Whom Should We Fear?
Exodus 1:8 – 2:10

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. (Hebrews 11:23, NASB)

The Exodus is a story of fear.
Pharaoh feared the increase of the Israelites (Exodus 1:8-10),
      so he lashed out and enslaved them (Exodus 1:11-14).
But that didn't relieve his fear (Exodus 1:12).
God continued to bless them, and they multiplied even more.

So he used the Hebrew midwives to try to kill all the male children (Exodus 1:15-16).
That didn't work either, for
      the Hebrew mid-wives feared God, not Pharaoh (Exodus 1:17-21).
They made excuses to Pharaoh and let the boys live.

Still gripped with fear, Pharaoh took even more drastic action.
He ordered that every newborn son be cast into the Nile (Exodus 1:22).
Moses' parents obeyed –
      but only after nurturing him in hiding for three months, and
      only after placing him safely in a wicker basket (Exodus 2:1-4).

The result: Pharaoh's daughter saw him,
      took him home with her, and
      raised him as the grandson of Pharaoh (Exodus 2:5-10).
Moses' biological mother became his nurse,
      plus, Israel's future deliverer
      was educated and nurtured in the royal palace.
In a way, he got the best of both worlds.

Pharaoh feared the Hebrew people,
      which led him to commit inhuman and foolish acts.
      In the end, those acts proved both futile and self-destructive.
God's people feared the Lord,
      the Sovereign of all reality.
Since they feared Him,
      they had no reason to fear anything or anyone else.