

Exodus 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi.

Analysis

And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi (וַיֵּלֶךְ אִישׁ מִבֵּית לֵוִי, vayyelekh ish mibbeit Levi)—Moses' birth begins with deliberate understatement: "a man of Levi" and "a daughter of Levi," unnamed until later (6:20: Amram and Jochebed). This anonymity focuses attention on God's providential action rather than human greatness. **House of Levi** is significant: from the tribe set apart for priestly service comes the mediator of the old covenant. The verb **went** (הָלַךְ, halakh) suggests purposeful action, though the text understates the drama—these parents will act in faith to save their child (Hebrews 11:23).

Historical Context

Exodus 6:20 and Numbers 26:59 identify Amram and Jochebed as Moses' parents. Jochebed was Amram's aunt (Leviticus 18:12 later forbids such unions), showing this occurred before Sinai's law. Marrying within the tribe of Levi preserved tribal purity during a period of intense assimilation pressure in Egypt.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the initial anonymity of Moses' parents emphasize God's sovereign choice over human pedigree?
2. What does Levitical lineage for Moses suggest about his future role as mediator between God and Israel?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּלֶּךְ	אֶישׁ	מִבֵּית	לֵוִי:	וַיִּקַּח	אֶת	בֵּת	לֵוִי:
H1980	a man	of the house	of Levi	and took	H853	to wife a daughter	of Levi
	H376	H1004	H3878	H3947		H1323	H3878

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 26:59 (Parallel theme): And the name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, the daughter of Levi, whom her mother bare to Levi in Egypt: and she bare unto Amram Aaron and Moses, and Miriam their sister.