

# 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 THIRTEEN

### THE LAST PLAGUE AND THE PASSOVER

After the ninth plague God told Moses that there was yet one more judgment to come upon Pharaoh and Egypt. Following that, the Egyptians would want God's people to go. He also said to tell the Israelites to ask the Egyptians for silver and gold.

By this time the Egyptians were beginning to wish this nation of Israel would go forever out of their land. The Egyptian women were glad to give them anything they asked of them if it would hurry them out.

You may wonder if that was right. It was because the Israelites had worked long years for the Egyptians, without pay. What they were given was but a small amount compared to the years of service they had given.

Chapter eleven, verses four to eight, continue chapter ten. We have a continuation of the speech of Moses to Pharaoh. What a time it must have been! How the words of Moses must have fallen like lead, upon the hearts of Pharaoh's servants! Their land was destroyed, and yet their king remained stubborn and hard of heart.

Nevertheless, Moses gave the message he had received from God and began his announcement with a "**Thus saith the Lord.**"

Here is what he said:

**"Thus saith the Lord, about midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt: and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts.**

**“And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast; that you may know that the Lord doth put a difference between the Egyptians and the Israelites.**

**“And all these your servants shall come down unto me, and bow unto me, saying, Get you out, and all the people that follow you: and after that I will go out.”**

Now read the last two verses of the tenth chapter and find what Pharaoh, in great anger, said to Moses, **“Get out from me, take heed to yourself, see my face no more; for in the day you see my face you will die.”**

And Moses said, **“You have spoken well, I will see your face no more.”**

What a scene! How useless it is for anyone to fight against God.

In preparation for leaving the land, God explained many things to Moses and Aaron and gave them instructions.

First, He changed their calendar and made the month of their going to be the first month, a new beginning. You see, God called Israel His firstborn son and now this son or nation was to celebrate its first birthday, and it meant that it was starting all new.

God said that on the tenth day of that month every family or household should take a lamb of the first year, one that was healthy and perfect in every way and put it in a pen by itself for four days. Then on the fourteenth day of the month, in the evening, the head of each family in Israel should kill the lamb and take the blood and sprinkle it upon the top and sides of the door of the house.

Then they should take the body of the lamb and roast it and the family should eat the roast lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Not only that, but they must have their shoes on and everything ready, for God said:

**“I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all of the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”**

Then God told Moses that they should set aside that day as a memorial in Israel when they should come again into their own land which was Canaan. He said that whenever they were celebrating this feast they should use unleavened bread.

Leaven, or yeast as we call it, is a type of sin and so must be left out of the bread made for the feast.

When Moses and Aaron told these things to the children of Israel they did exactly as the Lord commanded them.

What excitement there must have been!

First, each family found a perfect lamb and kept it four days. Finally, the evening came when the lamb was slain and the blood sprinkled upon the lintel, which was the board above the door, and upon the doorposts.

Let us go in imagination, and call upon those Israelites on that particular evening.

I wonder what those two girls are talking about so earnestly. Listen:

“Has your father killed the lamb and sprinkled your door with its blood”? questions one of them.

“No, I do not believe he has. We have the lamb, but do you think it has to be killed”? asks the other.

“Oh, yes, not only killed but the blood has to be applied to your door or your brother will die tonight.”

“Good-by. I’ll run as fast as I can and tell father to sprinkle the blood for, oh, we wouldn’t want to lose our brother.”

A little way down the street, a group of Hebrews are discussing the subject and persuading a young man to sprinkle his door to save his baby boy. He asks them how the blood can save his innocent child. They answer that all they know about it is that God said that He would spare all those who were under a blood-sprinkled door and that they believe God’s message.

Farther on, we find an argument going on between two men, one a Hebrew and the other an Egyptian. The Hebrew is standing by his front door sprinkling the blood of the lamb upon the doorposts and the lintel.

The Egyptian is laughing loudly.

“Saved by a lamb’s blood! Can you beat it? That’s a good one. I never heard that before,” he shouts.

The Hebrew says that the Lord God, who has sent all of the terrible plagues upon Egypt, will also send the angel of death this night into all of the homes not sprinkled by the blood. The Hebrew pleads with him to hurry home and obey the command and save his son.

So it was that the darkness of night settled over the land, upon the Israelite and the Egyptian. At midnight the angel of the Lord came down and wherever He saw the blood He passed over; where the blood was not found, He entered and the firstborn son died.

In the land of Goshen all was joy and gladness. The first-born sons were happy to be living.

Were they saved because they were better than the Egyptians? No, not at all. It was only because the blood was on the door

Were they saved because they had done an act of kindness or deed of mercy? No, it was only the sprinkled blood that saved them.

They were happy because they believed and obeyed what God said.

Among the Egyptians it was different. Shortly after midnight the streets began to fill with wailing, screaming, crying people. Historians say no people of that day, nor of today are more noted for displaying their grief than the Egyptians.

A traveler tells of being near to a house in an Egyptian city where death occurred, and was able to see for himself how the family and friends ran into the street beating themselves and wailing in a most distressing fashion. If that is true now what must it have been at the time of our Bible account when death had taken one in every house?

Nor was the palace without its sorrow. Pharaoh's oldest son was dead, and Pharaoh and all of his servants arose in the night and shared in Egypt's grief.

Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and sent them this message, **“Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both you and the children of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as you have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also.”**

All the Egyptians joined in and urged the children of Israel to hurry out of their land before greater calamity would come.

~ end of chapter 13 ~

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