

THE GREAT ESCAPE
A Study Of The Book Of Exodus
Session 2

THE BIRTH AND DELIVERANCE OF MOSES

1 Genesis ends with Joseph and his family (a total of 70 persons) arriving in Egypt at the
2 invitation of the then-Pharaoh. Genesis 46:26 *All the souls that came with Jacob into*
3 *Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls were*
4 *threescore and six;*

5 They were settled by royal edict in the fertile Nile Delta where the family flourished and
6 decades went by.
7

Exodus 1:8 **Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.**

8 Critics of the Bible generally are either history revisionists or else don't know history at
9 all. These critics often discard the story of Joseph saying there are not clear records of
10 his existence or a pharaoh who abused the early Jews. There are clear-cut reasons why
11 such records are hard to find. Read on:

12
13 *Suddenly something incredible and frightful befell the nation of the Nile. Like a bolt*
14 *from the blue, warriors in chariots drove into the country like arrows shot from a bow,*
15 *endless columns of them in clouds of dust. Day and night horses' hooves thundered past*
16 *the frontier posts, rang through city streets, temple squares and the majestic courts of*
17 *Pharaoh's palaces. Even before the Egyptians realized it, it had happened. Their*
18 *country was taken by surprise, overrun and vanquished. The giant of the Nile who never*
19 *before in his history had seen foreign conquerors, lay bound and prostrate.*

20
21 *The rule of the victors began with a bloodbath. The Hyksos, Semitic tribes from Canaan*
22 *and Syria, knew no pity. They brought the 1300 year rule of the dynasties to an abrupt*
23 *end. The Middle Kingdom of the Pharaohs was shattered under the onslaught of these*
24 *Asian peoples, the "rulers of foreign lands." That is the meaning of the name*
25 *"Hyksos."*

26
27 *The memory of this political disaster remained alive among the Nile people as a striking*
28 *description by the Egyptian historian Manetho testified: "We had a king called*
29 *Tutimaeus. In his reign it happened. I do not know why God was displeased with us,*
30 *Unexpectedly from the regions of the East came men of unknown race. Confident of*
31 *victory they marched against our land. By force they took it easily without a single*
32 *battle. Having overpowered our rulers they burned our gods. All the natives were*
33 *treated with great cruelty for they slew some and carried off the wives and children of*



Qumran, Israel - where the caves of the finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls are located.

others into slavery. Finally, they appointed one of themselves as king. He lived in Memphis (new Cairo) and made Upper and Lower Egypt pay tribute to him.

The Biblical story of Joseph and the sojourn of the children of Israel in Egypt probably came into this period of turbulent conditions on the Nile under the rule of the foreign Hyksos. It is therefore not surprising that no contemporary Egyptian information has come down to us. Nevertheless there is indirect proof of the authenticity of the Joseph story. The Biblical description of the historical background is authentic. Equally genuine is the colorful Egyptian detail. Egyptology confirms this from countless finds.

THE BIBLE AS HISTORY / WERNER KELLER / BANTAM BOOKS / PP 87-88

When I take group to Israel, I try to spend at least the better part of one day at the Israeli museum in Jerusalem. (One could easily spend a week there!) In that museum you will find the Dead Sea Scrolls, the model of Jerusalem as it was in Jesus' day (I doubt if that model would fit in our sanctuary!), relics such as the ossuary of the high priest Caiaphas, and the list could go on and on. The thought hits you again as you peruse those treasures, "Wow! There is no question about the validity of sacred Scripture!")

1 THE SCRIPTURAL ACCOUNT OF THE BIRTH OF MOSES

2
3 Exodus 1:22

4 **And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast**
5 **into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.**

6
7 Exodus 2:1-10

8 **And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi.**
9 **[2] And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a**
10 **goodly child, she hid him three months. [3] And when she could not longer hide him,**
11 **she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and**
12 **put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. [4] And his**
13 **sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.**

14 **[5] And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her**
15 **maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags,**
16 **she sent her maid to fetch it. [6] And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and,**
17 **behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the**
18 **Hebrews' children. [7] Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call**
19 **to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? [8] And**
20 **Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's**
21 **mother. [9] And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse**
22 **it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed**
23 **it. [10] And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he**
24 **became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him**
25 **out of the water.**

- 26
- 27 • Moses' father was AMRAM, who had earlier sired Moses' older siblings, Aaron
28 and Miriam. Amram died at 137 years of age (Exodus 6:20and the years of
29 the life of Amram were an hundred and thirty and seven years.)
 - 30
 - 31 • Moses' mother was JOCHEBED. By the time Moses was born, Miriam, his sister,
32 was about ten years of age and Aaron was around three. Both would play highly
33 visible roles in the book of Exodus.

