



## Slender Reeds: Jochebed's Hope

*Texie Susan Gregory*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

## Slender Reeds: Jochebed's Hope

Texie Susan Gregory

**Slender Reeds: Jochebed's Hope** Texie Susan Gregory

*Four hundred years in slavery, the Hebrew people await deliverance. . . .*

*And while it is still dark, God is at work.*

Jochebed's entire life has been a faith journey as she seeks her mother's God. The daughter of a Hebrew slave and master basket weaver, Jochebed knows the stories of her ancestors but wonders if the Lord cares how they suffer under the hand of Pharaoh Ramses. . .and if the promised deliverance will ever *really* come.

*Ramses*, warned of Egypt's destruction, vows to do whatever is necessary to protect his two great loves, Egypt and Nefertari, unaware that satisfying one will sacrifice the other.

*Shiphrah*, the half-Egyptian midwife tasked to kill Hebrew male infants, yearns for a place to belong and remembers childhood stories of a merciful God.

Doubts are a constant companion to Jochebed, but her foundation of faith leads her to defy the most powerful man in the world in a deadly race to save her son and, ultimately, God's chosen people. Two women, each following the dangerous path God has set before them—this is their story.

### Slender Reeds: Jochebed's Hope Details

Date : Published November 1st 2016 by Shiloh Run Press

ISBN : 9781634099608

Author : Texie Susan Gregory

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Biblical Fiction, Christian, Christian Fiction, Fiction, Northern Africa, Egypt

 [Download Slender Reeds: Jochebed's Hope ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Slender Reeds: Jochebed's Hope ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Slender Reeds: Jochebed's Hope Texie Susan Gregory**

---

## From Reader Review Slender Reeds: Jochebed's Hope for online ebook

### Kristine Morgan says

I have always loved the story of Moses, so when I saw The Slender Reeds by Texie Susan Gregory I couldn't wait to read it. This book is the story of Jochebed, Hebrew mother of Moses. Gregory has crafted a wonderful tale of what life was like as a Hebrew slave to Rameses. I enjoyed the contentious friendship between Jochebed, her friend Lili and the half-breed midwife Shiphrah. My only issue with the book was the ending, it cries for a sequel, but there is no mention anywhere of book two.

The characters were well developed and I truly cared what happened to each of the girls. I could feel the heartbreak and terror when Ramses' soldiers rode through the village murdering all of the infant boys. Gregory uses descriptive language that draws one into the story. I look forward to reading more books by Ms. Gregory.

I was given this book by NetGalley.com, but all thoughts are mine.

About the author: Born and bred in beautiful North Carolina, I grew up hearing the Bible stories and wishing I knew more about each person's life. What happened before? What happened next? Unable to find these stories, I began to write my own books and dream of writing professionally.

True story: As a 6th grader, I turned in a book report on my own book - written under a nom de plume!

I hold a BS in Early Childhood Education, an MA in School Counseling and an MA in Religious Education. I've worked in theatre, as a hospital chaplain intern and as a teacher in both public and private schools. As a pastor's wife, I've served as a lay counselor, written/directed dramas for worship services and co-taught marriage seminars.

My most challenging and rewarding life work has been (is) mothering our two children.

Please visit me at [www.texiesusangregory.com](http://www.texiesusangregory.com) or Facebook Texie Susan Gregory

Free preview: <https://www.amazon.com/Slender-Reeds-...>

---

### Fiction Aficionado says

As popular as the Exodus seems to be in Biblical fiction at the moment, this is the first time I have come across a novel featuring Moses' mother, Jochebed, as a main character. It's fair to say I was keen to read this story and see where it took me. In the end, I had a mixed response: There were good points, but also aspects that were less satisfying.

First, let me say I enjoyed Texie Susan Gregory's illustrative writing style. She used very active, descriptive verbs to give colour and motion to her writing, which was also quite poetic in its use of imagery and expression, regularly invoking my senses. There were occasions when it crept into 'purple prose' territory – or at least lavender prose – as well as a few instances where the imagery became repetitive; for example, there were two separate occasions when Jochebed likened her doubts to the gnats that she is continually swatting away. But these moments were not frequent, nor did they overwhelm.

