

The Great Story

Week 04 – Moses and the Exodus (Exodus 1-14)

Bible Study

I. The Interlude

- a. Israel and his family moved to Egypt in 1875 BC (430 years before the Exodus (Exodus 12:40))
- b. When Israel arrived in Egypt, there were 70 members in his family – Exodus 1:5
- c. Exodus 1:7 – “But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.”
- d. Exodus 1:8 - Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph
 - i. The Hykos Pharaohs were a group of outsiders that ruled Egypt during the time of Joseph. When an uprising forced these Pharaohs out, likely the new rulers would not honor another foreigner, or respect what Joseph (a Hebrew) contributed to their History¹
- e. The new Pharaoh saw how mighty the Hebrews had grown (Exodus 1:9) and sought to diminish them.
 - i. He first made their work harder by setting taskmasters over them. Exodus 1:12 says that “the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied)
 - ii. The Pharaoh next ordered all Hebrew males to be killed at birth, but the midwives lied and said that the Hebrew women had the children before they arrived.
 1. Likely he was thinking that without any male children, the female offspring would be easily dominated by the men of Egypt.
- f. God promised to make Israel into a great nation, and He did.
- g. Moses was responsible for writing the first five books of the Bible
 - i. Together, they are called the Books of Moses or the Pentateuch
- h. The era of Moses marks 1 of the 3 major eras of miracles described in the Bible
 - i. Moses
 - ii. Elijah and Elisha
 - iii. Jesus and the Apostles
- i. Two schools of thoughts on Biblical miracles
 - i. Continuationism – The Holy Spirit continues to work miracles today as He did in the past.
 - ii. Cessationism – The majority of miracles ceased after the close of the Apostolic era.

