This chapter is full of examples of the amazing story of God's careful provision of a deliverer for his people. Verse 1 might seem at first glance to provide unimportant information to the reader, but it does more. It demonstrates that Moses was a chosen child from the only proper tribe (Levi) for his future calling, fully in compliance with the law that God had not yet revealed to Israel but would reveal within Moses' lifetime. In other words, the verse reveals that Moses was prequalified for the service God later gave him, even in advance of the revelation that would make that qualification necessary. The way Moses was watched over at birth, providentially found by Pharaoh's daughter, nursed by his own mother, and educated in the palace of Egypt are indicators of God's careful provision and providential, redemptive plan unfolding for mankind. Friends, God is behind the scenes, ordering everything for His own glory; hence our smallest actions are controlled by Him. What a haven of rest is this—to know that "of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever" (Rom. 11:36).

Verse 3 holds another beautiful picture of deliverance much like that of the story of Noah's Ark in Genesis 6-8. The term used here for w found elsewhere in the Bible only in the flood story, where it is translated "ark." Moses appears to be consciously drawing our attention to the fact that God, through Moses' mother's actions, was graciously protecting him from death by a small ark, just as God had protected Noah and the animals by a great ark in the days of the great flood. Indeed, it is hard to imagine that Moses was not keenly aware of the obvious comparison between himself and Noah. They both were deliverers/rescuers who were called by God to lead people and animals through and out of danger into a new location where those people and animals would establish a new stage of God's unfolding plan of redemption of the world.

The story moves on with a surprising twist. Moses is discovered by an Egyptian, under other conditions likely to lead to the boy's death, leads instead to a perfect protection of his life. This is God at work, providing deliverance in an unanticipated yet wonderful way. We have often sung that, "God will make a way where there seems to be no way" well this is proof of that reality! The story moves quickly from the birth of Moses to his adulthood. Surely as the son of the Pharaoh's daughter, he grew up in luxury with the best of everything the world had to offer during his lifetime. But once again, the story takes some thrilling twists. We learn from Hebrews 11:24-25 that "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasure of sin."

Moses certainly serves as a type of Christ figure in this gripping narrative. Jesus Christ chose to leave the beauty, glory, and wonders of heaven to dwell among men who desperately needed a Redeemer/Deliverer. But like Christ, Moses was rejected by the Pharaoh and even rejected by the Israelites whom he was trying to help (Ex. 1:14). As would often be the case with Jesus, Moses was here not recognized/accepted readily by his own people. He eagerly wanted to help them; they were suspicious that he represented trouble.

An interesting point that I want to close with is that Moses' mother placed him in the basket among the reeds on the bank of the Nile. This was a location where she knew the Pharaoh's daughter would bathe. In a real sense, Jochebed, his mother, placed him in the hands of the Egyptians; literally at the place of likely death. Though Moses was brought to the place of death, he was made secure in the ark. And this speaks to us of Christ. Jochebed, by faith (Heb. 11:23), trusted God and placed him into the arms of the goodness of Christ. As is always the case, once we are "in Christ" we are safe. He is our ark, our Savior, but you must come to Him by faith in a demonstration of humility and total dependence.