

FOCUS FOR THE UNFORESEEABLE

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Heb. 11:23

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Our theme this year is...

VISION                      20/20  
HIS VISION.              OUR FOCUS.

During the last couple of months, we have been observing situations where men and women in the Scriptures faced unforeseeable circumstances and walked by faith as they encountered them.

As we focus upon the present, there is much confusion, panic, and hysteria among the people of America, including some of our church members. Besides the COVID-19 pandemic, riots are destroying many cities, protesters are marching, statues are being torn down, and many good people are being misled, coerced, and manipulated. Various organizations, as well as state governments, are threatening good, innocent people just wanting to quietly live their lives.

This morning, we will consider how Amram and Jochebed, the parents of Moses, faced an unforeseeable event in their lives and how they handled it, by faith. Their testimonies may be an inspiration and encouragement to us as we face unforeseeable challenges.

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# I. THE TIMING OF THE UNFORESEEABLE “...when he was born...”

## A. The Obscurity of the Timing

- Moses was born during an oppressive time in Egypt when a Pharaoh reigned that did not know Joseph.
- What was the birth of Moses in regard to all of the other Israelites?

Ex. 2:23 And **it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died:** and the children of Israel sighed **by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.**

- God is in control of “the big picture” while everyone else is focused upon their issues.

Acts 7:17 **But when the time of the promise drew nigh**, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,  
18 Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph.  
19 The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.  
20 **In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair**, and nourished up in his father's house three months:  
21 And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son.  
22 And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

## B. The Obstacles with the Timing

Ex. 1:15 And **the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives**, of which the name of the one *was* Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah:

16 And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see *them* upon the stools; **if it *be* a son, then ye shall kill him**: but if it *be* a daughter, then she shall live.

17 **But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them**, but saved the men children alive.

- The command to the midwives was circumvented, so Pharaoh turns to “all his people” to kill all the male babies.

Ex. 1:22 And **Pharaoh charged all his people**, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.

- During the midst of the decree, Moses is born.
- Amram and Jochebed, moved by faith, trusted God.

Psa 62:8 **Trust in him at all times**; ye people, **pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.** Selah.

## II. THE TROUBLE WITH THE UNFORESEEABLE

Heb. 11:23 **By faith Moses...was hid three months of his parents,** because they saw *he was* a proper child...”

### A. The Conflict is Circumstantial

- Amram and Jochebed were victims of circumstances.
- Most people encounter life-changing challenges which are not their “fault.”

- Amram and Jochebed did what they could, while they could, to save the child.

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- Moses was an exceptionally beautiful baby:

Ex. 2:2 And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that **he was a goodly child**, she hid him three months.

Acts 7:20 “...**Moses was born, and was exceeding fair**...”

Heb. 11:23 “...because they saw **he was a proper child**...”

- Such an outstanding situation for such an outstanding servant would have produced an outstanding movement in the hearts of Amram and Jochebed.



## B. The Confrontation is Certain

- The King of Egypt, Pharaoh, decreed that all male babies must be murdered.

Psa. 33:10 **The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought:** he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.

11 **The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever**, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

12 **Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD;** *and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.*

- The timing was of God – the trouble and trials were allowed by God – the child was chosen by God to lead the historical mission to lead Israel out of Egypt.

### III. THE TESTING OF THE UNFORESEEABLE

Heb. 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.**

A. The Decision of Insurrection – “...and **they were not afraid of the king's commandment.**”

- Both Old and New Testaments record events of insurrection against the political and spiritual powers of their day:

Dan. 3:4 Then an herald cried aloud, **To you it is commanded**, O people, nations, and languages,

5 *That* at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, **ye fall down and worship the golden image** that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

6 And whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. ...

16 **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.**

17 If it be so, **our God whom we serve is able to deliver us** from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, **be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.**

Acts 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council: and the high priest asked them,  
28 Saying, **Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name?** and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.  
29 Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.**

Acts 5:40 “...and **when they had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.**

41 And they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.**

42 And **daily** in the temple, and in every house, **they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.**

= ALL THE TIME...EVERYWHERE

B. The Destiny of Influence = Moses followed in his parents' footsteps!

Heb. 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, **not fearing the wrath of the king:** for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

- If Amram and Jochebed had not had faith to hide Moses, there would be no story of the Exodus.
- The “faith test” of Amram and Jochebed was the hiding of Moses BECAUSE “...and **they were not afraid of the king's commandment.**”
- How many Israelites did NOT hide their child, only to lose him? We do not know as it is not recorded.
- We are focusing on what IS recorded for us:

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were **written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

1 Cor. 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and **they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.**

### The Application

The Coronavirus pandemic, COVID-19, has generated a great upheaval to the world, our country, state, and community. Some have used this as a tool to usurp our constitutional right of free assembly:

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the United States Congress from enacting legislation that would abridge the right of the people to assemble peaceably.

## First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

<https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/amendment-1/>



<http://customstickermakers.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/CustomStickerMakers1stAmendment.png>

“The First Amendment and federal statutory law prohibit discrimination against religious institutions and religious believers,” Barr wrote. “Thus, government may not impose special restrictions on religious activity that do not also apply to similar nonreligious activity.”

<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/departments-of-justice-backs-churches-during-covid-19-restrictions/>

- Unless all other “gatherings” are prohibited in our state, we cannot close our church.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.**



## Conclusion

1 Cor. 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.

4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.