On the other hand, I did think the author relied overmuch on the characters' inner narrative to convey the story, some of which became repetitive and too static. There were also times in the story when it became

apparent that we had skipped a certain amount of time, but I was unsure of how much or when it had happened.

The main source of my disappointment was that I didn't think either the story or the characters realized their full potential. For a story entitled 'Jochebed's Hope', I felt there was a surprising *lack* of hope throughout. The only character who exhibited a strong faith in God in the novel was Jochebed's mother (and Puah, although she appears much less frequently). Even at the end of the novel, I felt as though the characters were hanging on to the hope Jochebed's mother had ("While it is yet dark, God is at work") rather than their own assurance that God was with them. I wanted to understand from the story how God comforted and strengthened them in this time, but I didn't really get that.

Jochebed is only twelve or thirteen at the opening of the story, fatherless, and about to be betrothed to Amram, her father's kinsman. She is particularly nervous about this transition in her life, and one of the biggest holes in this story for me was missing out on seeing the way in which these two grew into their marriage and love for one another. We're told of how Amram mourns the death of his first wife and their son every year with the flooding of the Nile, and the way in which this affects Jochebed, but we're also told that Jochebed appreciated the way in which her husband loved her. Yet we weren't shown any of this. In fact, we barely saw Amram at all.

Ms Gregory's Shiphrah is a half Egyptian cripple who struggles with acceptance the whole story through. I was never convinced she found that acceptance, despite the last minute attempt to show otherwise. For the most part, the female characters in this novel (mostly contemporaries of Jochebed and Shiphrah) were petty, catty, whingy, and generally immature, and this didn't really change as time went on, despite some isolated instances that might have made it appear otherwise.

The inclusion of Ramses (the Pharaoh) as a third point of view character was a bit of a surprise, but it would have worked well if his point of view had included scenes that showed specific incidents that awakened his fear of the growing Hebrew population. Instead, we spent a lot of time meandering in his thoughts, a considerable number of which were occupied with Nefertari (his beloved Great Wife) and his building projects. We got many insights into Egyptian religious beliefs and practises, but not much that moved the story along.

I guess, for me, there just wasn't a lot to take away from this story. I wasn't inspired by the characters, although I certainly sympathised with them at times, and I didn't feel as though it deepened my understanding of God or how He was at work in this difficult time. I also felt some of the details in the Biblical narrative were overlooked - for example, in relation to Pharaoh's command to kill the baby boys, we are told the midwives, "...feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do." In the novel, this was true of Puah, but the deciding factor for Shiphrah was not her fear of the Lord, but the fact that she couldn't bring herself to do it. She seemed to fear Pharaoh more than the Lord.

This was not a bad read overall, but neither did it capture me the way I hoped it would. I understand Ms Gregory has other books in the works based on little known Biblical women, and I will be interested to see what comes next.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher. This has not effect the content of my review.

---

## **Rebekah Gyger says**

3.5 Stars

When I first picked this up, I expected it to be like most Biblical Fiction. That is, a main character's romantic story woven into a Biblical narrative. Slender Reeds is nothing like that.

In ways, this is good. It is far more realistic to the cultural setting and time period, where survival outweighs romance. The slavery of the Hebrews is also more realistic, with the characters' daily lives filled with pain and drudgery as they seek out a glimmer of God's hope. Hope is slender as a reed in this story, with arranged marriages, barrenness, and ever breaking friendships. This is not the story for someone looking for a light-hearted read.

On the other hand, Jochebed's lack of a romance leaves Pharaoh (you know, murderer of Hebrew children) with a far better love story. Amram is virtually ignored in this story of Moses' humble origins, which disappointed me as I would have loved to see how all of this affected him. Instead, friendship was the main relational conflict of the novel, one which unfortunately seemed to repeat the same pattern.

Gregory's depiction of Hebrew slavery is likely a very honest one. While the full extent of their suffering is not detailed in the Bible, it is none the less known that the people suffered greatly. However, there were things I think could have been written better and I wish Amram had played a larger role. I would keep that in mind when deciding whether or not to read this.

