

## **MOSES: Baby From The Bulrushes**

"Oh, mother!" said Miriam in a flurry as she rushed in from the river. "I saw Pharoah's daughter! And her maidens! They were down at the river for the Princess' bath! And I've heard they come there every morning. . . Mother! . . . Oh, do you think we could leave the basket *there*, for *them* to find?"

She was talking about the basket she and Jochebed had woven for their baby when they had heard the cruel edict from the Pharoah. He had been afraid the Israelites were becoming too numerous in their country, so he had ordered the midwives to kill all the boy babies they delivered. So they'd hidden Moses for a while after he was born, and then they'd made him a basket that would keep water out when it was hidden in the bulrushes beside the Nile River.

Miriam just *knew* that God was watching over their actions--now she had learned of the Pharoah's daughter's bath place. So the next morning, just as she had planned, the princess found baby Moses, and she adopted him into the very family of the King of Egypt!

"Oh, princess, would you like a Hebrew woman to be the baby's nursemaid and take care of him for you?" offered the helpful Hebrew girl who was nearby. I know just where to find one! Miriam's heart leapt with joy! So she got her mother, who was indeed a willing candidate.

Moses grew up as an Egyptian, in the royal household, no less. Knowing the story of his family, he went out in the workplace one day to see how the Israelites were treated. He was just in time to see an Egyptian beat a Hebrew. The next day, when protecting a kinsman Moses killed an Egyptian. His action was found out and, fleeing for his life, he went all the way to Midian. There he stayed 40 years, safe from the

Egyptians, watching sheep for Jethro and marrying one of his daughters

Then one day, while he watched sheep, at eighty years old, Moses saw a very strange sight. Going nearer so that he could see a bush on fire, but not burned up, he heard someone tell him to take off his shoes because the ground there was holy. So he did. . . and the voice (whom Moses discovered was God) instructed him:

"Moses, The people have been calling out to me from Egypt, where they've been working very hard, asking me to deliver them. Now you know a lot about the Egyptian people. I have raised you up at just the right time, and with just the right circumstances to go down into Egypt and tell the present Pharoah, 'Let my people go.' He won't want to, but I will deliver you all because I AM GOD.

As expected, Moses put up quite a fuss, but in the end he and Aaron his brother packed up and headed down to Egypt, knowing victory would be sure.

When Moses and Aaron arrived in Egypt, they went to Pharoah and gave him God's message: "Let my people go! But Pharoah did not like the whole idea. You see, the Israelites were providing lots of free labor for him, building great construction projects. So when Moses demonstrated the power of God in the signs He had given Moses, then the king's own magicians, inspired by Satan, tried (and partly succeeded) in duplicating them. You see, Satan does have some power, although his is only like a gnat compared to God's. But he does put up quite an argument when confronted with God's plans.

The ten plagues were then sent by God, one at a time, and with increasing severity, to convince Pharoah to let the Israelites go. First there was the plague of blood, where all the water in Egypt, including the treasured Nile River,

turned to blood. Then there were plagues of frogs, gnats, flies, death of animals, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, and death of firstborn. At last even stubborn Pharoah gave up, ordering the people to leave the country.

When he again changed his mind and his armies followed the Israelites, they were drowned by collapsing walls of water at the Red Sea.

All the Egyptians were drowned in the sea. Pharoah had not only lost his armies; his oldest son was dead in the last plague, while the Israelites had not suffered *any* harm.

Moses led God's people on what should have been a few day's journey through the area we know as the Sinai Peninsula toward the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But because they did not believe that God was as good as His word, He also took them around in the wilderness until all the skeptical generation had died off, and were replaced by a more trusting one.

Even Moses did not always please God. There had been the occasion of striking the rock, which is related in the Bible in Exodus 17. In the end, Moses died and was buried by God Himself on top of Mt. Nebo. Moses had indeed carried out a tremendous task as God's servant, and God loved him very much.

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