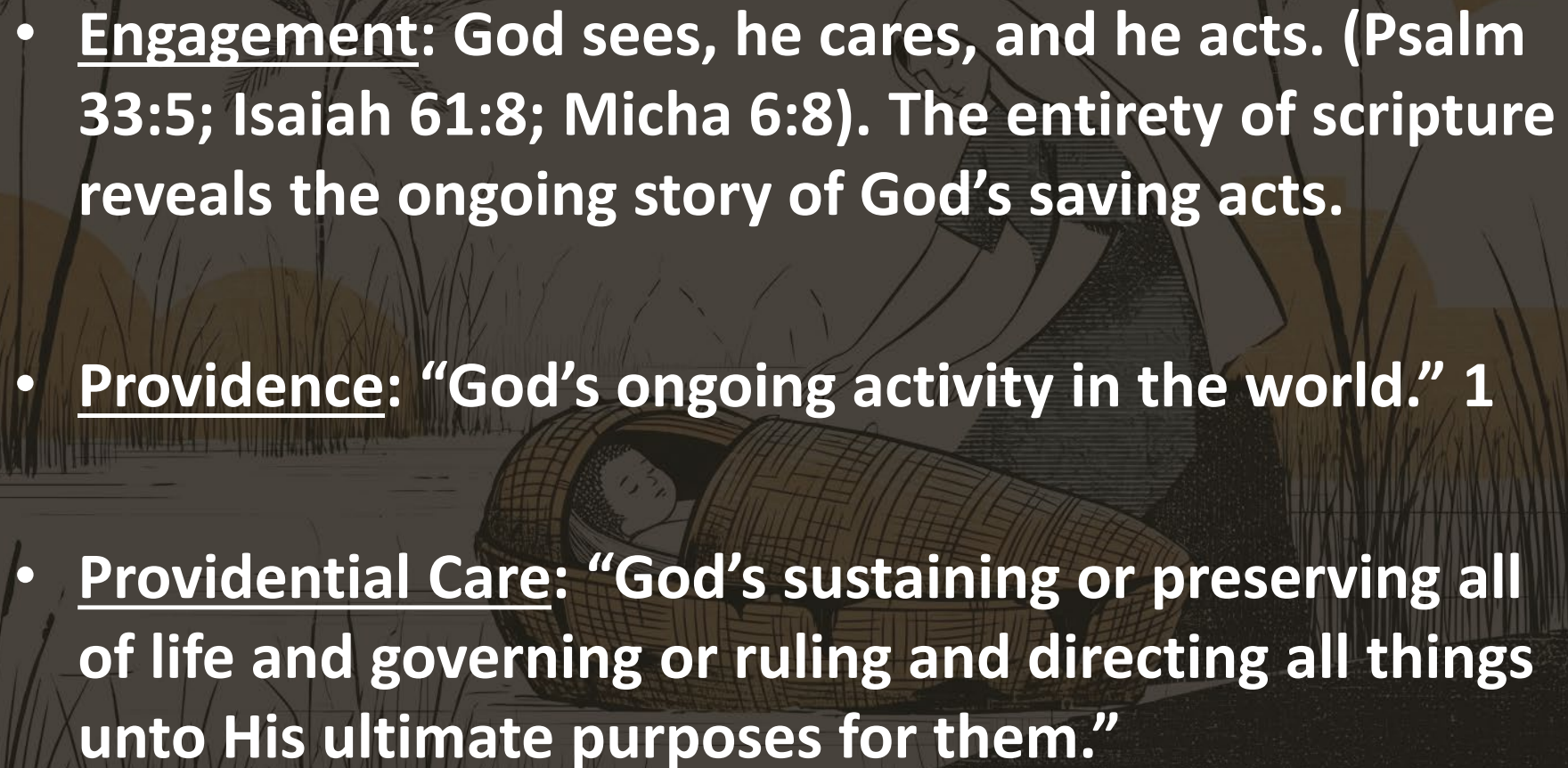


An illustration depicting a woman in a dark dress and white headscarf placing a baby into a woven basket. The basket is floating in a river. The background features palm trees and a sunset or sunrise sky with a large sun. The scene is framed by a white border.

