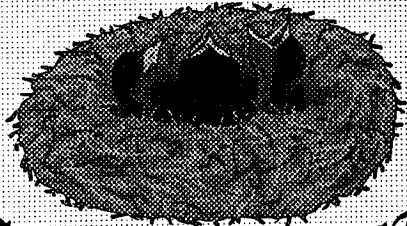
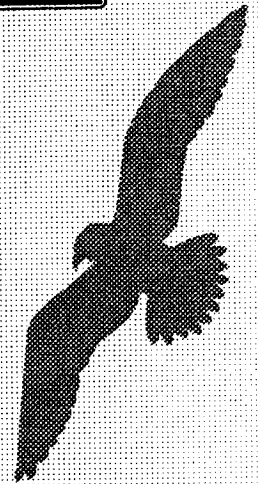


*'They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings
as eagles.'*
Isaiah 40:31



AERY NUGGETS

Dear Friends,

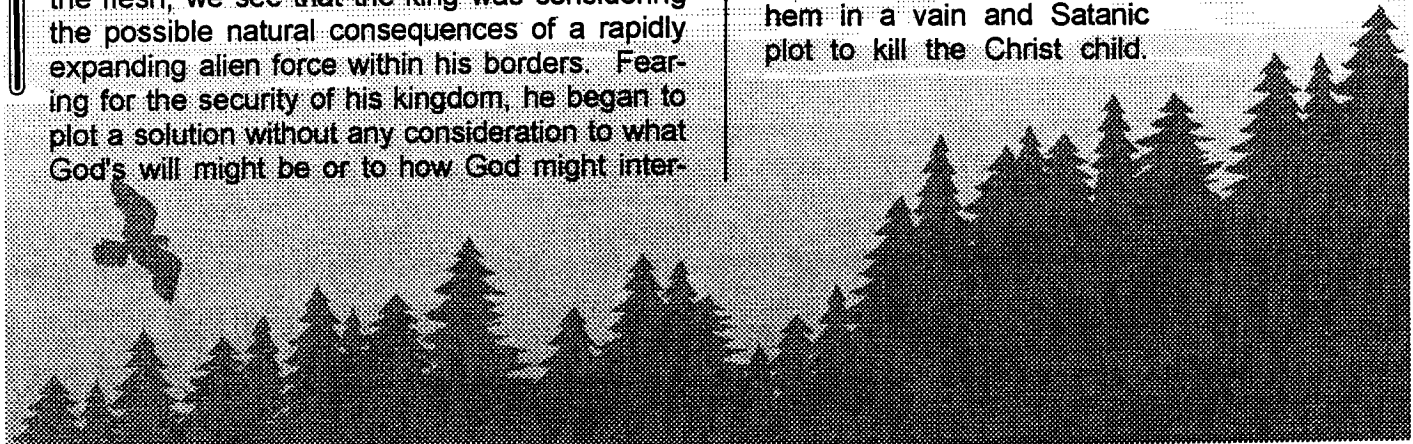
Please read Exodus 1:8-2:10

My focus in this portion is really Exodus chapter 2:1-10, the well known story of MOSES IN THE BULLRUSHES. I have included the verses from chapter 1 to remind us of the circumstances leading up to this incredible account.

As the story opens, we find the children of Israel growing in number in the land of Goshen after the death of Joseph. We also find the king of Egypt, Pharaoh, noticing this expansion in the numbers and power of the Hebrews. In some ways, it would not be hard to imagine the Pharaoh's alarm in seeing a group of non-Egyptian people multiplying and thriving within his land. If you study the history of Egypt, you will see that at various times in its early history, Egypt was divided; unification came only after much bloodshed. Thinking as a political leader and a man in the flesh, we see that the king was considering the possible natural consequences of a rapidly expanding alien force within his borders. Fearing for the security of his kingdom, he began to plot a solution without any consideration to what God's will might be or to how God might inter-

vene (as though there was no God at all.) Isn't this the way of the world today? So, Pharaoh went on in his vanity and made a plan to bring this "threat" under control. He decided to contain the children of Israel by taking away their wealth and land and placing them in bondage, and afflicting them with hard labor. He further decided to contain their numbers by ordering that when Hebrew children were born, the male children were to be thrown into the Nile and drowned.

