

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 NINE

THE BEGINNING OF A GREAT CONTEST

When Moses first went to Pharaoh, Pharaoh said, **“Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice and let Israel go?”**

God answered that question in a way that not only Pharaoh but all of the people of Egypt knew that He is God.

Moses and Aaron went again into Pharaoh's presence, taking with them the rod of power to show the miracles that God had shown them.

Can you picture those two men of God standing before Pharaoh and his courtiers? After Aaron had spoken all that the Lord commanded him, he threw down his rod and it became a snake.

Pharaoh must have been greatly astonished because he called for all of the magicians and had them do the same thing. They actually cast down their rods and they became snakes. Yes, but something happened that Pharaoh and his men did not expect, for Aaron's rod swallowed up all of their rods.

And so began a great contest. To the eyes of men as between Moses and Pharaoh, but it was really between God and Satan.

After this God said to Moses, ***“Pharaoh's heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh in the morning when he goes down by the river. You go down a little early and wait for him. Take along in your hand the rod which was turned into a serpent. When Pharaoh comes, you say to him, The Lord of the Hebrews hath sent me unto you, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness; when I asked you before you wouldn't listen.***

“Thus saith the Lord, I will let you know that I am the Lord: behold, I will take this rod that I have in my hand and I will strike the waters of the river and they will turn to blood and the fish will die and the river will smell very badly. The Egyptians will not be able to drink the waters.”

Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded and met Pharaoh by the river. When Pharaoh refused their request, Moses lifted up his rod and smote the waters of the river before the eyes of Pharaoh and of all his servants.

Oh, terrible judgment! The waters became blood and all of the water in the land of Egypt became blood, then came the magicians again and did the same thing as Moses, and Pharaoh went back to his palace with heart harder than ever.

What about these magicians, were their miracles real? They may have been for they were inspired by Satan who can do **“lying wonders,”** the Bible says.

In the third chapter of Second Timothy we find two of the magicians mentioned by name when Paul is telling about the last days before the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. He says that Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses. What do you think that means? If was as though they said,

“Whatever Moses and Aaron can do, we can do. We are as great as they are. Their power is no greater than ours. A miracle is a miracle If Moses can work miracles to get the people out of Egypt we can work miracles to keep them, so where is the difference?”

In the same chapter of Second Timothy, Paul speaks of men in the last days having a form of godliness but denying the power. I think Mahatma Gandhi of India could be an illustration of Jannes and Jambres! He talked about living the Jesus way and having the Christ spirit and of his love of sacrifice for a righteous cause. Yet, he ever and always rejected salvation through faith in the blood of Christ. He had a form of godliness.

There are some people in the churches today who are imitating real Christians. They even teach the Bible, offer prayers and support the church, but they are only deceiving themselves and others. God will bring them to judgment as he did these men in Moses' time.

For seven days the waters of the river were blood and then the judgment passed and fresh waters came.

~ end of chapter 9 ~

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