

2. The Life of Moses

Moses was born a Hebrew during a horrible time. The Hebrews were slaves and were multiplying too fast. So, the Pharaoh gave order to kill every Hebrew boy born (**Scriptures 1 - Exodus 1:22 - Kill every boy born**).

Moses' mother hid her baby boy for three months, but she couldn't hide him any longer. She decided to do a desperate act to try and keep the boy alive. She put her baby in a basket and placed the basket along the bank of the Nile where the Pharaoh's Egyptian women would go to bathe. She had her daughter (Moses' sister) watch from a distance to see what happened. Pharaoh's daughter found baby Moses and wanted to keep him, but she needed someone to nurse him. So the Moses' sister asked if she should go find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby and Pharaoh's daughter agreed. So, Moses was nursed by his mother and was not killed like all the other Hebrew boys. When Moses grew older, she took him to the Pharaoh's daughter. Pharaoh's daughter raised Moses as an Egyptian in royalty (**Scriptures 2 - Exodus 2:1-10 - Moses raised by Pharaoh's daughter**).

The bible doesn't make it clear if Moses knew he was born a Hebrew or not or how old he was when he was turned over to the Pharaoh's daughter. "Either way, Moses was raised in an Egyptian royal family. There is an indication that he knew he was born Hebrew in *Exodus 2: 11* stating "*One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor.*" Moses saw a Hebrew being mistreated and stuck up for him, actually killing the abusive Egyptian (**Scripture 3 - Exodus 2:11-15 - Moses killed an Egyptian and fled to Midian**). Moses had to flee after that in fear of the Egyptians' retaliation.

He settled in Midian. Married a daughter of a Priest and had children. He seemed to be living a simple life of tending flock and raising children for several years. But the simple life was about to end when he saw the burning bush (**Scripture 4 - Exodus 3:1-10 - Burning bush**).

God spoke to Moses through the burning bush explaining how he has heard the cries of his people. God said to Moses "So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." Moses desperately tried to talk God into using someone else. (**Scripture 5 - Exodus 4:10-13 - Moses questions his abilities to speak boldly**). But God knew Moses was the one. However, he did allow Aaron the Levite to go with him and speak for him if needed. Moses must have been terrified.

But he did leave his simple life and face Pharaoh. God used Moses to perform mighty miracles to get the Israelites free. Moses became the leader to millions of people. He would speak to God and come back glowing so much that it scared people. God gave Moses the ten commandments. Moses was a great leader and a humble servant to the Lord up until he died at an old age.

A Prayer of Moses - Psalms 90:17 May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands!

The Song of Moses - Deuteronomy 32:3-4 I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

Willing to leave a life of royalty, and then willing to leave a simple life, Moses shows us we can do great things when we follow the Lord. Sometimes it's frightening. Sometimes we don't think we're able. Sometimes we fall or even fail. But if we are obedient and follow Jesus, even if we cannot see it, great things happen.

Scripture 1. Pharaoh gave order to kill every Hebrew boy born.

Exodus 1:22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

Scripture 2. Moses raised by Pharaoh's daughter.

Exodus 2:1-10 1 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman,² and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.³ But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.⁴ His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.⁵ Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it.⁶ She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. ⁷ Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" ⁸ "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰ When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

Scripture 3. Moses killed an Egyptian and fled to Midian.

Exodus 2:11-15 ¹¹ One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.¹² Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.¹³ The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?"¹⁴ The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known."¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.

Scripture 4. Burning bush - God

Exodus 3:1-10 ¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." ⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.

Scripture 5. Moses questions his abilities to speak boldly.

Exodus 4:10-13 Moses said to the LORD, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue. ¹¹ The LORD said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? ¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." ¹³ But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else."