

Exodus 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.

Analysis

And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it (הַלְיכִי אֶת-יְמִלֵּד פָּזָה וַיְנַקֵּהוּ לִי)—**Take this child away** grants permission and protection. **Nurse it for me** makes Moses legally the princess's property while physically in his mother's care. **I will give thee thy wages** (שְׁכָר, sakhar) means Jochebed is paid to raise her own son—God's abundant provision beyond mere preservation. The repetition "the woman took the child and nursed it" concludes the transaction. Jochebed's faith receives full reward: her son lives, she raises him with payment, and he'll be positioned to deliver Israel. Every detail serves God's purpose.

Historical Context

Wet nursing contracts typically specified duration and compensation. Royal wages would have been generous, elevating Moses' family's standard of living. The 2-3 year nursing period gave Jochebed time to teach Moses his Hebrew identity, prepare him for the transition to palace life, and instill faith in YHWH—formation that endured despite Egyptian education (Hebrews 11:24-26).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision of wages for Jochebed's faithful service illustrate that He rewards those who trust Him?
2. What does Moses' dual formation (Hebrew mother, Egyptian education) teach about preparing believers to function in hostile cultures?

Interlinear Text

פִּזְבַּח	בְּנֵי	לְדִבָּר	אֶת	הַיּוֹלֶד	אֶת	בְּתִי	לְהַבְּתָה	בְּתִי	פְּרָעָעַ	הַ	יְהִי	יְכִי	פְּרָעָעַ	הַ	וְתַּתְּאַמֵּר
said	H0	daughter	And Pharaoh's		H1980									the child	H2088
H559		H1323												H3206	
וְתַּתְּנִיקְהָ	לִ	אֵ	לְ	אֵ	אֵת	אֵת	אֵת	אֵת	שְׁכַבְתָּהּ	בְּ	תַּתְּנִיקְהָ	לִ	וְתַּתְּנִיקְהָ		
and nurse	H0	H589	it for me and I will give		H853		thee thy wages		took					H3947	
H3243							H7939								
וְתַּתְּנִיקְהָ	בְּנֵי	לְדִבָּר	בְּנֵי	וְתַּתְּנִיקְהָ											
And the woman	the child	and nursed													
H802	H3206	H5134													

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org