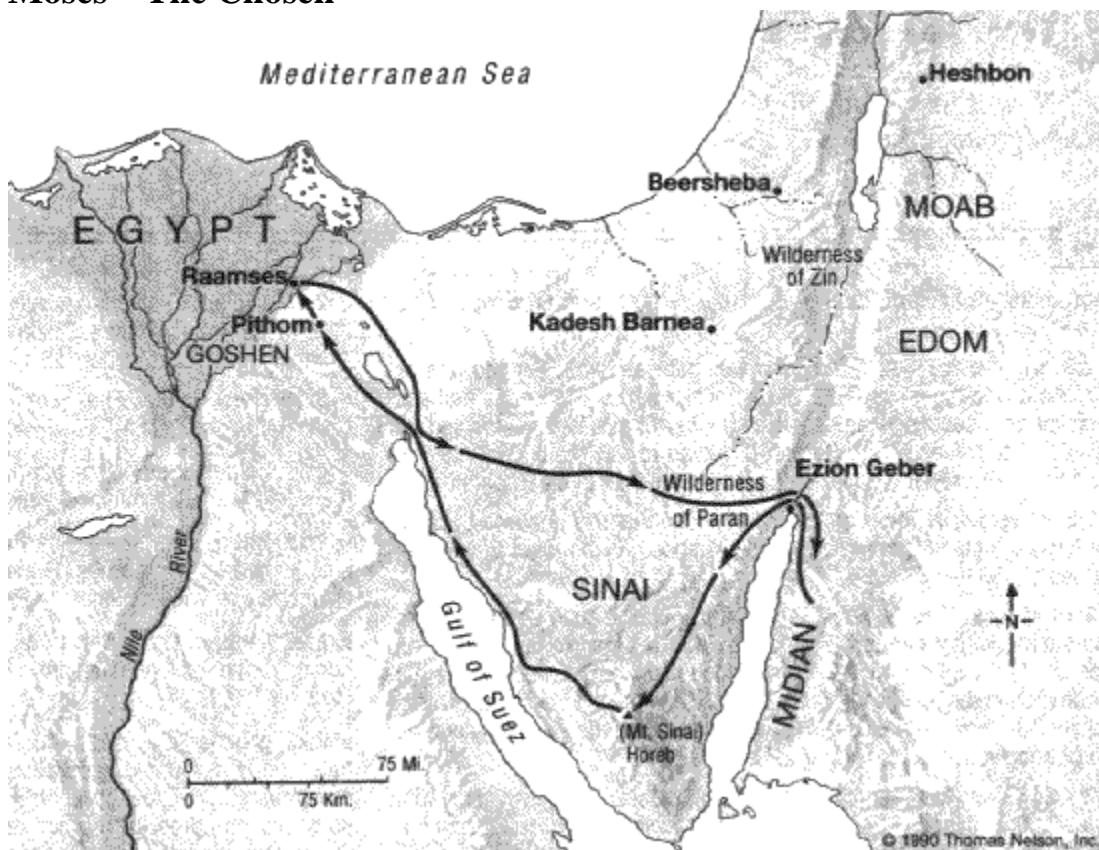
II. Moses – The Early Years

- a. Moses was a Levite – Exodus 2:1
 - i. Levites were the chosen tribe of God to provide spiritual leadership

¹ Douglas K. Stuart, vol. 2, *Exodus*, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006), 62.

- b. After hiding Moses for 3 months, his mother placed him in a basket and set it among the reeds on the bank of a river.
 - i. Pharaoh's daughter saw it and had one of her servants retrieve him.
 - ii. She then directed the servant to find a Hebrew woman to nurse him, and the servant asked Moses' mother and paid her to do it.
 - iii. When Moses was old enough, he went to the palace to become of the son of Pharaoh's daughter.
 - 1. Hebrews 11:24
 - 2. Moses was taught the ways of the Egyptians, but he never gave up his identity and compassion for the Hebrews
- c. The Pharaoh's daughter named him Moses because she "Drew him out of the water" – Exodus 2:10. Moses literally means, "one who draws out" or "a drawer out". This is prophetic in that God used Moses to draw His people out of Egypt.
 - i. Isaiah 63:11
- d. Moses witnessed an Egyptian beating a Hebrew and killed him for it. Pharaoh was enraged and wanted to kill Moses, but Moses fled to Midian. He was 40 years old.

III. Moses – The Chosen



The MacArthur Study Bible. Edited by MacArthur, John, Jr. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997.

- a. When Moses arrived in Midian, he met Jethro and married his daughter, Zipporah.
- b. Moses was in Midian for 40 years, and he kept the flocks for Jethro. During this time, the Pharaoh died.

- c. He led his flocks to Horeb (the mountain of God) and there saw the burning bush. The bush was burning, but it was not being consumed (Exodus 3:2)
- d. God told Moses to say that “I AM has sent me to you”
 - i. This title “Yahweh” describes God’s self-existing nature and eternity.
- e. God gave Moses the ability to perform a set of miracles that he would work for the Israelites and for Pharaoh
 - i. Casting his staff to the ground, it turned into a serpent
 - ii. Putting his hand in his coat, it turned leprous and then returned to normal when he put it into his coat again.
 - iii. Pouring the water from the Nile to the ground and it ran as blood.
- f. Moses was still afraid to speak even though God told him that He would put the words in his mouth. Instead, Moses was told to tell Aaron the words that the Lord would use, and Aaron would speak for him.
- g. God told Moses that He was going to harden Pharaoh’s heart against Him.
- h. Moses was 80 years old when he spoke with Pharaoh and was the leader of the Israelites for 40 years (Deuteronomy 34:7)
- i. The first time Moses and Aaron met with Pharaoh and asked for the Israelites to be let go into the wilderness for 3 days for a feast, Pharaoh ordered that no more straw be given to the Israelites to make bricks. Instead, they would have to gather it themselves. (Exodus 5)
- j. The second time Moses and Aaron met with Pharaoh, a miracle was performed (Exodus 7)
 - i. Aaron threw his staff to the ground and it turned into a serpent.
 - ii. The Egyptian sorcerers did the same
 - iii. Aaron’s snake devoured the other snakes
- k. Pharaoh’s heart was hardened and the plagues began.

