

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 ELEVEN

PHAROAH OFFERS OTHER PLANS

At the word of the Lord the flies came. Not little house flies like we have, but a large insect whose bite was very painful. Pharaoh did not like these pests one bit, so he sent for Moses and Aaron and told them to go on and hold their sacrifices to their God, in the land of Egypt. They were not to go outside as God had commanded.

Moses said, ***"Oh, no, we cannot because we would have to sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God; lo, shall we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us? We will go three days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the Lord our God, as He commanded us."***

In other words, Moses meant they simply couldn't worship God in Egypt. The animals used in the sacrifices of the Israelites were worshiped as gods in Egypt. Moses told Pharaoh that if they should offer these sacrifices in Egypt the Egyptians would stone them. Then, too, the Lord God of the Hebrews would not be worshiped in the midst of heathen gods. The Egyptians might then have said, "We see no difference between us; you have your worship and we have ours. It is all the same."

Have you noticed all through this record how many times Moses used the words, **"Thus saith the Lord?"** And then, so many times it is said that Moses did as the Lord commanded him. Satan at this time was trying to make a compromise or deal with Moses. But Moses, aware of this, was strong and true to God's full word and insisted on going three days' journey into the wilderness to worship God.

Pharaoh was very firm and, while he wanted the flies to go, he also wanted to keep these people for his own purposes; therefore he had another compromise ready.

He said, ***“I’ll let you go, but do not go very far away.”*** So you see Satan was trying the same kind of methods in those days that he uses today. Sometimes he says, “Oh, yes, be a Christian, that’s all right, but stay in the world, do the things you always have done. Be a good fellow.” And then if he sees you are determined, he says, “Yes, be a Christian, but do not go too far with God. Keep your worldly associates and friends.”

At Moses’ request the Lord removed the flies. There wasn’t one left!

For the sixth time the Lord said to Moses, ***“Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.”***

Then followed more judgments. A dreadful disease carried away all of the cattle of the Egyptians, but not one belonging to the Israelites died. A terrible scourge of boils fell upon the Egyptians and also upon the beasts; a great hailstorm destroyed the crops of Egypt, but Pharaoh’s heart was hardened and he stubbornly refused to let Israel go.

God sent Moses and Aaron again to Pharaoh to say, ***“Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me. And if you will not, then tomorrow, I will bring in locusts that will cover the face of the earth. They will eat all that the hailstorm has left. There will be locusts, more than your fathers or your grandfathers have ever seen, more than have ever been on the face of the earth before.”*** And when he had thus spoken Moses went out from the presence of Pharaoh.

By this time Pharaoh’s servants were greatly stirred and said to him, ***“How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God. Do you not know by this time that Egypt is already destroyed?”***

Pharaoh was greatly impressed and sent for Moses and Aaron and said to them, ***“Go, serve the Lord your God; but who are they that shall go?”***

And Moses said, ***“We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go; for we must hold a feast unto the Lord.”***

Then Pharaoh suggested to Moses another plan. He told Moses to go on and worship God but to leave the children at home. Having so said he drove him out of his presence.

I have known of some parents who claim to be Christians, but who seem to desire for their children the pleasures, attractions and prosperity of the world. They permit them to remain in the world.

And God gave Moses command to call the locusts, so he stretched out his hand and caused an east wind to blow all day and all night. The next morning the wind brought the locusts in such numbers that they clouded the sun. Every leaf on every tree, every herb in the field, every green thing was eaten up by the locusts!

Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron to hurry and come to him. This time he actually confessed that he had sinned against the Lord and against them. He asked them to forgive him and to beg the Lord to take away the locusts. Moses went out and asked the Lord to remove the plague, which God did by turning a strong west wind and blowing the locusts into the Red Sea.

After all of this, as soon as the danger was past, Pharaoh's heart was hardened again and he would not let the children of Israel go. Men's hearts can become very stubborn against God.

Another judgment more terrible than the others came upon Egypt when God withheld the light of the sun. An awful darkness settled over the land for three days. It was so dark they could not see one another, but over in Goshen where God's people, Israel, lived there was light in all of the houses!

It was at this time that Pharaoh gave Moses the permission, **"Go, serve the Lord, only let your flocks and your herds stay here. Take your children."**

But Moses, true to his God, said, **"You must give us also sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice unto the Lord our God. Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not a hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the Lord our God; and we know not with what we must serve the Lord, until we come thither."**

In other words Moses said, ***"We must take all of our cattle, for many of these animals we will use for our sacrifices to God, but we do not know which of them, or how many, until we are out of the land."***

Satan, through Pharaoh, tried to keep Israel in the land and, last of all, when he could not persuade them in these things, he tried to send them out of the land without a sacrifice or any way to worship God.

Moses' answer was a good one, **"Not a hoof shall be left behind."**

God wants all that we are and all that we have for His glory.

~ end of chapter 11 ~

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