When you think about this plan of Pharaoh's, it doesn't take long to see where his ideas actually came from. This plan has the marks of Satan all over it. Though the king was little aware of it, the devil was using him to his own devices and fanning the flames of fleshly actions for the purposes of opposing the plans of God and hurting His people. Satan is always there to oppose the people of God, and death is his hallmark. Where else have we seen such a plan? In the story of the birth of Jesus, after the visit of the magi, we read of another king, Herod, who feared this newborn King, and slaughtered the children of Bethlehem in a vain and Satanic plot to kill the Christ child.



After the king's wicked edict, the baby Moses was born, and his life, like the lives of all the other male Hebrew babies, was under the sentence of death. However, despite the vanity of the king and the evil plot of Satan, God had His plan, and it would not be overturned. The mother of Moses hid her baby three months, then when she could not hide him any longer, she placed him in a basket covered with slime and pitch, and floated him in the Nile. Did you ever ask yourself why she did this? This baby was born under the sentence of death in a hostile land—what would you have done? It might be a normal response to want to continue to hide the child, or if not that, to try to take the child and escape. This might seem pretty logical under such terrible circumstances. But placing him in the river? He could only drown or be found by someone. If found by other Hebrews, they would be back where they started, and if found by an Egyptian, you'd have to expect that the child's life would be forfeit. So, why the basket?

I don't know the answer except to say it was faith. We read in Hebrews 11:23, "By faith Moses when he was born was hid three months by his parents because they saw he was a proper child, and they were not afraid of the king's commandment." We really aren't told how the mother of Moses knew to place him in the basket—I do not read that she had a dream where God revealed it to her, or that she was visited by an angel. We only read that she did it, and that the parents had faith, and what a faith it must have been! What happened next, to my mind, was a miracle! The basket was found by the daughter of Pharaoh, the daughter of the very man who sentenced the Hebrew children to death. If she was an obedient daughter, this should have resulted in a very quick drowning, or at least in her asking her father what he wanted done with this obviously Hebrew child. But God had a different plan! He so affected the daughter of the king that she fell in love with the baby and wanted him for her own, though she well knew what he was. The next thing you know, she hired a nurse for the child, the boy's very mother, and soon after, she took Moses into the palace to raise as her own child with the king's apparent approval. The child was thus delivered from what should have been certain death, and was taken into the very palace of his mortal enemy to be totally protected and raised as nobility. What a turn of events! Can you appreciate what has happened here? God is able to take the most impossible situation; and regardless of unfavorable circumstances and powerful opposition, He turns all things so that even the enemy's grand designs wind up serving His ultimate will.

But I have one more observation regarding this story. I note that God has His will, but he does not ask those involved if they would like to be a part of

it, nor does He always explain all the details ahead of time. God had quite a plan for this baby which would ultimately result in the deliverance of the children of Israel from bondage. But I do not read, as I said earlier, that God explained to the parents of Moses ahead of time about all that He had in mind with this plan. They were simply expected to walk in faith, which they did. The will of God would involve the family of Moses having to give their baby up to Pharaoh's daughter, possibly never to be seen by them again. Sure, they must have been relieved to know that the child would be spared, and perhaps they were even comforted to know that he would be brought up in relative luxury, but they had to give him up none-the-less. How would any of us feel about that? And, did the parents of Moses realize from the first the fullness of God's plans for Moses so that they might see that it was all for good in the end? They would have to wait a very long time to even see the earliest outcomes of the plan—Moses had to grow into a young man, flee Egypt as a hunted man, and then spend 40 years in the wilderness until God had him ready for His use. Yet we do not read of the parents of Moses complaining or doubting God. Can't we learn from that? ***God does not always unfold His will in a way that eliminates all difficulties in the lives of His people.*** Just look at the accounts of Peter and Paul in the Acts of the Apostles. There were many beatings, jailing, and other difficult times. Both of these apostles (and other Christians) eventually even lost their lives.

But, God was always with them, accomplishing His perfect will, and leading them faithfully—"Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him," Job 13:15. He may require that we experience hardness in this world, or infirmity, or loss, or even death, but His will is perfect and will unfold as He has planned it, and we have the assurance that :all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose," Rom. 8:28. We may not have angels to visit and fill us in on the details and outcomes of God's plans as they affect our lives; but we can rest assured that we are always in His hands.

***"God took care of the baby,
And in His Word we see;
How our Father in Heaven,
Careth for you and for me."***

Much love in Christ,

Steven Faulkner

For address correction or free new name addition,

write to:
Leslie L. Winters or Christine Albury