

UNSUNG HEROES
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CANCELLED DELIVERANCE

Israel had been praying for a deliverer for a very long while. Over four hundred years is a long time. They did not enjoy life, reduced as they were to living as slaves. What happened to the promises God had given Abraham? Every day, the world around them told them what to eat, to wear, when to work, and who to worship. Now the final indignity had been reached. Egypt was demanding the lives of their children.

Moses' mother faced the Nile River and a tough decision. The society in which she lived expected the death of her newborn. Her masters decreed that Jewish children were no longer welcome in Egypt. If she killed her child, she faced life long guilt. If she kept the baby alive, she faced a life trying to keep the growing child concealed. We do not know the punishment for failing to kill him, but she ultimately placed the life of the baby in the hands of the one who gave him to her. Commending Moses' safety to God, she set her baby afloat on a crocodile infested river.

We live in a society that instructs us, even if only via advertising, what to eat, to wear, when to work, and who to worship. Our society also no longer values children. It is an accepted and often expected thing for a woman to terminate the life of an unwelcome interruption to her own. I wonder how many, when facing a tough decision, stop to ponder what the mother of Moses could not have known.

Israel had been praying for a deliverer for a very long time. Their answer was in the arms of his mother while she weighed the value of his life against the status quo of her own. What would God have done had she killed the answer to their prayers? Would he have sent another deliverer? We will never know.

In a world gone crazy, filled with so much to fear, many prayers are made for deliverance. They are made to a deity who hears every plea. Starting with Adam, He even hears the prayers made by the lonely. I have to wonder. How many answers to such prayers have made their way from a womb to a receptacle for medical waste? Does God bother to send another deliverer, once we destroy what he has already provided, just to prevent our temporary inconvenience?. I wonder if the answer to cancer, to AIDS, to poverty, to hunger, and to unchecked evil, lies decomposing amidst our trash.

If the mother of Moses were alive today, the nation of Israel would owe her their gratitude. Because one woman defied society, took the chance, and trusted in God to provide, they are free. But then, most nations owe their freedom to heroes without spotlights.