I have provided an honest review after I received an ecopy of this book through Netgalley.

---

## **Andrea Cox says**

by Andrea Renee Cox

Slender Reeds: Jochebed's Hope provided an interesting glimpse at what Moses's mother's life might have been like. The pain and sorrow and joy and faith of the life of a slave came through really well, and I enjoyed the core of this story.

Some of the other parts of the story disappointed me, though. A particular part of the plot (friendship) seemed to work itself in circles, always coming back to the same issue rather than building upon different aspects of it along the way. There was heavy emphasis on foreign gods, the details of which I didn't need to know in order to appreciate the story. It almost felt like a history book in certain chapters, because of the explanations about what different Egyptian gods are for and how they are worshiped. This really surprised me since this book was, I thought, supposed to focus on faith in the one true God. There were also a few times when there was a jump forward in time but no header was given to say "three years later" or anything (until the epilogue), so certain spots were difficult to follow, and it took me several pages to figure out what was going on and how old various characters now were.

I really wanted to enjoy this book more than I did, but I'm hoping it was just me and that this book will find a better audience with other readers. Biblical fiction is not my favorite genre, but I always give these books an open-minded approach when reading them. It's interesting to learn what it might have been like to live in biblical times, and I appreciate the time and effort the authors put in to creating that glimpse into the past.

I received an electronic copy of this book from Netgalley. This is my honest review.

## Olivia says

I'm very skeptical of Biblical fiction, even more so than Historical fiction, but when I saw this for review I decided I'd give it a try. The thing I did expect wasn't a problem, but there were other things that lowered my rating.

Jochebed and Shiphrah's lives are intertwined in an unusual way. They both are half Egyptian and half Hebrew and share many other common events from the past that appear toward the end. Jochebed was my favorite because her confusion concerning God's way was real and alive.

I was somewhat chagrined at the beginning. The story basically starts where Jochebed has entered Biblical womanhood. The details of the change in her body was a strange way to begin a book, and while I didn't mind reading it too much I still want to give a heads up to others.

Considering how the book began, the romance was really low key in this. The most romance was in the Pharaoh's POV, but even then it wasn't an issue. After Jochebed marry's there is barely any hint of romance with she and her husband. That didn't bother me, but what did was the fact of how little they are together in the book and how little he seems to be involved. It seems like there was a point that their marriage wasn't good, and then later it isn't referred to again. I liked her husband, the little I did see of him, so that disappointed me.

What I didn't like the most was how some of the scenes flowed. Most of the book was okay, but every so often there was some disjointed parts that confused me. It was neat seeing the Pharaoh's thinking of different things, but most of his scenes were the same thing repeated over and over again.

My favorite part of this book was the last 1/4 when Moses is put in the weeds. I pictured things slightly different with that-especially concerning the absence of Amram-but I loved how Jochebed had to realize that God sometimes asks us to do hard things.

If you like Biblical fiction, then I'd recommend this. Of course a lot of it is debatable :)

\*I received this from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review\*

---

## Amy says

Slender Reeds is just an okay story of Biblical Fiction. I would give it 3 stars.

---

## Anne Campbell says

I've know Texie Susan Gregory for a few years now--I met her at the Write to Inspire Conference in Sacramento, CA, and I was privileged to read a little of what she'd written for a contest. I knew this lady was going to become a popular writer one day. This is her first release, and it's everything I thought her writing would be!

Jochebed is one of the women in the Bible who's just barely mentioned. One of the Egyptian slaves who are required to produce baskets and bricks or be beaten, Jochebed has received her share of stripes when she didn't work fast enough to please their Egyptian overseers. Her mother has tried to instill a love of God and of the stories of their ancestors, but Jochebed doesn't think God is all that great. They're still slaves with no hope in sight.

She's betrothed and then married to a man who's still in love with his first wife, a woman who was killed along with their child in the spring floods. She has a daughter, Miriam, and then a son, Aaron. Another child is stillborn.. Still her husband does not love her. Will one more child make a difference if it's another son? And will another son survive anyway, now that the Pharaoh has decreed all male babies will be killed?

