

affection made them superior to abject fear. And so they are ranked by the Holy Spirit among the heroes of the Old Testament Church, and the mother is specially presented as deserving this honor. Her doings are recorded somewhat in detail. Hence notice,—

2. *The activity of her faith.* It was not simply a sentiment silently cherished. True faith can never be such. "It worketh by love," Gal. 5:6. (a) She hid the child three months. This was no easy task. It involved the keenest anxiety and sleepless vigilance day and night. When concealment was no longer deemed possible, she resorted to another device, for faith is wise and skilful, as well as active. (b) "She took for him an ark of bulrushes." (See "Exposition" and "Lights from the East.") Then followed the supreme trial and act of faith on her part. "The narrative is picturesque. No tale of romance ever described a plot more skilfully laid, or more full of interest in the development. The expedient of the ark, the slime and pitch, the choice of the time and place, the appeal to the sensibilities of the female breast, the stationing of the sister as a watch of the proceedings, her timely suggestion of a nurse, and the engagement of the mother herself, all bespeak a more than ordinary measure of ingenuity as well as intense solicitude on the part of the parents." (Jamieson.)

3. *The reward of Jochebed's faith.* (a) Every item in her plan for saving the life of her child proved successful. The heart of the princess was touched by the loveliness and tears of the babe, v. 6. God works through natural means, makes use of human impulses to bring about beneficent ends. (b) The child is restored to his mother. Is not this more than sufficient reward for all her trouble and trust in God? With unutterable joy she heard the mandate of v. 10. Wages! This is superfluous. What, would she not gladly peril her very life to be permitted to do what is now enjoined? What greater reward could be conferred upon her than the privilege of bringing up her child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and

judging by his career when he reached manhood, we may be sure that she did so with fidelity and success. She grounded him so thoroughly in the principles of the true religion, the principles of the Abrahamic faith, that in due time he "forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king," Heb. 11:24-27. His good home-training fitted him to pass with safety into the court circle and to take advantage of the education which it offered. Hence we are told that he "was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians; and he was mighty in words and works," Acts 7:22. He was thus prepared for his great life work as a writer, legislator and leader of God's people out of the house of bondage. How much under God does the world owe to the faith and educational activity of pious mothers! Compare with the account of Moses' mother the story of Hannah (1 Sam. 1), Elizabeth (Luke 1), and above all, Mary, the mother of Jesus. She came nearer our Saviour, and did more for Him in infancy and childhood than any other. Hence she was declared to be "highly favored" and "blessed among women," Luke 1:28, 42.

#### For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

If skilfully done and not too greatly prolonged, so as to run away with the time, the scholars might be asked for their earliest recollections. Many will be able to go back to four years of age; some even to three or possibly some, although this is rare, to the age of two years. And almost all will give unstinted praise to their mother's love and care and careful training, *ever since they can remember*. Now, take them a step further back. What about that care before they can remember? Here is a charming story of it in the case of one child, whom his parents loved dearly and for whom God had a great work in the world to do. Perhaps this simple division of the story—it seems almost an outrage to break it into pieces—may not greatly mar its beauty, and may serve to impress it on mind and heart.

##### 1. *The love that dared.*

Her own life would probably answer for the child, if he were kept alive in disobedience of the king's commandment (ch. 1:22). It