34

35 The birth of Moses came at a divinely-appointed time in Jewish history. One of the first
36 efforts at extermination of the Jews was underway by the Egyptian government.
37 Scriptures are most laudatory when it comes to this amazing man. Verses such as:
38 Hebrews 11:24-29 **By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called**
39 **the son of Pharaoh's daughter; [25] Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the**
40 **people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; [26] Esteeming the**

1 reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect
2 unto the recompence of the reward. [27] By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the
3 wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. [28] Through faith
4 he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn
5 should touch them. [29] By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land:
6 which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

7
8 Throughout history there have been major attempts to destroy the Jewish people. In our
9 study tonight, the Egyptians certainly tried to do it nearly 1500 years before Christ. The
10 Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar did not attempt genocide but certainly must be held
11 responsible for the slaughter of several hundred thousand Jews in 586 B.C. The Persians
12 were going to attempt it under a man named Haaman in 480 B.C. and might well have
13 been successful except for a Jewish girl who had become Queen - Hadassah, known
14 better to us as Esther. (Esther 3:8-11 **And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There**
15 **is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the**
16 **provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep**
17 **they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. [9] If it**
18 **please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten**
19 **thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business,**
20 **to bring it into the king's treasuries. [10] And the king took his ring from his hand,**
21 **and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy. [11]**
22 **And the king said unto Haman, The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with**
23 **them as it seemeth good to thee.)**

24
25 We are very well acquainted with the Nazis of Germany, under Adolf Hitler, destroy
26 every Jew in Europe and did, in fact, kill over six million of them in their pogroms,
27 starvation, death camps and the calamities of WWII. *

28
29 * *The figure given in the Nuremberg trials was 5,700,000 and it tallied with the totals of*
30 *the World Jewish Congress. There were some ten million Jews living in 1939 in the*
31 *territories occupied by Hitler's forces. By any estimate it is certain that nearly half of*
32 *them were exterminated by the Germans.*

33 THE RISE AND FALL OF THE THIRD REICH / WILLIAM SHIRER / SIMON AND SCHUSTER / P 978

34
35 I had a cousin who attended the trial in Jerusalem of Adolf Eichmann who masterminded
36 much of that deadly effort and was hanged for it in 1962 in Jerusalem. A friend of mine,
37 a Canadian Assemblies of God pastor, William Hull, was asked by the Israeli government
38 to serve as Eichmann's chaplain and counselor during his trial and was five feet from the
39 criminal when he was hanged. In interviewing Hull, he made it very clear that
40 Eichmann had no remorse and bragged about "falling into Hell laughing" for his
41 "accomplishments."

1 What these persecutors of Jews somehow overlook is God's initial declaration of support
2 for Jews, given by Him personally to the patriarch Abraham: (Genesis 12:1-3 **Now the**
3 **Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and**
4 **from thy father's house, unto a land (Israel) that I will shew thee: [2] And I will**
5 **make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and**
6 **thou shalt be a blessing: [3] And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that**
7 **curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

8
9 History has clearly shown that persecutors of Jews have had to deal with God's wrath!
10 God was not kidding! God's words personally given to Moses certain corroborate that
11 truth: Exodus 19:4 **Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare**
12 **you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.**

13 14 THE FAITH OF MOSES' PARENTS

15
16 Hebrews 11:23 speaks of their faith in providing safety for baby Moses. His mother,
17 Jochebed, I am convinced did not place the little basket just "anywhere" in the Nile River.
18 I believe she knew exactly where the daughter of Pharaoh washed herself – the exact
19 bend in the river. **SHE PLACED HER CHILD WHERE THERE WAS AN**
20 **OPPORTUNITY FOR A MIRACLE!**

21
22 The pastoral staff here is often requested to pray for a young man or woman who is living
23 deeply in sin. When I ask, "Was this child brought up in Sunday School? Did you have
24 family altar? Did your child ever see you reading the Bible? Was the child brought up
25 in church?" All too often, the parents turn away, blushing with shame. And I hear,
26 "Well, no – but we wanted our son or daughter to make up their own mind....and so we
27 did not expose them to God or the Bible or church...." **IN OTHER WORDS, WE DID**
28 **PUT OUR CHILD, LENT TO US BY GOD HIMSELF, IN A PLACE OF**
29 **OPPORTUNITY FOR GOD OR HIS WORD TO MOLD HIM - OR HER.**

30
31 Had Jochebed cared for Moses in that manner, the child would have drowned in the Nile
32 or have been eaten by crocodiles that infest the river.

33
34 It is important to note that Jochebed had FAITH, not PRESUMPTION. Some might
35 have charged her with a lack of faith since she "did something" about the dangerous
36 situation. She didn't just say, "Well, I have faith that little Moses will be safe, that he
37 won't cry." No, she did something about the predicament. She did something that
38 made a lot of sense. She not only hid her baby in a floating crib, she sent along Moses'
39 older sister Miriam to watch after him. Faith, without works, does not make a lot of
40 sense.