*Placing Your Family
In God's Providential Hands*

Exodus 2:1-10

Words & Definitions

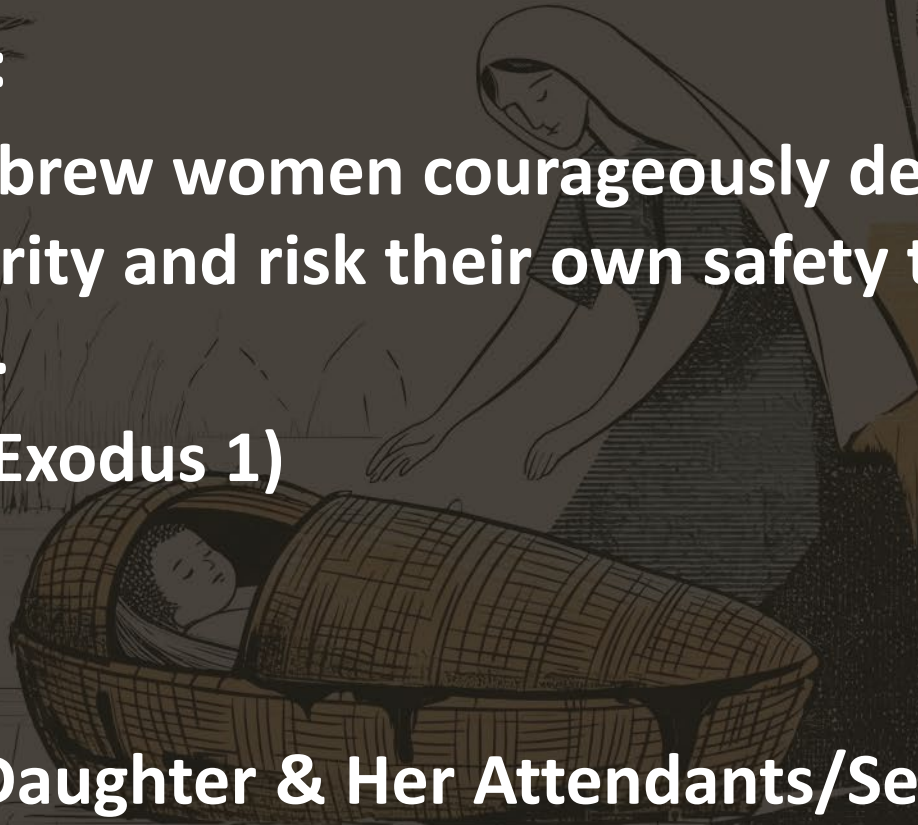
- Engagement: God sees, he cares, and he acts. (Psalm 33:5; Isaiah 61:8; Micha 6:8). The entirety of scripture reveals the ongoing story of God's saving acts.
 - Providence: "God's ongoing activity in the world." 1
 - Providential Care: "God's sustaining or preserving all of life and governing or ruling and directing all things unto His ultimate purposes for them."
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1. God's providential care takes place in Moses' birth narrative through "a distinct combination of human courage and divine activity."