The mother of Moses has never been more real. Give this new author a try. You won't be disappointed, promise! Available from Amazon and Barnes and Noble and on lots of local bookstore shelves!

I received this book free from the publisher in return for an honest review.

---

### **Beth Erin says**

I found this book to be an easy read that captured my interest with its focus on motherhood, the bonds of friendship, and of course faith. Jochebed's transition from placing her hope in her mother's God to embracing God for herself is realistically filled with doubts and questions. Despite the foreign culture and ancient practices, modern-day readers will find this story relatable and see their own struggles reflected in the relationships of these characters from long ago.

I requested the opportunity to read and review this title through the publisher. The opinions expressed are my own.

---

### **Connie Saunders says**

One of the first stories I learned as a small child was the story of Baby Moses being put in a basket and then placed in the river. I can still see the illustration in my Sunday School book of that little baby boy in the bulrushes by the river bank and the Princess who took him to be her son. I can still hear my teacher explaining that this baby's sister convinced the Princess to let their own mother take care of him. I thought how wonderful this coincidence was but we Christians know that this was no coincidence . We also know that Moses matured to be the man who saved the Hebrews from the Egyptians but this book helped me to better visualize the truly terrible conditions that God's people endured until this deliverance came to pass.

'Slender Reeds: Jochebed's Hope' is based on the true account recorded in Exodus 2 but it is biblical fiction and we readers must accept that this is Texie Susan Gregory's interpretation of what could have happened. Nevertheless, I have been totally captivated with this story of Jochebed, her mother Elisheba and the two other young women who figure so prominently in this fictitious account of her life. I loved the scenes that described how Elisheba shared her deep belief in God as she taught Jochebed, her cousin Lili and Shiphrah, an abused girl who was half-Egyptian, how to weave mats and baskets out of the reeds that grew along the Nile River. Even as conditions worsened and Pharaoh continued to make their lives almost unbearable, Elisheba never wavered in her love for God and her tremendous faith that He would deliver her people.

As I read 'Slender Reeds' I felt Jochebed's uncertainty when she married at a very young age and I could

sympathize with her overwhelming desire to just lie down and sleep when she became the mother of a toddler and a baby. I could almost feel her numbing fatigue as she feverishly worked to make enough mats and baskets to escape the beatings that would occur if she didn't meet the quota set by the Egyptians and I imagined her despair when her husband was taken away to build the pyramids. When Jochebed became pregnant once again and realized that her baby would be killed if it was a boy, her sense of hopelessness was overwhelming but it is her agony when she actually leaves him in the river that I will never forget

'Slender Reeds' is not an easy story to read and some readers will not enjoy the description of Pharaoh's brutality and they will not appreciate the many references to false gods but it prompted me to re-read Exodus and once again contemplate God's plan of deliverance for the Hebrew people. Yes, this is biblical fiction but it is biblical fiction at its best!

Thank you to Barbour Publishing for my complimentary copy of 'Slender Reeds: Jochebed's Hope'.

---

### **Regina says**

WOW! WOW! WOW! Trixie Susan is a debut author to Biblical fiction, you'll want to keep an eye on this author!

Slender Reeds captured my heart from the first page to the very end. If you're the emotional type, you better have tissues handy!

Jochebed's story almost resembles my story in so many ways, especially to the point of where I lost my daughter, it is very painful! This entire story is woven so well that you'll be captured by the scene, you'll feel like you're there experiencing the hardships, the beatings, the heat, the danger. The wives and mother's languishing over losing their sons because of a cruel pharaoh. When I finished this story I didn't want it to end but all stories have to end.

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley and Shiloh Run Press for my honest and unbiased opinion of this book.

---

### **Helen says**

Slender Reeds: Jochebed's Hope is written by Texie Susan Gregory. This is a Christian historical fiction story of an unknown mother in Biblical times. This is the story of Moses' mother, Jochebed, as well as her family and friends.

Jochebed is the only child of a widow and master basket weaver. As her mother weaves, she tells stories told down through the years confirming God's love. Jochebed and her mother find an injured girl, Shiprah, along the water and take her home with them.