1 *The first forty years of Moses' life were spent in the courts of Pharaoh. He was raised*
2 *and trained like an Egyptian. He looked like an Egyptian, talked like an Egyptian and*
3 *acted like an Egyptian. He was educated in the great Temple of the Sun which was the*
4 *outstanding university of that day. Their knowledge of astronomy was phenomenal.*
5 *They knew the distance to the sun. They worked on the theory that the earth was round*
6 *and not flat. They knew a great deal about chemistry which is evidenced by the way they*
7 *were able to embalm their dead. We have no process to equal it today. Their*
8 *workmanship and ability with colors was fantastic. In addition to all their other*
9 *accomplishments, they had a tremendous library. And Moses, we are told was learned*
10 *in all the wisdom of the Egyptians.*

11 THRU THE BIBLE / MCGEE / NELSON / PAGE 206-207
12

13 We know some of this because of the witness of Stephen, the first known martyr:

14 Acts 7:20-29 **In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished**
15 **up in his father's house three months: [21] And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's**
16 **daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son. [22] And Moses was**
17 **learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.**
18 **[23] And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren**
19 **the children of Israel. [24] And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him,**
20 **and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: [25] For he supposed**
21 **his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them:**
22 **but they understood not. [26] And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they**
23 **strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do**
24 **ye wrong one to another? [27] But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away,**
25 **saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us? [28] Wilt thou kill me, as thou**
26 **diddest the Egyptian yesterday? [29] Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a**
27 **stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons.**
28

29 It is fascinating to know that although Moses had first rate education and training, he had
30 no idea how to set the Israelites free from Egyptian bondage. He got ahead of God (only
31 by about 40 years!) When word of Moses' killing an Egyptian reached the royal throne,
32 his career in the palace was over!
33

34 Exodus 2:15 **Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But**
35 **Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat**
36 **down by a well.**
37

38 Moses' life can be divided into three rather equal times:

- 39 1. 0-40 - early years in Egyptian royalty
- 40 2. 40-80 - a shepherd in the wilderness
- 41 3. 80-120 - the great deliverer of Israel

1 God's timing is perfect. Ours is not. Yet we often want to outrun God to our
2 destinations, thinking our sense of direction and timing is superior to His. Leonard
3 Ravenhill told me on several occasions that God never uses anyone who has not
4 graduated from "Bush University," where the school colors are black and blue. Moses
5 was about to embark on a 40-year "degree" at good old Bush and it would be rough.

6
7 In his classic film *The Ten Commandments*, Cecil B. DeMille wrote an outstanding script
8 in describing Moses ejection from the palaces of Egypt to the rocks, sand, heat and
9 scorpions of the desert:

10
11 *Into the blistering wilderness of Shur walked the man who had walked with kings. Now he walks alone. Torn from the pinnacle of royal power, stripped from all earthly wealth, he is a forsaken man, without a country, without a hope. His soul is in turmoil, like the hot winds and raging sands that lash him with the fury of a taskmaster's whip. He is driven forward, always forward, by a God unknown toward a land unseen. Into the molten wilderness of Zin, where granite sentinels stand as towers of living death to bar his way...each night brings the black embrace of loneliness. In the mocking whispering of the wind he hears the echoing voices of the dark...his tortured mind, wondering if they recall the memory of past triumphs or if they wail of forboding disasters yet to come..... or whether the desert's hot breath has melted his reason into madness. He cannot cool the burning kiss of thirst from his lips, nor shade the scorching fury of the sun. All about him is desolation. He can neither bless nor curse the power that moves him for he does not know from where it comes. Learning that it can be more terrible to live than to die, he is driven onward, into the burning crucible of the desert where holy men and prophets are cleansed and purged for God's great purpose. Until at last, at the end of human strength, beaten into the dust from which he came, the metal is ready for the Maker's hand.*

12
13 Now Scripture picks up the dramatic narrative of the exiled Moses:

14
15 **Exodus 2:23-25 And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died:**
16 **and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their**
17 **cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. [24] And God heard their**
18 **groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with**
19 **Jacob. [25] And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto**
20 **them.**

21
22 God had not forgotten Israel, nor the sad situation of the Jews. All that time He was

1 fashioning the one man who could lead them to freedom and the Promised Land.
2

3 When we come to chapter three, we will find Moses a married man and father, taking care
4 of the flocks of his father-in-law Jethro. We will find Moses in the shadows of a great
5 and historic mountain called Horeb – better known as Sinai. How did that come to pass?
6
7

8 **Exodus 2:16-22 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and**
9 **drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. [17] And the**
10 **shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and**
11 **watered their flock. [18] And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is**
12 **it that ye are come so soon to day? [19] And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out**
13 **of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the**
14 **flock. [20] And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? why is it that ye have**
15 **left the man? call him, that he may eat bread. [21] And Moses was content to dwell**
16 **with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter. [22] And she bare him a**
17 **son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a**
18 **strange land.**
19

20 Where is Mount Sinai? Many pilgrims today travel to the southern end of the Sinai
21 Peninsula, between Israel and Egypt, to a place called St. Catherine's Monastery. I have
22 been there several times myself but do not believe that is Mount Sinai. It was chosen by
23 Queen Helena in the fourth century and has strong Catholic tradition, but not much
24 substance to back it up as the authentic location.
25

26 Next time we meet, we will attempt to figure that out. It is important for there Moses
27 encountered the burning bush and received his marching orders to "Go down, Moses -
28 way down in Egypt's land.....Tell old Pharaoh....LET MY PEOPLE GO!"
29

30 What a story!
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