



“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING”

**Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to
know what Israel ought to do...” 1 Chronicles 12:32**

PASTOR’S PEN JULY 16, 2023

We welcome the Pilgrim Rest Family to our Praise in the Park. We look forward to a wonderful time of celebration and praise to our God for the multiple blessings that God has given to us.

We also extend a special welcome to all of our guests who are present with us today. We have a faithful saying here at Pilgrim Rest, “Once you walk through our doors, you are a part of our family.” Well, we understand that we do not have any doors present on today, however, our desire for you to know that you are a part of our family remains.

On today, we will continue with our series on prayer titled, “Children of Victory: How Am I Contributing?” Our text is from Exodus 2:1-10. Here, we are examining three people who contributed to Moses’ success – Jochebed, Pharaoh’s daughter and Miriam, Moses’ sister. These three provided a cross-cultural, intergenerational team who worked together (by doing what they individually led to do) for the benefit of Moses.

We are all well aware of the intentional, apparently coordinated efforts to destroy Black children, - especially the male children. We see these efforts occurring across all disciplines: socially, educationally, economically, mentally, physically, etc. We ask, “Why kill the boys – the male children? There are basically three reasons why the male children are targeted for destruction. These reasons are consistent with why the Pharaoh chose to destroy the male children in Moses’ day, why King Herod chose to destroy the male children in Jesus’ day and the same reasons why young, Black males are targeted for destruction in 2023.

First, people tend to kill who they are afraid of. For centuries, Black males have been promoted as monsters, brutes and animals. Black men have been characterized as dangerous and deadly. Americans have been conditioned to be afraid of Black males. After all, all they want to do is rape your daughters and steal your money. Why are they really afraid?

Second, they are afraid because the males are able to fight – that is, they pose a greater threat. This in no way take anything from Black females. It only highlights the strength of Black males. Understand that the strength to fight goes well beyond physical strength. It encompasses a holistic view of strength. Therefore, when you destroy the Black male, you destroy the potential for all Black people to succeed.

Third, they are afraid because the males are able to procreate. As genocidal practices have occurred through history, to destroy a group of people, you destroy the males. If there are no men to procreate, there will be no offspring. No group of people can continue to populate without males. After the men are destroyed, the enemy will procreate with the women and those children will be assimilated into the dominate culture. Therefore, when you destroy the Black male, you destroy the Black population.

May we all take seriously the opportunity to positively contribute to all of our children – especially our young males.