

~JOCHEBED (130)

(Joch'e-bed) [possibly, Yehowah Is Glory]

- A daughter of Levi who married Amram of the same tribe and became the mother of Miriam, Aaron, and Moses.
- Now Amram took **Jochebed** his father's sister as his wife. Later she bore him Aaron and Moses. And the years of Amram's life were a hundred and thirty-seven years. (**Exodus 6:20**)
- And the name of Amram's wife was **Jochebed**, Levis daughter, whom his wife bore to Levi in Egypt. In time she bore to Amram Aaron and Moses and Miriam their sister. (**Numbers 26:59**)
- **Jochebed** was a woman of faith, she trusted in her God Yehowah. In defiance of Pharaoh's decree she refused to kill her baby, later named Moses, and after three months, when he could no longer be concealed in the house, she placed him in an ark of papyrus and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.
- Pharaoh's daughter found the baby and claimed him for herself, but, as it worked out, Moses own mother was asked to nurse him. As the child grew, **Jochebed**, together with her husband, was very diligent to teach her children the principles of pure worship, as is reflected in their later lives.
- Meantime, a certain man of the house of Levi went ahead and took a daughter of Levi. (**Exodus 2:1**)
- And the woman became pregnant and brought a son to birth. When she saw how good-looking he was, she kept him concealed for three lunar months. (**Exodus 2:2**)
- When she was no longer able to conceal him, she then took for him an ark of papyrus and coated it with bitumen and pitch and put the child in it and put it among the reeds by the bank of the river Nile. (**Exodus 2:3**)
- Further, his sister stationed herself at a distance to find out what would be done with him. (**Exodus 2:4**)
- After a while Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the Nile

River, and her female attendants were walking by the side of the Nile River. And she caught sight of the ark in the middle of the reeds. Immediately she sent her slave girl that she might get it. (**Exodus 2:5**)

- When she opened it she got to see the child, and here the boy was weeping. At that she felt compassion for him, although she said; This is one of the children of the Hebrews. (**Exodus 2:6**)
- Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter; Shall I go and specially call for you a nursing woman from the Hebrew women that she may nurse the child for you? (**Exodus 2:7**)
- So Pharaoh's daughter said to her; Go! At once the maiden went and called the child's mother. (**Exodus 2:8**)
- Pharaoh's daughter then said to her; Take this child with you and nurse him for me, and I myself shall give you your wages. Accordingly the woman took the child and nursed him. (**Exodus 2:9**)
- And the child grew up. Then she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, so that he became a son to her, and she proceeded to call his name Moses and to say; It is because I have drawn him out of the water. (**Exodus 2:10**)
- According to the **Masoretic** text, **Jochebed** was the sister of Amram's father Kohath, that is to say; Amram married his aunt, which was not unlawful at the time.
- And the sons of Kohath were Amram and Izhar and Hebron and Uzziel. And the years of Kohath's life were a hundred and thirty-three years. (**Exodus 6:18**)
- Now Amram took **Jochebed** his father's sister as his wife. Later she bore him Aaron and Moses. And the years of Amram's life were a hundred and thirty-seven years. (**Exodus 6:20**)
- However, some scholars believe that **Jochebed** was Amram's cousin rather than his aunt, for the **Greek Septuagint** so reads, conveying the same idea as the **Syriac Peshitta** and Jewish traditions.
- For example. (**Exodus 6:20**) reads in part: **Jochabed the daughter of his father's brother, LXX, Bagster**. Amram took his uncles daughter

Jokhaber. **La** When Amram married he took his cousin Jokabad. **Fn** Amram married a kinswoman of his called Jochabed. **Kx** A footnote of **Rotherham** on the expression his father's sister says:

- Probably merely a female member of his father's family. **Thomas Scott** in his **Explanatory Notes (1832)** says: According to the **Septuagint** and the Jewish traditions, Jochebed was **cousin**, not **aunt** to Amram. The best critics suppose that Jochebed was the **cousin-german** of Amram, and not his **aunt**. [**Clarkes Commentary**] When,
- Reuben, Israel's firstborn, Reuben's sons. Of Hanoth the family of the Hanochites. Of Pallu the family of the Palluites. (**Numbers 26:5**)
- Says Jochebed was Levi's daughter, it could mean granddaughter, as in so many other places in the Scriptures where son is used to denote a grandson.
- In his translation, **F. Fenton** comments that the expression born to Levi in this same verse, in the **Hebrew** idiom of language, does not mean to Levi personally, but simply a descendant of the Tribe. The length of time makes it impossible for her to have been Levi's personal child.
- If, on the other hand, the **Masoretic** text is correct at;
- Now Amram took Jochebed his father's sister as his wife. Later she bore him Aaron and Moses. And the years of Amram's life were a hundred and thirty-seven years. (**Exodus 6:20**)
- **Jochebed** was Amram's aunt and not his cousin. Granting the possibility that Jochebed's father was Levi, her mother must have been someone younger than Kohath's mother.
- In this case **Jochebed**, though only a half sister to Kohath, would have been an aunt to Amram.