

THE STORY OF MOSES

Aunt Hattie's Bible Stories

by

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There is a free paraphrase of Scripture passages in use quite frequently throughout this book in the interest of youthful minds.

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CHAPTER FOUR

MOSES FLEES TO MIDIAN

Moses realized that the news of the slaying was known and he was afraid. He ran away many miles into the land of Midian on the east side of the Red Sea. When Pharaoh heard what had happened he tried to capture Moses and kill him.

After traveling many days Moses came at last to a well beside which he sat down to rest. I wonder what he thought about as he sat there. Something like this perhaps,

"Forty years old and my life ruined. I know God called me to help my people, but when I tried everything went wrong. That taskmaster would have killed the slave if I hadn't stepped in. When two of my brother Hebrews were fighting they thought I was against them. They ought to have known who I was. This is a strange world we live in. What am I going to do now? I can't go back to the palace and my own people do not seem to appreciate me. I have put years of faithful study into an education and I thought I had a promising future, but here I am a fugitive, a runaway."

Toward evening seven daughters of the priest of Midian came to the well to water their flocks. They drew water and filled the troughs and then the shepherds came and drove the maidens' sheep away to bring in their flocks to drink. Moses sat watching for a time. Then he drove the shepherds away and helped the girls fill the troughs for their sheep. Makes you think of Jacob and Rachel, doesn't it?

When the girls reached home with their sheep, their father, Reuel, asked them why they had come so early. They told him that an Egyptian had taken their part against the unkind shepherds and had helped them draw water for the sheep. Moses was dressed as an Egyptian and that is why they thought he was one, I think.

Reuel asked where the man was. “***Why have you left him?***” he asked. He sent them to bring him to the house so they might have dinner together. So Moses, because of his kindness to these maidens, found a home in which he lived many years. After a time he married Zipporah, one of the daughters of Reuel.

In time they had a son. They named him Gershom, which means stranger, for Moses said, “**I am a stranger in a strange land.**”

The same Moses who had lived in the court of Egypt nearly forty years and was one of the best educated men of his day, became a shepherd and tended Reuel's sheep. He had been accustomed to having his every wish gratified as the son of Pharaoh's daughter, but not now.

God certainly had talked to him and chosen him to be the deliverer of his people. Perhaps because of all these privileges he had grown self-willed and kingly. It was as though God said to him,

“Moses, you are very educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, but there is another kind of training you need before I can use you. Remember how you ran ahead of Me in slaying the Egyptian? You must learn to do not your way but My way. On this quiet mountain side with only the sheep around you, you must go to school to Me. When My time comes for you to deliver your people I'll tell you.”

And Moses, great soul that he was, became obedient and went to school to God for forty years. What a long time!

The Bible at this place gives us a view of what was happening back in Egypt. The king who was reigning when Moses lived in the palace died, and a new Pharaoh or king had taken the throne.

God had never, for one moment forgotten His burdened people, Israel, in the land of Goshen, and now He was about to deliver them from Egypt and from terrible persecutions.

~ end of chapter 4 ~

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