# God Takes Care of a Baby

God kept his promise to Abraham. His children and his children's children continued to live in the land of Canaan. There were many of them, and they were called Hebrews. As long as the Hebrews remembered God and obeyed Him, everything went well. Even when they forgot about God and had troubles, God watched over them and helped them.

At one time the Hebrews had a very hard time. They had moved into another country called Egypt. The first Egyptian king invited the Hebrews to stay in his country and was kind to them. The Hebrews worked hard. They had children, and these children grew up, married, and had children too, and soon there were very many Hebrews in Egypt. The new kings did not like this. They said there were too many Hebrews in Egypt. They were cruel to them and made them work harder and harder.

There once was a king who was more cruel than all the others. When he saw how many Hebrews there were in his land he made a terrible law. Every time a baby boy was born in a Hebrew home he had him killed. He did not want more Hebrew families living in Egypt! You can imagine how unhappy the Hebrews were.

There lived at this time a good Hebrew woman. She had a beautiful little baby boy. For a long time she hid him in her home and kept him safe and well. But this baby grew bigger and bigger. His voice grew louder and louder. The poor mother saw that soon she wouldn't be able to hide him anymore. What was she to do?

She prayed very hard and soon God showed her how she could save her baby.

She went down to the river and gathered many reeds and bulrushes. From these she made a basket. She covered it with tar to keep out any water. Then she put her little boy in this basket and carried him to the river.

She put the basket in the water among the reeds and bulrushes. It floated close to the edge of the water. This was all she could do, but she knew that God would care for the baby and would keep him from danger.

The mother had a little girl, Miriam, who was older than the baby. Miriam stayed hidden near the river to watch the baby.

It happened that the daughter of the king decided to bathe in the cool water that day. She went down to the river with her servants. She saw something gently swaying among the bulrushes in the water. What was it?

The princess told one of her maid servants to go and bring this thing. The servant brought the covered basket to her and she opened it. There was the beautiful baby boy. As she looked at it, the baby cried.

The princess felt sorry for the baby. She guessed that he must be one of the Hebrew babies. She knew her cruel father's law and wondered what to do with

him. As she stood there, the baby's sister Miriam came out from her hiding place and went up to the princess. Miriam said:

"Would you like me to find someone to take care of the baby? I know a Hebrew woman who could take care of him." The princess said: "Yes, go and find me someone to take care of the baby."

So Miriam quickly ran home and brought back her mother. When the princess saw the baby's mother, she said: "Take care of this baby for me. I shall pay you a salary for doing so and no one will take the baby away from you."

When the baby grew to be a boy the princess took him to live with her in her palace. She treated him like a son. She called him Moses, which means "drawn out" because he was drawn out of the water.