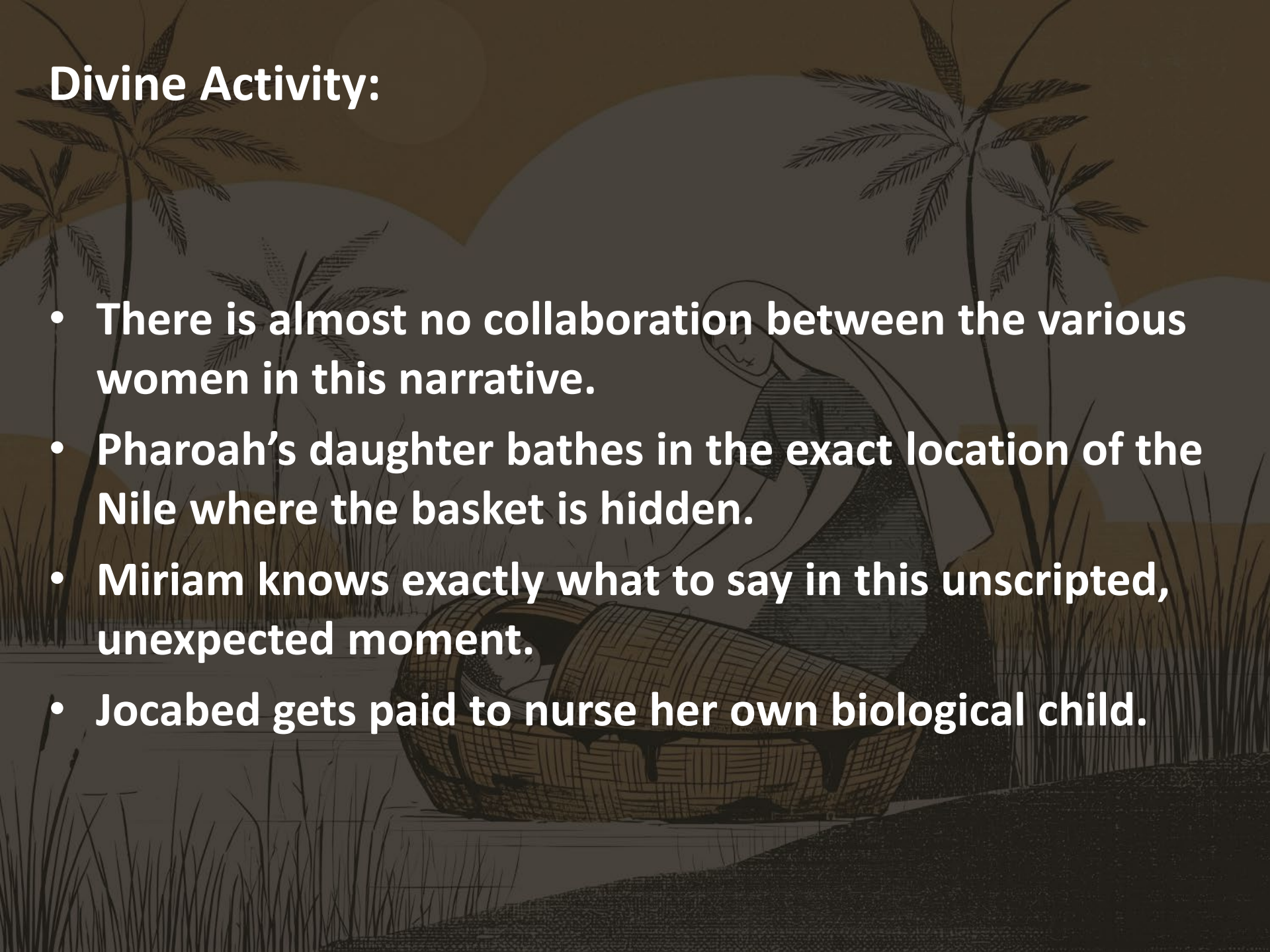
Human Courage:

