

# ***Miriam: Sister & Prophetess***

*Sisters for Christ*

*May 22, 2013*

## **Exodus 1:9,1:15-2:10**

<sup>9</sup> “Look,” [Pharaoh] said to his people, “the Israelites have become much too numerous for us.” <sup>15</sup> The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, <sup>16</sup> “When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” <sup>17</sup> The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. <sup>18</sup> Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?”

<sup>19</sup> The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.”

<sup>20</sup> So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

<sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

<sup>2:1</sup> Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, <sup>2</sup> and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup> But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. <sup>4</sup> His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup> Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. <sup>6</sup> She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said.

<sup>7</sup> Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?”

<sup>8</sup> “Yes, go,” she answered. And the girl went and got the baby’s mother. <sup>9</sup> Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. <sup>10</sup> When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

- *Describe the courage it took for the following women to do what they did and how God blessed their actions:*
  - *Shiphrah & Puah:*
  
  - *Moses’ mother:*
  
  - *Moses’ sister, Miriam:*

- *What risks might you need to take to show love to a family member?*
- *When is it God-pleasing to disobey the government he has put over us? (see Romans 13:1-5; Acts 4:19-20; Acts 5:29)*

### **Exodus 15:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. <sup>20</sup> Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. <sup>21</sup> Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,  
for he is highly exalted.  
The horse and its rider  
he has hurled into the sea.”

- *What do you observe about the worship of God's people, led by Miriam?*

### **Numbers 12:1-15**

<sup>1</sup> Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. <sup>2</sup> “Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn't he also spoken through us?” And the LORD heard this.

<sup>3</sup> (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

<sup>4</sup> At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, “Come out to the Tent of Meeting, all three of you.” So the three of them came out. <sup>5</sup> Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the Tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When both of them stepped forward, <sup>6</sup> he said, “Listen to my words:

“When a prophet of the LORD is among you,  
I reveal myself to him in visions,  
I speak to him in dreams.

<sup>7</sup> But this is not true of my servant Moses;  
he is faithful in all my house.

<sup>8</sup> With him I speak face to face,  
clearly and not in riddles;  
he sees the form of the LORD.  
Why then were you not afraid  
to speak against my servant Moses?"

<sup>9</sup> The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them.

<sup>10</sup> When the cloud lifted from above the Tent, there stood Miriam—leprous, like snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had leprosy; <sup>11</sup> and he said to Moses, "Please, my lord, do not hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed. <sup>12</sup> Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother's womb with its flesh half eaten away."

<sup>13</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, "O God, please heal her!"

<sup>14</sup> The LORD replied to Moses, "If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back." <sup>15</sup> So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back.

#### **Micah 6:4**

<sup>4</sup> I brought you up out of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the land of slavery.  
I sent Moses to lead you,  
also Aaron and Miriam.

- *How is it clear that this has gone beyond sibling rivalry?*
- *In what sense were Aaron and Miriam correct? Where did they go wrong?*
- *How do power struggles threaten Christian relationships today?*
- *How do power struggles threaten the work that God has given to his Church?*

- *Read Romans 12:3-8 and Philippians 2:1-5. What is the antidote to such power struggles among Christians?*