

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 THREE

MOSES IN PHAROAH'S PALACE

When the time came for him to leave home and go to the palace his mother went with him and presented him to Pharaoh's daughter to become her son.

She named him Moses which means "*drawn out.*" She had drawn him out of the water.

As Jochebed turned from the glitter of the palace, to go home after leaving Moses, I think her heart went out in prayer to God to protect her boy from the sinfulness of that heathen palace. She had devoted her time for years to Moses' training; now, she must leave him in God's care.

What a different life Moses was to lead from this time on! From the humble, God-fearing home in the land of Goshen to the position of son of the daughter of Pharaoh in the palace of the king was indeed a great change!

I wonder, don't you, if he grew homesick and longed for a race with his brother, Aaron, or to listen to Mother and Dad tell the stories of Israel and of Israel's God.

Over in the seventh chapter of Acts, we are told what he did in the palace the following years.

He became "**learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians.**" He must have spent years in going to school. It also says he was "**mighty in words and in deeds.**" That, however, refers to him after he grew up.

When he was about forty years old he went to visit his people and saw how heavily they were burdened. As a boy at home with his parents he didn't realize what hardships they endured, but now, as a man, coming from a life of luxury and ease, it must have stirred him greatly.

As he walked out one day he saw an Egyptian striking a Hebrew, one of his own people, and Moses became angry. He looked this way and then that way to see that no one was watching, then he took the part of the Hebrew and slew the Egyptian. Right there Moses made a choice between Pharaoh and Israel.

I wonder if the Egyptian who was beating the Hebrew was one of those cruel taskmasters. If he was, then it seems certain that he would have killed the slave if Moses had not taken a hand. Was it right for Moses to do what he did? Laws today would say it was right in case of life against life, but why was Moses so fearful?

Why did he look this way and that way to see that no one was looking? I'll tell you what I think. God had talked to Moses long before this and told him He had chosen him to be the deliverer of His people so Moses supposed his brethren would understand about this (Acts 7:25).

When he saw the Egyptian about to kill the Hebrew he rushed in without waiting to ask God what to do. He had faith in God's Word, I think, but he was not willing to wait for God's time.

However, Moses in taking sides with the Hebrew showed which side he was on. He knew he could not live in Pharaoh's court and help his people too. In Hebrews 11:27 we read, **“By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.”** That is to say, he left the Egyptian court to help his own people though the king was angry with him for doing so.

The chapter goes on to say that he saw by faith Jesus Christ, who was to be the Saviour of men. He loved Jesus though He had not come to this earth, yet, to live in the body of flesh.

God had been in it all, you see. Moses' father and mother had faith to save him from the hand of Pharaoh and Moses had such great faith that he was willing to give up earthly plans and to dedicate his life to God for His service.

We may not see it as clearly in our own lives as we can in Moses' life, but each one of us is compelled sooner or later to make decisions that will affect our future. We decide daily what we will do and be.

Moses looked to God and by faith he chose to let God lead him. Suppose he had stayed in Egypt, how little the world would ever have known about him! He might have become another Pharaoh of Egypt, but about all we read about those old kings is their names. Moses by choosing God's way has been known and loved by all generations. God was able to do much more for him than he could have done for himself.

I have often thought of how we dream of doing great things. We have great ambitions, and that is right. I pity the boy or girl who has no daydreams of really doing things. Remember that your life dedicated to God (and no matter how many plans you make or how alert you are) is worth more. The greatest place anyone can occupy is the one God has selected for him. Best of all God stands ready to put you right there if you will let Him.

Now back to our story. When God writes the story of a man's life He includes even mistakes. He did with Moses. Moses should have waited until God's time before he turned upon the Egyptian, but we shall see how it came out.

The next day after that trouble with the Egyptian he saw two Hebrews fighting and he tried to separate them, saying, **“You are brothers, why do you wrong one another?”** And the one who was making the trouble pushed Moses away, saying, **“Who made you a prince (ruler) and a judge over us? Are you going to kill me as you did the Egyptian?”** (Exodus 2:14).

~ end of chapter 3 ~

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