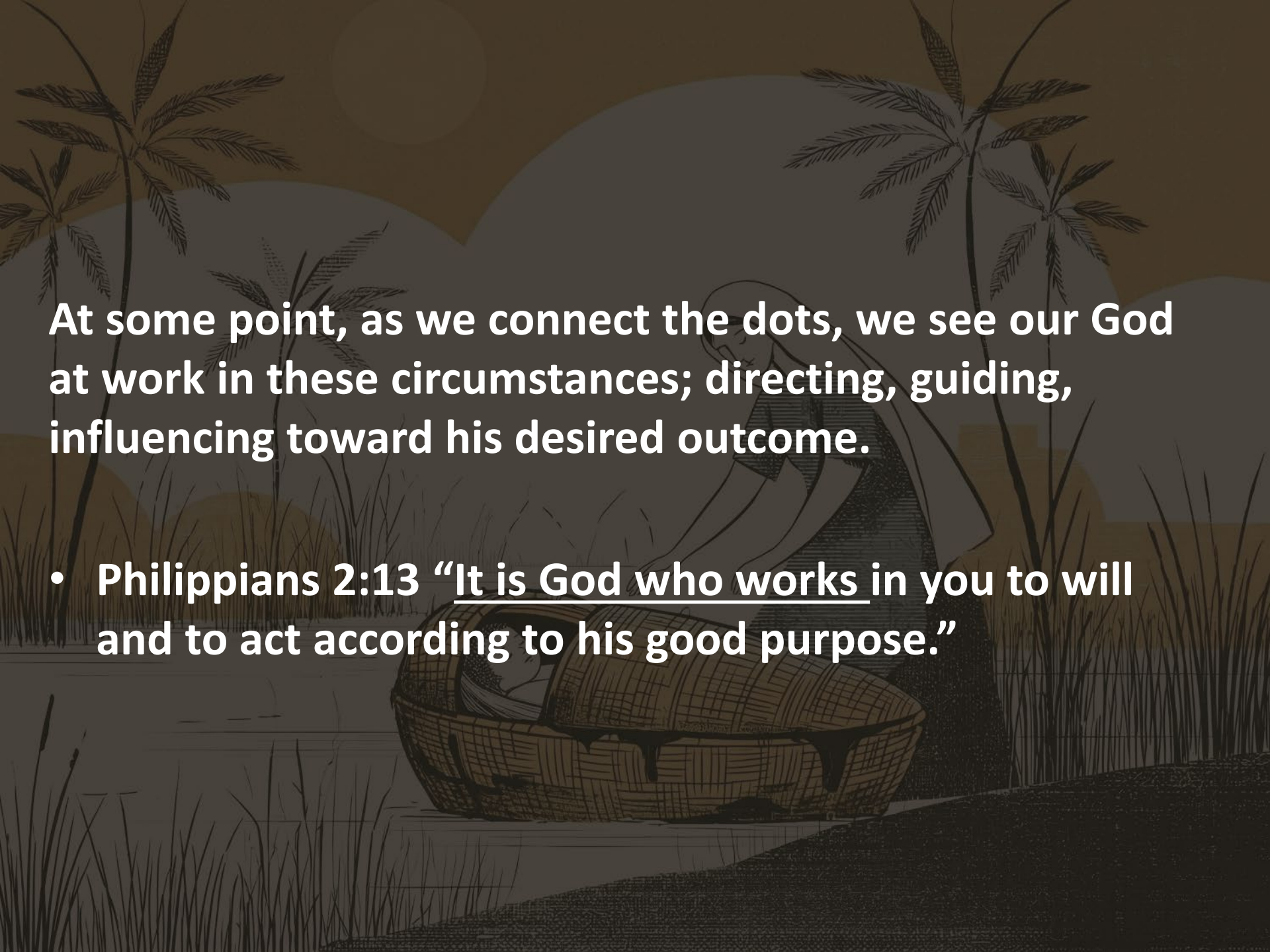
Egyptian and Hebrew women courageously defy governing authority and risk their own safety to protect a baby boy's life.

- Midwives (Exodus 1)**
- Mother**
- Sister**
- Pharaoh's Daughter & Her Attendants/Servants**



Divine Activity:

