

THE STORY OF MOSES

Aunt Hattie's Bible Stories

by

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Colportage Library #446

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 FIFTEEN

ISRAEL PREPARES FOR THE JOURNEY

Now, let us go back to our story.

The Egyptians were so eager to get the Israelites out of the land that they gave them quantities of gold, silver, and clothing, as much as they asked of them. We see how God's promise to Abraham, four hundred and thirty years before, came true. He said when Abraham's family should come out of Egypt they would carry much substance.

What did it mean for Moses to lead this people out of Egypt?

First, how many were there?

The Bible says six hundred thousand men, able to go forth to war, twenty years of age or over. If two-thirds of these soldiers were married, the wives would add four hundred thousand more. Then suppose, that in each family there were five children and we have added two million more.

There were old men and old women and we know a large company of Egyptians, called the mixed multitude, went along, so there must have been at least three million, five hundred thousand in all. Besides the vast throng of people there were flocks of sheep and herds of cattle.

Another thing to consider is the fact that none of this multitude, excepting Moses, had ever known anything but hard bondage, real slavery. How then could Moses move so vast a people and cattle in one day, and in an orderly manner? The only way we can account for it is that God led Moses and Moses obeyed in every detail.

If Moses had left God out he would have utterly failed. So will we if we leave Him out, but when God leads us we are able to do great and wonderful things.

The great company moved from Rameses, in Goshen, to Succoth for the first night's camp. They went in such a hurry that they didn't have time to put the yeast into the bread-dough and therefore had to eat unleavened bread.

I think it was when the great camp was all quiet for the night that God came to talk to Moses and to give him instructions about who should eat the Passover when it should be observed again.

Also God said to set apart the first-born son in every family, the ones whose lives had been saved on the night of the Passover.

Moses told the people the words of the Lord, how He had said that when they came into the land Canaan they should observe the anniversary of the deliverance from Egypt. First, by eating unleavened bread for seven days, and on the seventh day they should have a feast unto the Lord. This, He said, would show their sons what the Lord had done for them when they came forth out of Egypt.

They also were to set apart for the Lord, the firstborn son of every family and the first-born of the animals. Regarding these, God said a strange thing. He told them that before the first-born of an ass could live, a lamb would have to die in its place. If there was no lamb then the owner would have to break its neck. But stranger than this God said that for every first-born son a lamb would have to die, so it would seem as though a man and an ass were in the same class, wouldn't it?

There were two classes of animals, the clean and the unclean. Lambs were among the clean. Asses were on the list of the unclean and man was classed with the latter.

Jesus Christ, our Lord, was the spotless Lamb of God. We are all unclean, born in sin, worthy only of death. Jesus died in our place so that we might live.

~ end of chapter 15 ~

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