They did not preserve this boy because he was beautiful, but they saved him on a principle of doctrine. Moses was a fine looking man all his life. He was a great builder and a great military man. He took over the defeated armies of Egypt, for the Ethiopian army had completely defeated Egypt. He organized the armies of Egypt and clobbered all the armies of Ethiopia. This all happened before he was forty years of age. All through these events, God was preparing him for the deliverance of the Jews. The daughter of Thutmose I was named Hatchepset, and she is given credit for many great buildings, such as Karnak. But Moses was the actual architect. He was a great musician and the strongest man of his day.

Next we have the amazing words, "Because they saw" and this is the aorist, active, indicative of horao. It means that when they looked into the face of this baby boy, they saw the plan of God for their nation. Next we have the words "A proper child." How could they see this in a three months old baby? The word is asteios and comes from astu. Astu means a city and they saw a boy pertaining to a city. The word paldon means "Infant." "They saw a pertaining-to-a-city infant."

The Principle They Saw

These same parents saw little Miriam when she was born five years earlier. They loved their little girl but saw nothing outstanding or unusual. They saw little Aaron when he was born two years later, but they saw nothing unusual in him. But now they looked into the face of Moses and they saw more than their eyes actually saw. They took a panoramic view of history and they saw more than a baby. They saw a principle. They refused to kill that baby for ringing in their ears was the Abrahamic Covenant. Though Moses had not yet written it down in scripture, they had the information of Genesis 15:13 and 14. They also knew quite well the eschatological dying message of Jacob and the

eschatological dying message of Isaac. They also knew quite well that dying command of Joseph concerning his bones. No doubt they had quite often seen and talked about that golden sarchopagus which contained the bones of Joseph. They saw all of this when they looked into the face of their boy. This is one of those greatest looks of faith in all of the Word of God. They realized they were looking at a baby who would rise up and be great like Abraham. Abraham was the father of the Jewish race but they were looking into the face of the baby who would be the father of the Jewish nation.

They Put Him In The Hands Of God

The Bible says they hid him for three months. But as the little boy grew, his crying became too vigorous for them to hide him any longer. They simply threw him out into the hands of God and survive or perish, sink or swim, they had faith to believe that God would preserve him. Hatshepset will look into this same little face and will see something of the same thing, but from a vastly different viewpoint. They saw a principle instead of seeing just an individual baby. They didn't see a helpless baby, they saw the delivered of Israel. (Illustration--When R. G. Lee was born, Ole Nan Lindy took him up in her arms and sang and shouted, "The Lord God done sent a preacher to this house." My own Mother said the same thing about me when I was born, even though I only weighed 5 pounds when I was born. She said that when she held me, she knew I would be a Baptist preacher.)

It is quite difficult for parents to be objective about their children but Amram and Jochebed were. This is another illustration that parent can't love all their children the same. Aaron, Miriam and Moses were all different. All the love they had, came to focus in this boy. They actually have faith to see the part he would play in the future of history.

Summary of that phrase, "An infant pertaining to a city."

1. There is a city in Hebrews 11. (Verses 11 and 16)
2. This city is related to the super grace blessings God prepared for the Patriarchs and the Old Testament saints.
3. The city mentioned here in this chapter by the adjective polis is a sign of the total heavenly reward God has prepared for all Old Testament saints.
4. No details are given concerning the city. Neither are we given the details of the New Heaven and the New Earth God is building. God does not want to motivate us by holding before us some beautiful prize.
5. The parents of Moses had so much doctrine in their souls, that when they looked into the face of this baby, they identified him with the completion of God's plan. They had spiritual perception and they, therefore, made great parents.
6. Saving Moses from the wrath of Pharaoh was the springboard into their surpassing grace reward. They knew that the preservation of their son was tied into the deliverance of Israel from slavery.
7. The parents of Moses demonstrated their faith by saving Moses from Thutmose I.
8. Both Amram and Jochebed defied Pharaoh and listened to higher commands. In saving Moses those three months, they showed they had contempt for that edict from Thutmose I.
9. They viewed their son Moses as an infant pertaining to a city and this is also the correct translation of Acts 7:20.

Next we have the words "They were not afraid" and this is an aorist, passive, indicative of phobeo plus the negative. Awe, respect, love are all elements in this word phobeo. This is a culminative aorist and it adds into one act all their training, all their spiritual preparation, all the years of their spiritual growth. (Remember--you don't become a spiritual giant all at once.) They were tempted to be frightened, but for those ninety days, they lived day at a time by faith. That is exactly the way we are to live today. Every day for ninety days, doctrine dominated their minds and they didn't even think about being afraid.

The words "The king's commandment" come from diatagma basilieus and they mean edict from King Pharaoh.

So this entire verse says--

"By means of doctrine resident in the souls of his parents, Moses, when he was born, was hid for a period of three months by his parents because they saw an infant pertaining to a city, for they were not afraid of the edict from the king."

THE MOTIVE OF THEIR SURPASSING GRACE

1. A Definition Of Their Surpassing Grace

- a. In eternity past as a part of the divine decrees and as a part of bringing glory to God in the Angelic Conflict, two special blessing paragraphs were written by God the Father for every believer. (Even you and me!)
- b. One special blessing paragraph is pertaining to time, here and now while we live in their earth. The second paragraph is about the eternal blessings that will come to us in eternity.
- c. Both of these paragraphs are related to the believer's spiritual progress and growth.
- d. The mature believer is known as the super grace believer. (James 4:6) Maturity is based on doctrine in the soul through the daily application of grace to life.
- e. The two special blessing paragraphs are as follows--
 - (1) Super grace blessings for time. Occupation with Christ. These include all of our temporal blessings.

The interlude--Dying Grace.

- (2) Surpassing grace blessings. These will be equal to the magnitude of the perfection of God.
- f. These things are available to all who seize and hold the high ground. (Phil. 3:12-14)
- g. These special blessings and rewards are over and above the special blessings of heaven and eternal life. It is over and above resurrection body with no old sin nature, minus any lake of fire.
- h. Surpassing grace is all that God is able to do for all his people for all eternity.
- i. The nomenclature is found in the Greek translation of Ephesians 2:7, "In the approaching ages (The eternal future) he might demonstrate his surpassing grace riches in generosity toward us in Jesus Christ."
- j. This is our ultimate objective in holding the high ground.

- k. Anything that glorifies God brings maximum blessing to the believers involved.
2. This eternal holy city is the term God uses in designating these surpassing grace blessings for all Old Testament saints. (Hebrews 11:9 and 10, 16 and 23; Acts 7:20 and Rev. 21:2 and 21:10-11)
This city will contain the glory of God and that's all we can ever want.
3. The terms used for New Testament Church Age saints is wrapped up in the word crowns--(Stephanos).
The crown of life--James 1:12.
The crown of glory---1 Peter 5:4.
The crown of righteousness---Phil. 3:12-14.
4. The key to surpassing grace blessings in eternity is pleasing God in time.
5. The judgment seat of Christ is the place where all of this will be administered for the Church Age saints. (2 Cor. 5:10, Romans 14:10-12)