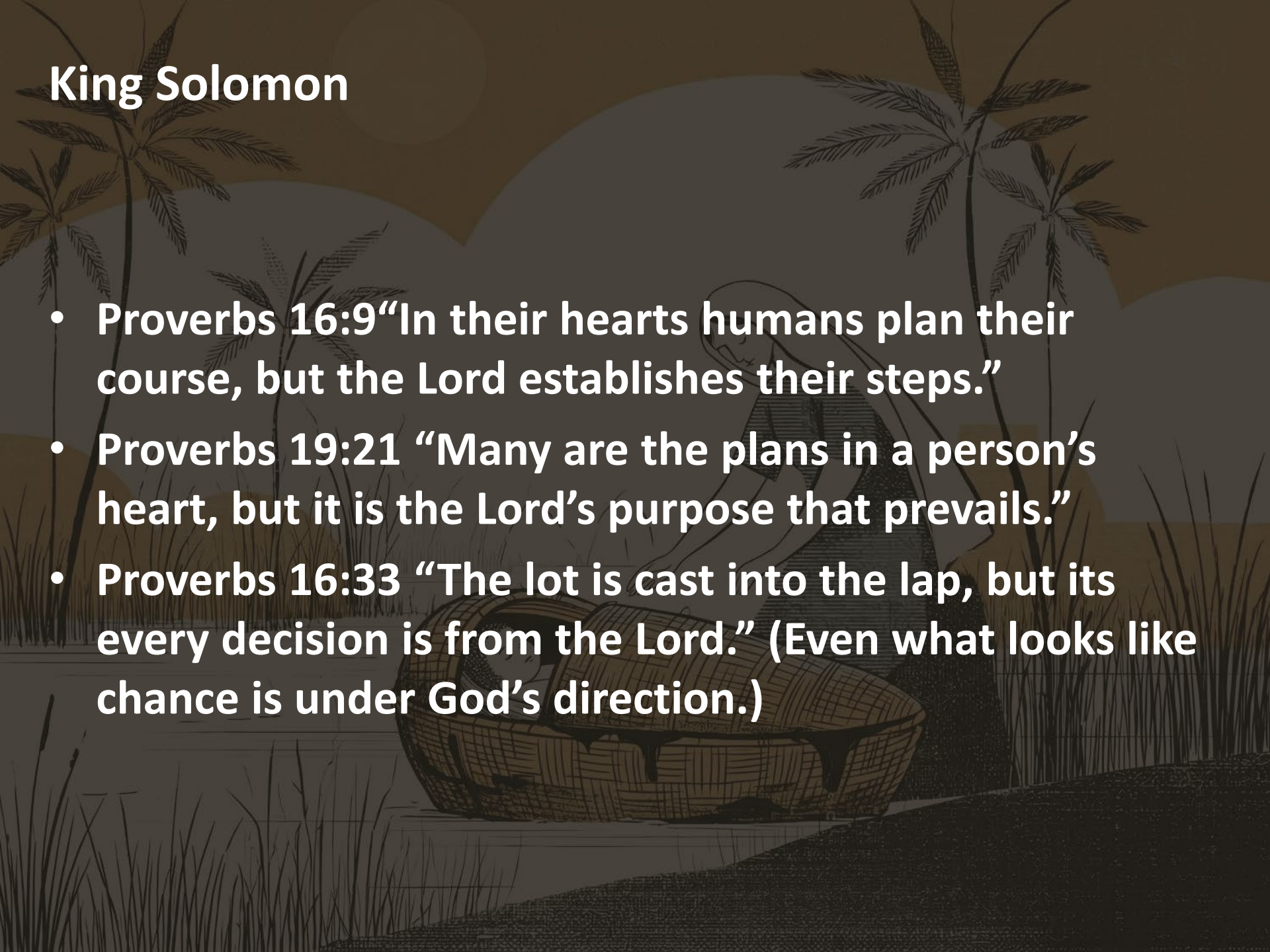
- **There is almost no collaboration between the various women in this narrative.**
 - **Pharoah's daughter bathes in the exact location of the Nile where the basket is hidden.**
 - **Miriam knows exactly what to say in this unscripted, unexpected moment.**
 - **Jocabed gets paid to nurse her own biological child.**
- 



At some point, as we connect the dots, we see our God at work in these circumstances; directing, guiding, influencing toward his desired outcome.

- **Philippians 2:13 “It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”**

King Solomon


- **Proverbs 16:9** “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”
 - **Proverbs 19:21** “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”
 - **Proverbs 16:33** “The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.” (Even what looks like chance is under God’s direction.)
- 

Scripture consistently shows us that God is not distant or passive. He is actively directing circumstances and working through even the smallest details to accomplish His purposes.

Genesis 50:20 “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good...”



Ruth 2:3 “As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz...” (God arranging relationships, provision, and lineage...leading to David – Jesus).



Esther 4:14 “...Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”




Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

God is present (Psalm 23), engaged (Phillippians 2:13), and working (John 5:17) for our good even in dark times.

This is deeply rooted truth that instills rock solid hope and a pathway through adversity.



Phillippians 2:13 says that it is God who works in me. If he is working in me then this is also true for my children. He is at work in them.



Phillippians 1:6 “being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Thanks be to God! He Does the heavy lifting. He does the hard work in us and in our children so that we (and they) are able to act according to his good purpose.

Does this mean that bad things won't happen?

It means that even in the dark places, the story isn't over. The devil hasn't won. God in his providence is still at work.



