

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 SEVEN

MOSES RETURNS TO EGYPT THE PLAGUES AND THE PASSOVER

“Come, Aaron, we must be on our way,” I think Moses said when they had talked awhile about God's promise to deliver Israel from Egypt.

You will remember we left these two brothers when they had met on Mount Horeb. Now, they were starting on the long tedious journey of two hundred miles and more back to Egypt.

The mountain paths and desert wastes were hard to travel, especially on foot, but I think they were glad to be together. They had so much to talk about that they did not mind the difficulties of the way.

When they reached Egypt the first thing they did was to call a meeting of the elders of the nation, Israel.

Aaron told all the things God had spoken to Moses and showed them signs of the rod changed to a snake and of the leprosy.

“And the people believed: and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped” (Exodus 4:31).

Life took on a rosy look for the Israelites and they were very happy.

Next, Moses followed God's command and went to the palace to talk to Pharaoh.

I wonder how he felt when he went up the stairs and into the palace where he had lived so many years as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

The king Pharaoh he had known was gone and another was in his place, but Moses had a message from the Lord and gave it to the king,

“Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness” (5:1).

In an instant Pharaoh was very angry and said,

“Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go.”

Moses and Aaron answered the king that the God of Israel had met with them and that they very much wanted to go over into the wilderness three day’s journey to sacrifice unto the Lord their God. If they didn’t, He would send a sickness or war to destroy them.

The king only grew more angry and said the people of Israel were many and that Moses and Aaron were hindering them in their work.

After the interview was ended, the very same day, Pharaoh called the taskmasters and officers together to talk matters over.

The bricks which the Israelites made were of mud mixed with straw. The materials they needed had always been furnished to them. Now, Pharaoh made a rule that they should go out and hunt their own straw. He required them to make as many bricks in a day as they had been making when the straw was furnished.

So the people were scattered everywhere hunting stumps of wheat or corn, for the straw was scarce. The taskmasters were more cruel, unreasonable and merciless than ever before.

The poor Israelites were sorely distressed and disappointed. Their backs were bleeding and torn from beatings they received, and a great gloom like the darkness of night rested upon them.

They lost faith in Moses and sent some of their leaders to Pharaoh to plead with him for mercy.

They said, ***“Why do you deal this way with your servants? There is no straw given to us, and they say to us, Make brick: and, behold, your servants are beaten; but the fault is in your own people.”***

Pharaoh told them they were making all of this complaint because they were idle and wanted to go and sacrifice to the Lord.

“Now,” he said, ***“go back to your work. No straw will be given to you, but you must make the full number of bricks.”***

The Israelites saw they were in a bad way.

They were on their journey home when they met Moses and Aaron, so they blamed them for the trouble. They said, ***“The Lord look upon you, and judge; because you have brought all of this trouble upon, us and Pharaoh is trying to kill us.”***

Oh, I’m sure Moses’ heart was greatly touched for he loved his people and had such joy in the thought of their deliverance which was promised. We have no account, however, of him answering them at all for there wasn’t much he could say.

But Moses knew where to go for help. He had the satisfaction of knowing that he had done all at the word of the Lord, therefore he went to Him to talk it over. That is a very good thing for any child of God to do. When we do right and walk in God’s way and things seem to go wrong, then we should go and tell our heavenly Father about it. I have found the Lord always brings it out right.

Moses said, ***“Lord, why have You treated Israel so badly? Why did You send me? Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people, and You haven’t delivered Your people at all.”***

Sometimes God lets His children get to the end of their own way. That was what He was doing with Israel. There was nothing they could do now to help themselves and king Pharaoh was without mercy.

God knew all about their sufferings and about Moses’ problems. Listen to what He said to him, ***“Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh: for the time will come when he will not only want the Israelites to go but he will drive them out of the land.”***

God continued:

“I am the Lord: and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them. And I have also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers” (6:3, 4).

It was as though God had said, ***“Moses, I am the same God that your fathers have known all through the years. When I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, it was by the name of God Almighty, which means: God, the One who is the strength-giver, or the Strong One who gives Sufficient for your needs. But as Jehovah, or the God who reveals Himself, they did not know me. I promised I would give them the land of Canaan and my covenant or promise is established and it is true.”***

Also, ***“And I have heard the groanings of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant. Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments;***

“And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be your God; And you shall know that I am the Lord your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will bring you into the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for a heritage: I am the Lord.”

Seven times God says, “**I will,**” and four times, in these few verses, He says: “**I am the Lord.**”

Moses went to Israel, as the Lord commanded him, to tell the people what the Lord had said, but they were in so much pain and suffering that they would not listen. Moses must have been discouraged, for when God told him to go again to Pharaoh and ask if they could go out of the land he answered,

“Why, Lord, the children of Israel, my own people, will not listen to me; how then shall Pharaoh hear my words?”

We all know what a depression is, and Moses and the children of Israel were having a bad one.

Right when they were the most disheartened and troubled God called all of the heads of the families of Israel by name. You will find them in the sixth chapter of Exodus.

Wasn't that a gracious thing for God to do? In that way He let them know that He knew them by families, knew where they were, and could hear their cries and moans, and see their burdens. God promises to share, yes, bear the burdens of those who trust Him and let Him.

~ end of chapter 7 ~

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