

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 (הִילִיכִי אֶת־הַלֵּד הַזֶּה וְהִנְקֵהוּ לִי, heilikhi et-hayeled hazeh vehinikhu li)—**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** (שָׂכָר, 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

הָיָה	אֶת	הַיֵּלֶד יְכִי	פַּרְעֹה	בִּתּוֹ	לָהּ	וַתֹּאמֶר
H2088	H853	H1980	H6547	H1323	H0	H559
			And Pharaoh's	daughter	said	
וַתִּקַּח	שְׂכָרָהּ	אֶת	אֶתְּ	וְאֶנִּי	לִי	וְהִנֵּקָהּ הִוא
H3947	H7939	H853	H5414	H589	H0	H3243
took	thee thy wages	it for me and I will give		and nurse		
וַתְּנִיקָהּ:	הַיֵּלֶד	הָאִשָּׁה				
H5134	H3206	H802				
and nursed	the child	And the woman				

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org