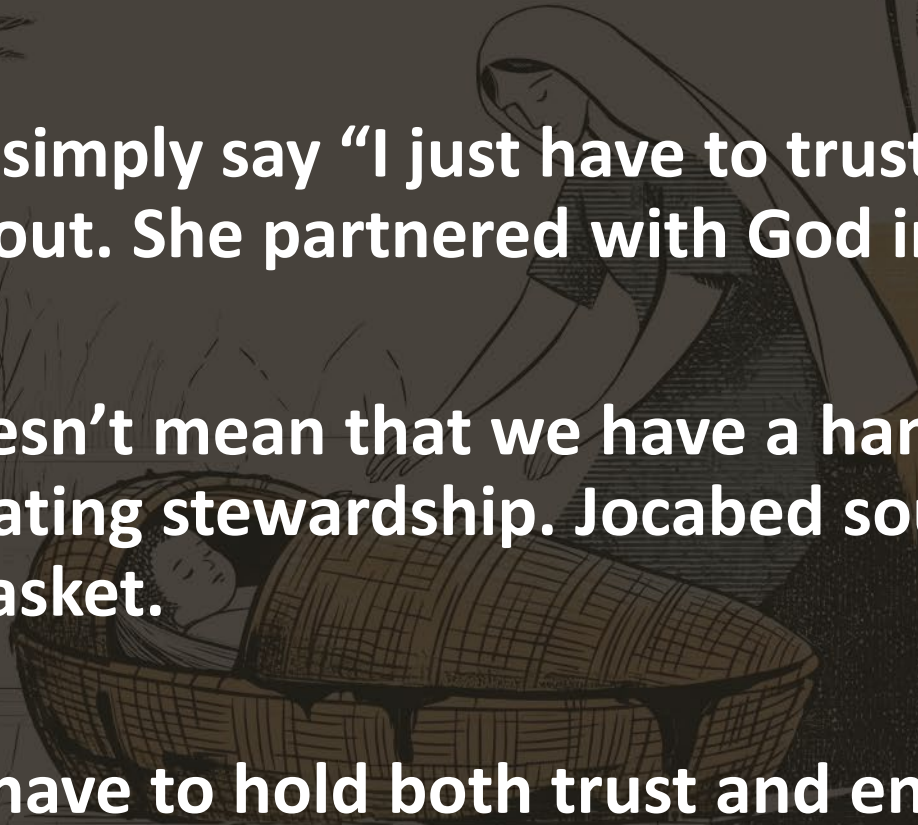
3. God invites us to join him in his work. Joining God in his work involves practicing trust, engagement, stillness, and discernment.

Engagement:

Jochebed didn't simply say "I just have to trust the Lord." And then check out. She partnered with God in his work.

Trusting God doesn't mean that we have a hands-off mentality, abdicating stewardship. Jocabed sources and waterproofs a basket.

Many times we have to hold both trust and engagement in our hands.