Not having a father, the fathers of Jochebed's friends Lili and Deborah, make arrangements for Jochebed to be married to Amram. Amram is a widower and asks to have a year to mourn his wife and son and then be married to Jochebed and live with her and her mother in the home her father built.

Shiprah eventually goes to live with her mother's sister and learns how to be a midwife. Being half-Hebrew and half-Egyptian, she is really not trusted. Pharaoh Ramses, the ruler of Egypt, turns to Shiprah, asking her

and the other midwives to end the lives of any Hebrew baby boy born. She is unable to follow through on his commands so Ramses starts having his guards go around regularly to kill all the infant boys.

Jochebed has given birth to a baby boy and fears for his life. She decides to make a basket and coat it to make it water proof. She puts her baby boy in the basket along the shoreline of the river with hopes of an Egyptian person finding him and taking him into their home.

This is a very touching story. It starts out slow and rather confusing with all the characters. But after a few chapters, the story becomes hard to put down. The story is based on the book of Exodus and the story of Moses. The author helps to bring the characters to life to help us understand what life must have been for them. I can't begin to imagine the fear the young mothers lived in. To go through nine months of carrying a baby fearing that it will be a boy and be killed. And then to live in constant fear of the guards. The women were required to make so many mats to turn in or be beaten. The men were off doing work for Ramses, many not being able to come home at all. The women are left all alone to care for their families and tend their homes and fields. The story is very touching when the women put their differences aside and step into to help each other.

I received a copy of the book from Barbour Publishing and I have written an honest review.

---

### **Karen says**

This author, Texie Susan Gregory is new to me and the book is not a genre I normally read, but since I loved the story of Moses, I decided to give Slender Reeds a try. It is the Biblical fiction story of a young Jochebed, mother of Moses and what life was like as a Hebrew slave in Egypt. The characters and the story is well written. You will read of the hardships and sorrows of the Hebrew people in Egypt as they struggle as slaves under Pharaoh. Slender Reeds is my first Biblical fiction book and I hope to read more by Texie Susan Gregory. I highly recommend this book for those who enjoy reading Biblical fiction.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Barbour Publishing in exchange for my honest review.

---

### **Deborha Mitchell says**

Faith and Hope

I've read the story of Moses many times. Slender Reeds really brings it to life. It's a story of trust and faith during a time of terrible heartbreak.

I applaud Texie Susan Gregory for her ability to put a face on the secondary characters of this Biblical story. I look forward to reading more books by this author.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Barbour Publishing in exchange for my honest review.

---

### **Diamond Jones says**

I've always enjoyed Biblical stories but this one has become a favorite. Reading this book it really touched

me and I couldn't stop reading. The Characters lives were so real. You felt their heartache and issues every step of the way. I recommend this book to everyone. This is a quick read that will keep you entertained through each page.

---

## **Jeanie says**

**She picked up the basket she had been weaving and began to work. Mama's hands were never still. "Only the weaver knows what the basket will become. It is after it's finished that others see the beauty and purpose. When you began to weave your first basket, you told me the spokes were ugly-that you didn't want them to be in your basket, remember? You were afraid the spokes would ruin it. Now you know that without the spokes, the basket cannot take shape. The part that at first seems the ugliest is really the strength. The reeds you choose and the work you do before it looks like a basket determines how it will be used."**

What kind of faith does it take for a mother to send her infant son down the Nile with danger lurking everywhere? The danger of croc's, snakes and the Egyptians themselves. Jochebed, the mother of Moses had that kind of faith. This historical account gives the reader context of what life was like for the Jewish families under bondage and the superstitions of the Pharaoh of Egypt.

It brings in a character Shiprah that is parallel to Jochebed. Shiprah is a wet nurse that is part Jewish and Egyptian. Her life is tied to Jochebed's family that brings a connection on how the Lord works good things for those that love Him. Each of these women suffer insecurities that help them deepen their faith in who God is and their purpose for His will.

There are lessons for us to learn from the faith of Jochebed and how those lessons connect us to the love of the father. Where we can learn to trust without knowing all the answers. When we question is God really at work in the darkness.

*A Special Thank You to Barbour Publishing and Netgalley for the ARC and the opportunity to post an honest review.*

---