

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 THIRTY-THREE

MOSES CLEANSSES THE CAMP

As they neared the camp, the noise of the rioters could be heard and Joshua said to Moses, "It sounds as if they are preparing for war."

But Moses knew better and said, "No, I do not hear any war-like cries of the victor, nor of the conquered. I hear singing."

It was not the song of joy in the Lord, but the song of the wicked and sinful. Moses knew the difference.

As they approached the camp they saw the calf and the heathenish dances going on around it.

Moses was so angry that he threw down the tables of stone and broke them in pieces. It was as if to say, "*If the commandments have been broken in their hearts, what good are they in stone?*"

Things moved fast now. Moses took the calf they had made, burnt it in the fire, ground it to powder and sprinkled it upon the water and made the idolatrous Israelites drink it.

Then Moses called Aaron and said, "**What did this people do to you that you have brought such a sin upon us?**"

Aaron answered, "*Now, Moses, don't be so angry. You know these people are full of mischief. They said to me, 'Make us gods, which shall go before us; as for this man Moses who brought us up out of Egypt we do not know what has become of him.' So I told them to bring their gold and they did and I threw it into the fire and out came this calf.*"

You see, Aaron tried to make Moses believe that some kind of a miracle had been performed in the making of the calf.

When Moses looked around and saw the conditions and that the people had fallen so low that they were going around naked, he went over and stood by the gate and shouted, **“Who is on the Lord’s side? Let him come to me!”**

I believe those words pierced the hearts of many of the Israelites. They made them very much ashamed, especially all of the men of the tribe of Levi, for they gathered themselves together and stood by Moses.

Moses gave each one of them a sword and said, **“Thus saith the Lord, go throughout the camp and slay everyone who had a part in starting this trouble. Do not spare one of them even though he be your brother.”**

And the Levites slew that day three thousand men.

After the camp had been cleared of all these idolaters Moses said, *“Consecrate, or set yourselves, apart, today, to the Lord, that He may bless you.”*

I think it was then that the children of Israel realized as never before the awfulness of sin and the judgments of God.

So it was that Moses returned from communion with God on the Mount to find the valley full of wickedness.

One day Jesus Christ, who went to be with the Father nearly two thousand years ago, is coming back. The wicked and idolatrous people of that coming day will fall under the power of His judgments.

If He should come to day, will you be found standing with Moses and the Levites, on the Lord’s side?

~ end of chapter 33 ~

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