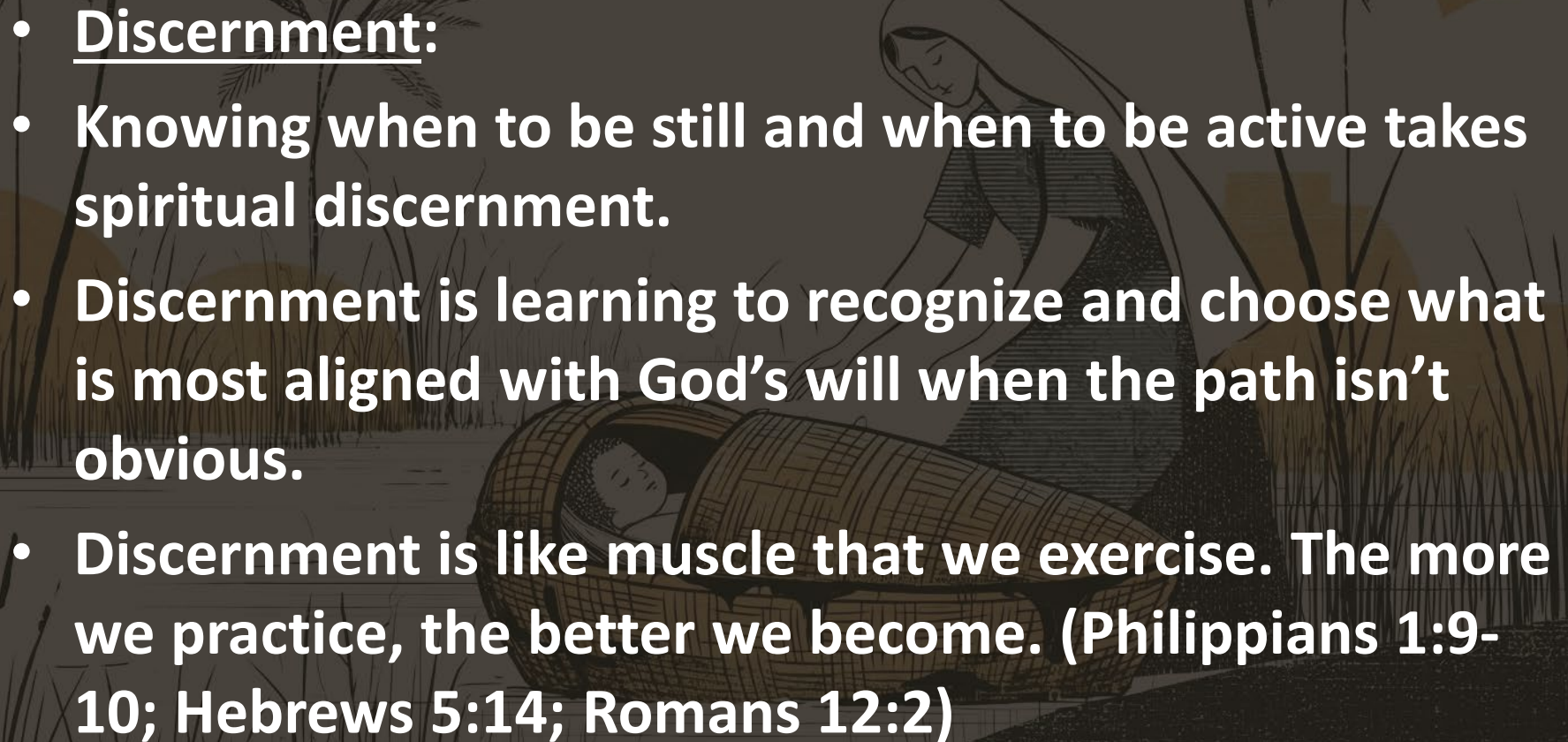




Stillness:

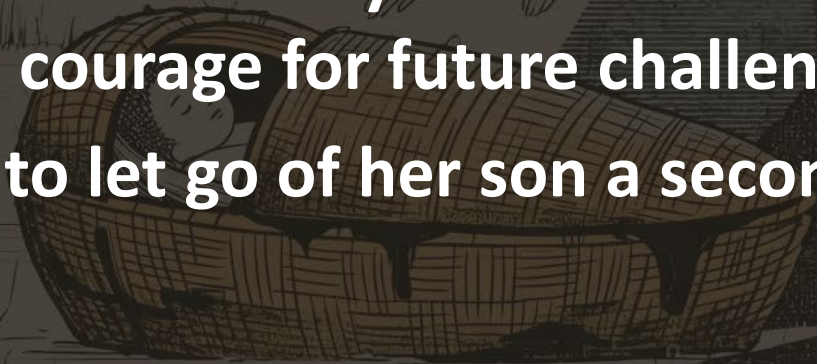
- Sometimes we partner with God actively, but there are also times when we are called to stillness.
- Jochebed is not present when the basket is discovered.
- She has redirected her activity leaving the wellbeing of her baby in God's hands.
- He is always at work, holding everything together. Colossians 1:17 "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

