

Bible Lessons

Moses

and the

Exodus

VOLUME 4



G. L. TenBroeke

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by

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Preface

As Timothy knew the Holy Scriptures “from a child”, so it should be the desire of every Christian parent that, from an early age, their children should be well acquainted with the sacred pages.

The aim of this series is to put before little children, in simple form, the fundamental truths of the faith, by consecutively studying the Bible.

The content being interspersed with questions and colouring texts, it is hoped that the interest of younger children will be encouraged.

It is however the desire of the publishers that the Spirit of Truth will Himself apply the truth to the hearts of the young children who may read these pages, and teach the way of salvation as only He can.

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Chapter 1

A NEW PHARAOH

You remember that Jacob was called Israel after he had wrestled with the Angel. Thus, his children and grandchildren were called Israelites. After Joseph and all his brothers had died, the children of Israel became very fruitful and increased in numbers until they became a great company.

After the seven years of famine were over, the land of Goshen brought forth a great abundance of crops, and the children of Israel became very rich in cattle and flocks. Their nation became larger and stronger than the Egyptians.

The Israelites had remained in Egypt for almost 400 years. During this time, many Pharaohs had ruled over them. Pharaoh was the name given to every ruler in Egypt. Finally, a new king arose who knew nothing about Joseph. This Pharaoh became worried because the Israelites had become more in number than the Egyptians.

Pharaoh said to his people: “Behold . . . the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: . . . let us deal, wisely with them; lest (*in time of*) war, they join . . . our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.”

Pharaoh built treasure cities, called Pithom and Raamses. He made the Israelites work as slaves in laying the bricks. He set cruel taskmasters over them, who stood with whips in their hands. If they saw a man working too slowly, they would strike him with the whip. The lives of the children of Israel became bitter because of the hard work they were forced to do; but the more the Egyptians afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew.

When Pharaoh saw that his plan to afflict the children of Israel had only made them stronger, he became very angry. Soon he thought of another way to weaken the Israelites. Pharaoh commanded that when baby boys were born to them, they must kill them by casting them into the river. They could save the baby girls alive. Perhaps you are wondering why Pharaoh wanted all the baby boys to be killed. He was afraid that one day they might grow up to become soldiers and fight against the Egyptians.

What a sad day for the children of Israel! Did they hear the commandment correctly? Things were going from bad to worse. But why must they suffer all this? It was because the Lord's time had come for Israel to return to Canaan, but at present they loved Egypt too much to leave it; by permitting these afflictions, God made them long to return.

You can read about this in Exodus chapter 1.

Questions:

1. What was the name given to every ruler in Egypt?
2. What did Pharaoh make the Israelites work as?
3. What did the lives of the children of Israel become?
4. Who did Pharaoh command to be cast into the river?
5. The Lord's time had come for Israel to _____.(three words).

At home, abroad, in peace, in war,
Thy God shall thee defend;
Conduct thee through life's pilgrimage
Safe to thy journey's end.

He turned
their
heart to
hate His
people.

Psalm 105:25

Chapter 2

THE BIRTH OF MOSES

It was during these times of trouble that God gave a new baby son to a certain family of the Israelites. Would they throw him into the river as the king had commanded? No! His father and mother believed that this baby was a special child. They loved and feared God, and thus they must obey God rather than Pharaoh. The Bible tells us that: “by faith” they hid him for three months because: “they were not afraid of the king’s commandment.” (see Hebrews 11. 23).

As the baby grew and began to cry louder, his mother could no longer hide him. She gathered some reeds that grew by the river and wove them into a little basket, called an ark. Then she patched all the cracks with clay and tar, so water could not leak in. Finally, she placed her baby son in the basket and went down to the river. There she laid the small ark in the reeds along the bank of the river. She believed that God would watch over her baby and keep him safe.

The little baby had an older sister named Miriam, who watched from a distance to see what would happen to her baby brother. As Miriam watched from her hiding-place, she saw a company of young women coming to the river to wash themselves. It was the daughter of Pharaoh and her maidens. When the princess spotted the little ark among the *reeds*, she sent a maid to fetch it.

As she opened the lid, she saw the beautiful baby, and he began to cry. Pharaoh’s daughter knew it was one of the Hebrews’ children, whom her father had commanded to be drowned. (The Israelites were sometimes called Hebrews.) What would she do? Was she as cruel as her father? No; the cry of the child touched her heart. She felt such love and compassion for him. She would keep the baby as her own son.

When Miriam knew that Pharaoh’s daughter would save her brother alive, she came out of her hiding-place. She asked if she might find a Hebrew woman to nurse the child for the princess. This pleased the princess well, and she told the child to go and find such a nurse. Miriam quickly ran and told her mother all that had happened and brought her to the princess. How happy the mother was when she learned her baby was safe.

“And Pharaoh’s daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages.”

How the Lord had watched over them each, and now the mother could care for her own baby without fear of being punished.

After the child grew, his mother brought him to live with Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She called his name Moses, saying: “Because I drew him out of the water.”

You can read about this in Exodus chapter 2 verses 1 to 10.

Questions:

6. The child’s parents hid him for three months because (8 words)
7. What did his mother place him in when he could no longer be hidden?
8. What was the name of the baby’s sister?
9. Who saw the little ark among the reeds?
10. What did Pharaoh’s daughter call the baby she drew out of the water?