IV. The Plagues of Egypt and the Passover

- a. There were 10 plagues that struck the land of Egypt. Each Plague was designed to teach Pharaoh that the Lord is God.
 - i. Many commentators believe that most of the Plagues correspond to a god of Egypt. In this way, the plagues act as a judgment against these gods. Who can stand against the Lord God Almighty?

	Plague	god of Egypt
1	Waters turned to Blood	Hapi – god of Nile and fertility
2	Swarm of Frogs	Hek/qet – frog-headed goddess of fruitfulness
3	Gnats (lice)	Hathor, Nut
4	Swarm of Flies	Kheper – took the form of a beetle
5	Pestilence on Cattle	Hathor, Khnum, Amom, Isis – all gods who had bovine features

6	Boils on humans and animals	Sekhmet
7	Hail	Nut – sky goddess
8	Locusts	Serapia – protector from locusts
9	Three days of Darkness	Ra – Sun god and king of the gods
10	Death of Firstborn	Taurt – goddess of maternity

Victor P. Hamilton, *Handbook on the Pentateuch*, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, 2006, 159-160.

- b. The Effect – These Plagues hardened the heart of Pharaoh so that he would not submit to the authority of God. The process generally was that the plague would devastate, Pharaoh would repent and ask for Moses to intercede for him, then when the plagues ceased, Pharaoh would return to his original way of thinking.
 - i. This is also the pattern in the lives of many people today.
- c. During the last Plague, the Passover was instituted. The Plague would not affect those Hebrews who had the blood of the lamb spread on their doors.
 - i. Exodus 12:5 – “Your lamb shall be without blemish...”
- d. After the last Plague, Pharaoh finally relented and told Moses that they could leave.

V. The Great Exodus and the Red Sea

- a. After the final plague, the people of Egypt were eager for the Hebrews to leave. As a result, they gave the Hebrews anything that they requested as to hurry them on their way.
- b. The Israelites had been in Egypt for 430 years.
 - i. They numbered about 600,000 men
 - ii. The total number of Israelites was over 2,000,000
 - iii. Some commentators argue that the number is much lower, but referencing Exodus 1:9, that is hard to support.
- c. Exodus 13:17
 - i. Way of the Land – This was dotted with Egyptian fortresses. As the people of Israel were ill equipped to fight, God did not lead them in this direction.
 - ii. Way of the Wilderness – While a longer path, it was the best choice.
- d. Exodus 13:21 – Pillar of Cloud and Fire
- e. Pharaoh had second thoughts about letting the Israelites go and set out in pursuit with all the horses and chariots of Egypt.
 - i. The people were now seeing the benefits of having Hebrew slaves were upset and wanted them back.
- f. The Israelites were afraid, but God told them to proceed forward.
- g. The Angel of the Lord went before and behind the Israelites to protect them
- h. Moses stretched out his hand toward the Red Sea (could also be the Reed Sea) and it parted, along the Israelites to walk over on dry land.
- i. When the Israelites were across and Pharaoh tried to pursue, the waters were loosed and Pharaoh, along with his entire army was drowned.

VI. Lessons Learned

- a. God Keeps His Promises

- i. He told Abraham that he would make him into a great nation
 - ii. He told Abraham that his decedents would live in the Promised Land
- b. God alone is Lord of All
 - i. This does not just include deities, but rather anything that can be worshiped.
 - ii. Augustine said, “Idolatry is worshiping anything that ought to be used, or using anything that is meant to be worshiped.”
- c. God can use anyone
 - i. Moses was 80 years old and a shepherd when God called him to be the leader of Israel.

VII. Sources

- a. *The MacArthur Study Bible*. Edited by MacArthur, John, Jr. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997.
- b. Stuart, Douglas K. Vol. 2, *Exodus*. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006.
- c. Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook on the Pentateuch*. Baker Academic. Grand Rapids. 2006.