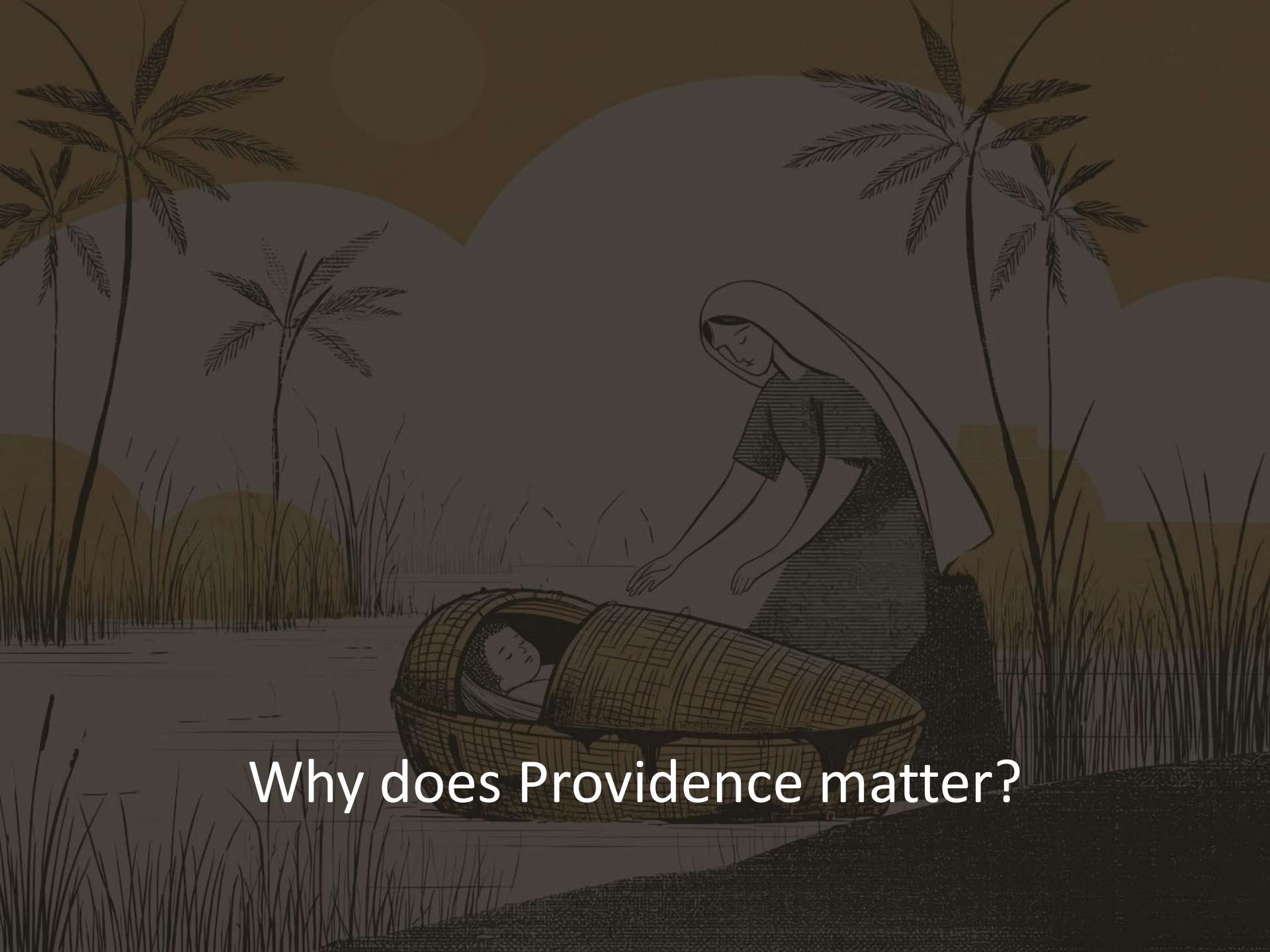
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- **Discernment:**
 - **Knowing when to be still and when to be active takes spiritual discernment.**
 - **Discernment is learning to recognize and choose what is most aligned with God's will when the path isn't obvious.**
 - **Discernment is like muscle that we exercise. The more we practice, the better we become. (Philippians 1:9-10; Hebrews 5:14; Romans 12:2)**

Providence Realized:

- **When Jochebed receives Moses to nurse him on behalf of Pharaoh's daughter, she nurtures him without fear. God removed the threat of death.**
- **Hold on to those anchoring moments when you experience God's work in your life. It will strengthen your trust and courage for future challenges.**
- **Jochebed had to let go of her son a second time.**





Why does Providence matter?



An illustration depicting a woman in a dark dress and white headscarf placing a baby into a woven basket. The basket is floating in a body of water, with reeds and palm trees in the background. The scene is set against a warm, golden-brown sky with a large sun or moon. The woman is looking down at the baby with a gentle expression. The basket is made of woven reeds and has a small opening at the front where the baby's face is visible. The water is calm, and the reeds are tall and thin. The palm trees are stylized with long, thin trunks and feathery fronds. The overall mood is peaceful and tender.

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