

July 18, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Image by Christine Sponchia from Pixabay

TURN TO THE LORD IN YOUR NEED

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

An Excerpt From Today's First Reading

Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, "Every boy that is born you shall throw into the Nile, but let every girl live." A certain man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, who conceived and bore a son. Seeing that he was a goodly child, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer, she took a papyrus basket daubed it with bitumen and pitch, and putting the child in it, placed it among the reeds on the river bank. His sister stationed herself at a distance to find out what would happen to him. Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river to bathe, while her maids walked along the river bank. Noticing the basket among the reeds, she sent her handmaid to fetch it. On opening it, she looked, and lo, there was a baby boy, crying! She was moved with pity for him and said, "It is one of the Hebrews' children." Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" "Yes, do so," she answered. So the maiden went and called the child's own mother. Pharaoh's

daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will repay you." The woman therefore took the child and nursed it. When the child grew, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her son and called him Moses for she said, "I drew him out of the water."

EXODUS 1:22, 2:1-10

Reflection

The ruler of Egypt orders the genocide of male infants to deal with his fear that the increasing Hebrew population will take over his empire. Ironically, by assuming the females will be no threat, the role of women in Israel's salvation is highlighted. The only person named is the child Moses. It is the unnamed women who rescue him, thus helping him to survive to become God's chosen one, leading the Hebrews into freedom.

The story elements hint at this salvation theme as Moses' mother places him in a "basket," the same Hebrew word for "ark" . . . yes, as in Noah and the ark and the flood, which is an early salvation story in the history of Moses' people. The basket/ark that protects Moses from drowning in the Nile River symbolizes the continuing work of the LORD rescuing the covenanted people from any number of dangerous situations.



Baby in brown wicker basket
Photo by Pixabay

For Pondering

- What part of this story offers you hope? Continue to think about that during the day and invite "hope" to walk with you.
 - Is there a "basket/ark" in your life that supports you in flood waters? Who or what would you name it? Make an effort to be grateful today for being rescued and for your "rescuer."
 - Imagine all the unnamed women and yourself gathered around a table having a conversation. What do you learn from each other?
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For Prayer

*Lord, hear this prayer,
favor me now with love,
and send me your ready help,*

*Lift me from the mud,
keep me from sinking,
let me escape my tormentors
and rise above the waters.*

*Do not let the waters drown me,
the deep swallow me,
the pit close me in its mouth.
Answer me, LORD,
turn to me with mercy and love.*

*Then I shall give thanks
and praise God's name*

*Let your hearts hope again,
for the LORD hears the poor,
does not despise the imprisoned.*

*Praise God, heaven and earth,
the seas and all that live in them.*

AMEN!

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