Soon was Pharaoh’s daughter seen,
With her maidens drawing nigh;
And the ark, though small and mean,
Caught the notice of her eye.

There the lovely babe she saw
Just awaking from his sleep;
And yet more her love to draw,
Lo! The babe began to weep.

Thus was her compassion won
By this Hebrew child forlorn;
And the babe became her son,
Moses, from the water drawn.

He who cared for Moses thus,
Watches o’er our helplessness;
Daily He provides for us,
And our souls with peace can bless.

By faith Moses,
when he was
born, was hid
three months
of his parents.

Hebrews 11:23

Chapter 3

MOSES FLEES FROM EGYPT

As Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace, he learned much more than he could have learned among his own people. Being the son of Pharaoh's daughter, he had the best teachers in the land. He was taught all the wisdom of Egypt and was able to speak with powerful, convincing words. Pharaoh and the wise men of Egypt did not know that they were training the very man whom God would use to deliver Israel out of Egypt.

When Moses was forty years old, God put in his heart a desire to visit his brethren, the Israelites. The Bible tells us that: "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt." When he came to the place where the Israelites were working, he saw an Egyptian beating one of the Hebrew slaves. Moses became so angry that he slew the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand.

The next day he went out to the place again. Sadly, this time he found two Hebrews fighting together. Moses reproved the man who had done wrong. The man answered roughly: "Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian?"

This made Moses afraid. He thought that no one had seen what he had done to the Egyptian. Now it seemed that many knew. Even worse, Pharaoh also found out and sought for Moses to kill him.

Where could Moses go? Quickly he fled for his life into the wilderness. Finally he came to the land of Midian, where he sat down to rest by a well of water.

As he sat by the well, seven young women came to draw water. They were sisters, and their father was the priest of Midian. It was their job to find food for their father's flock and to water them. While they were drawing water for the sheep, some wicked shepherds came and drove them away. When Moses saw it, he rose up and helped the women and then watered their flock.

When the sisters returned home with the flock, their father, whose name was Jethro, asked: “How is *it that* ye are come so soon today?” The sisters told their father about the kind Egyptian who had delivered them from the shepherds and also watered the sheep.

Jethro was upset that his daughters did not ask such a kind man to come home with them, so he might have something to eat and a place to sleep. He quickly sent for Moses, who was happy to live with the man and his family.

After some time, Jethro gave one of his daughters to Moses for a wife. Her name was Zipporah. Later, God gave them a baby son. Moses called his name Gershom, which means: “I have been a stranger in a strange land.”

You can read about this in Exodus chapter 2 verses 11 to 22.

Questions:

11. How old was Moses when he went out to visit his brethren?
12. What did Moses refuse to be called? (five words)
13. To which land did Moses flee?
14. What name did Moses give to his son?
15. What does this name mean? (nine words)

But the court could not seduce him,
Nor its pleasures all outpoured;
Gold nor grandeur could induce him
To neglect or leave the Lord.

*By faith Moses,
when he was
come to years,
refused to be
called the son
of Pharoah's
daughter.*

Hebrews 11:24

Chapter 4

GOD CALLS MOSES

What a change had taken place in the life of Moses! For forty years he had lived in a beautiful palace with many servants to wait on him and had worn the princely robes of Egypt.

During the next forty years, Moses wore the rough garments of a shepherd. He wandered about the land of Midian, leading his father-in-law's flock to green pastures. In this wilderness, he was far from the great cities of Egypt, with all their noise and business. Oftentimes he was alone, sleeping on the ground under the stars at night.

One day while in the backside of the desert, Moses saw a strange sight. A bush was on fire. Though he watched for a long time, the bush did not burn up. Moses wondered at this sight! He decided to go up close to the bush and see how it could keep burning without being destroyed.

As Moses drew near, he heard a voice calling out of the bush saying: "Moses, Moses." And he answered: "Here *am* I." The voice said: "Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground."

Moses knew that it was God who was in the bush. Only God's presence could make any place holy ground. This made Moses afraid to look upon God, and he hid his face. It had been a long time since any man had heard the voice of God speaking to him. God said: ". . . I *am* the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. . . I have surely seen the affliction of My people which *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; and I am come down to deliver them . . . , and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land ..."

At one time, Moses thought the forty years spent learning all the wisdom of Egypt would be sufficient to deliver his brethren out of Egypt. However, before he was ready for the work that God would call him to do, he must spend forty years in the wilderness to learn humility before God, dependence upon God, and trust in God.

Now God spoke: “Come . . . and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth My people . . . out of Egypt.” Moses was so humbled, that he answered God: “Who *am* I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?” Moses felt he was so small and weak. How could he deliver Israel?

God promised Moses: “Certainly I will be with thee; and this *shall* be a token . . . that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.”

Even with this wonderful promise, Moses was afraid the people would not believe him. You may remember how they refused Moses when he first came to them as a young prince. He asked God what he should say to the people if they asked who had sent him.

“And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: . . . Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”

You can read about this in Exodus chapter 3 verses 1 to 14.

Questions:

16. How many years did Moses wander in the wilderness with the sheep?
17. What did Moses see that was on fire but did not burn up?
18. What was he told to put off?
19. What could make any place holy ground?
20. Who was Moses told to say had sent him?

And now
come, I will
send thee
into Egypt.

Acts 7:34