

● Lesson 11

MOSES

Nearly 400 years have passed since we left Joseph and his family in Egypt. There were 70 people in his family when they came to Egypt because of the famine. The Lord blessed them, and they multiplied greatly till they numbered somewhere between two and three million!

A new pharaoh came to power, one who didn't know Joseph or anything about what Joseph did. He did not care about Joseph's family. In fact, he was not at all pleased when he looked at the Israelites. Instead, he felt threatened. He was afraid they would turn against the Egyptians and side with the enemy. So he forced the Israelite people to work very hard, oppressing them and making them slaves. After a time they cried out to God. God heard them and wanted to deliver His people. So God raised up Moses, God's special man for God's special plan.

God had been preparing Moses for this job since his birth. As a baby, Moses had been miraculously saved from the pharaoh's order to kill all baby Israelite boys. He had been raised in Pharaoh's household by Pharaoh's daughter. Acts 7:22 says "Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action."

1. How was Moses saved from the wicked pharaoh's order that all Israelite baby boys be killed? Exodus 2:3

2. Who found baby Moses? Exodus 2:5-6

Memory Verse

When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?
Psalm 56:3-4

3. Who took care of baby Moses? Exodus 2:7-9

4. Where did Moses grow up? Exodus 2:10

Moses knew he was a **Hebrew**. He spent the first few years of his life with his mother and father. When he saw the **oppression** of his people, he wanted to help them. However, he was not quite ready for God's special plan. In anger, Moses killed an Egyptian and had to flee for his life. God's plan was to be carried out in obedience and humility, not with anger and pride.

The next phase of Moses' preparation took 40 years! He fled to the desert of Midian where he married and became a shepherd. (Imagine how important these experiences were years later as he led two million people through the desert!) One day in the desert, Moses was drawn to a peculiar sight. A bush was on fire but was not burning up! As he approached the bush, God spoke to him from it, saying "I AM WHO I AM." God's personal name, "Yahweh," or "the Lord," is connected with this declaration. God's name assures Moses and us that He is always personally present with us. God told Moses to tell the sons of Israel that "I AM has sent Me to you."

Fast Fact: Mashah



The name Moses comes from the Hebrew word *mashah*, meaning "to draw out." Moses was aptly named as he was drawn out of the water by Pharaoh's daughter!



It was now time for Moses to deliver the Israelites from their Egyptian bondage. Moses didn't think he was the right man for the job. But God had an answer for all his questions and excuses, and soon Moses was on his way back to Egypt.

5. Why did Moses flee to Midian? Exodus 2:11-15

6. What did Moses learn to do in Midian? Exodus 3:1

7. When God came to Moses in the burning bush, he had many excuses why he couldn't do what God wanted him to do. What did God want Moses to do? Exodus 3:10

8. What excuses did Moses have? Exodus 4:1, 10, 13

9. How did God answer him? Exodus 4:2-5, 11-12, 14-16

10. What excuses do we use for not doing what God wants us to do? _____

1525 B.C. 1512 B.C.

..... Moses' birth Begins training under Pharaoh

1485 B.C.

..... Kills an Egyptian

1445 B.C.

Burning bush Exodus

11. Of what can we be assured when we obey God?

Psalm 56:3-4

Aaron, Moses' brother, had been assigned by God to work with Moses. Together they went to visit Pharaoh and asked him to let the Israelites go a three-day journey into the desert to make sacrifices to God. Pharaoh's response was to make the Israelites work even harder than before. So God began sending **plagues** upon Egypt.

First, all the water turned to blood. Next, frogs covered the land, then **gnats** and flies. When Pharaoh still didn't listen, all the livestock died. Then the people were afflicted with **boils**. Next the crops were destroyed, first by hail, then by locusts. Darkness covered the land for three days.

Pharaoh still resisted letting the Israelites go, so God sent one last, terrible plague. Death came to all the firstborn sons of everyone in Egypt. The land of Egypt was **devastated**. The crops were gone, the livestock were destroyed, and now many children were dead too, including Pharaoh's son. At last Pharaoh was willing to let the Israelites go.

Pharaoh learned that opposing God has many consequences. He came to realize that God, not Pharaoh, was in control, and Pharaoh was helpless in the face of God's great power.

Moses found that by putting his trust in God and obeying Him, great things can happen. He saw God provide for every need. He saw God use him, a humble and obedient servant, to carry out His plan.



EGYPTIAN GODS

The people of Egypt were superstitious and worshiped many false gods. The plagues sent upon Egypt demonstrated the power of the one true God.

- The Nile was considered sacred; to turn it into blood was an insult to the river god.
- The frogs were an insult to the frog god *Heka*.
- Gnats polluted the earth and were an insult to *Seth*, the god of the earth.
- The fly is actually the "sacred" beetle, an insult to the god *Khepra*.
- Soot was used by the priests to bless the people, so the plague of soot turned the blessing into a curse.
- *Isis* and *Serapis* were gods of fire and water, yet they could not protect Egypt from hail.
- No god could protect Egypt from the locusts.
- The darkness throughout the land was aimed at *Ra*, the sun god.
- The Pharaoh was considered divine, so the tenth plague would strike down the divine heir to the throne.

Like the showdown on Mount Camel between Elijah and the prophets of Baal, the plagues against Pharaoh and Egypt showed the people that "The LORD, He is God" (1 Kings 18:39).

See Exodus 7-11 for further reading about the plagues.

Catechism Corner

1. What is a Sacrament? (Q. 333)

A sacrament is a holy ordinance made by God Himself, in which He gives and confirms His invisible grace through outward and visible means.

2. Which are the sacraments of the Christian church? (Q. 334)

They are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

3. What are the "outward and visible means" in the two sacraments? _____

1405 B.C.

Mt. Sinai

Israel wanders in the desert

Moses' death

Israel enters Promised Land