

Destin Church of Christ

March 26, 2023

Lesson 4: Moses: “Deliverance”

Timeless Truth: God is the ultimate Deliverer.

Exodus 1 – 7; 10 – 17

Timeline: 1525-1450 B.C.

Many years had passed since the death of Joseph. New kings were crowned in Egypt, who had no appreciation for how Joseph had saved their country during a great famine (pg. 43) (Exodus 1:8). The birth of Moses marks the beginning of God's plan to free His people from Egyptian slavery.

All through *The Story* we will meet people who did not believe they had what it took to serve God. But, over and over again, God continued to use surprising people to accomplish his Upper Story plan down in this Lower Story world of ours.

Lesson Breakdown:

- The Pharaoh Who Forgot (Exodus 1-2)
- God in the Wasteland (Exodus 2-4)
- The Confrontation (Exodus 5-11)
- Deliverance, Danger, Desert (Exodus 12-17)

Plot Points:

- God never forgets his promises or his people, and He responds when they cry out for help.
- Although humans might be awed by the power of earthly empires, pharaohs are no match for God's might power, demonstrated by the ten plagues of judgment on Egypt.
- The Passover provides a clear picture of the sacrificial lamb as an atonement for the nation of Israel, prefiguring Christ's sacrifice on the cross for the people of God.
- God wants his people to see his acts of deliverance so that they will remember them and know that he can be trusted to keep his promises in the future.

As you watch the video for Session 4, notice some of the main points.

- ✓ Moses said, “I am slow of speech and tongue.” (Exodus 4:10)
- ✓ In the Lower Story, Moses isn't qualified for such an important task.
- ✓ The best thing we can do is say “yes” to God.
- ✓ God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy.
- ✓ We will be saved by the blood of an unblemished lamb. (1 Peter 1:19)

UNDERSTAND THE STORY

- Pharaoh gives the order to “*Throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River.*” (pg. 44) (Exodus 1:22)
 - This edict is similar to Herod ordering the killing of boys two years old and under in and around Bethlehem. (pg. 314) (Matthew 2:16-18)
 - Moses’ mother Jochebed hid him for three months but was eventually forced to set him adrift in a papyrus basket. (pg. 44) (Exodus 2:2-3)
 - The infant was rescued when Pharaoh’s daughter found and adopted him into the elite of Egyptian royalty. (pg. 44) (Exodus 2:10)
1. Why did Pharaoh’s daughter agree to keep Moses? (pg. 44) (Exodus 2:6)
- When Moses was forty years old (Acts 7:23), incensed by an act of Egyptian violence toward one of his enslaved countrymen, killed the taskmaster, and hid the Egyptian’s body in the sand. (pg. 44) (Exodus 2:11-12)
 - Realizing that Pharaoh knew what he had done, Moses fled to the wilderness. (pg. 44) (Exodus 2:15)
 - While in Midian, Moses met a priest – Jethro (a.k.a. Reuel) – and married his daughter, Zipporah. (pg. 45) (Exodus 2:16-21)
 - Moses and Zipporah have two sons, Gershom (pg. 45) (Exodus 2:22) and Eliezer (Exodus 18:4).
 - He was content to live with Jethro and became a shepherd. (pg. 45) (Exodus 2:22)
 - After a while, the king of Egypt dies. (pg. 45) (Exodus 2:23)
 - The Israelites, in slavery, cry for help to God. (pg. 45) (Exodus 2:23)
 - God hears their groaning, and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. (pg. 45) (Exodus 2:24)
 - God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them. (pg. 45) (Exodus 2:25)
 - While tending the flock of Jethro (Reuel), his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, an angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in flames of fire from within a bush. (pg. 45) (Exodus 3:1-2)
 - Even though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. (pg. 45) (Exodus 3:2)
 - God sees the Israelites’ oppression, hears their cries of distress, and is aware of their suffering. (pg. 46) (Exodus 3:7)

2. What did God say He would do? (pg. 46) (Exodus 3:8)
 - God tells Moses to go to Pharaoh and lead God’s people out of Egypt. (pg. 46) (Exodus 3:9-10)
3. How did Moses see himself and his abilities and how did God see him (pgs. 46-47) (Exodus 4:10 – 12)
 - God sends Aaron, Moses’ brother, to go with him. (pg. 47) (Exodus 4:14);
4. How old was Moses and Aaron when they went to speak to Pharaoh? (Exodus 7:7)
 - Things didn’t go well with their first audience with Pharaoh. (pg. 47) (Exodus 5:1-5).
 - He not only refused their request to let the people of Israel hold a festival to the Lord in the wilderness, but he also made their slave labor even more difficult. (pg. 47) (Exodus 5:6-9)
 - Without reducing their production of bricks, they would have to find their own straw to mix in with the clay. (pg. 47) (Exodus 5:10-12)
5. What was God’s response to Pharaoh’s action? (pg. 48) (Exodus 6:1)
 - With the help of God, Moses and Aaron was able to perform some miracles in front of Pharaoh, but Pharaoh’s magicians were able to duplicate them. (pg. 48-49) (Exodus 7:1-13)
 - Moses then called down ten devastating plagues. (pg. 49-52) (Exodus 7:14 - 12:30)
6. What do you think was the purpose behind the plagues? (Exodus 7-12)
 - To show the Israelites that the God of their fathers was alive and worthy of their worship (Exodus 6:6–8; 12:25–27)
 - To show the Egyptians that their gods were nothing (Exodus 7:5; 12:12; Numbers 33:4)

There are other mentions of plagues in the Bible:

Numbers 11 ... The Israelites consumed so much quail that God sent them a plague to teach them a lesson about gratitude.

Numbers 13 ... God sends a plague to address a rebellion.

Numbers 26 ... There is a plague associated with the people’s worship of Baal.

2 Samuel 24 ... David’s sin is punished by a pestilence or plague that kills 70,000 men.

7. Did any of the plagues affect the Israelites? (Exodus 8:22-23; 10:13-15; 11-12; 14:31)
 - (Page 51-52) (Exodus 12:43-49) - Instructions for the Festival of Passover.
8. How is Passover an ancient sign pointing to the death of Jesus on the cross as the final Lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world? (pgs. 50 – 52) (Exodus 12:1 – 24).
 - Pharaoh, finally agrees to free the Israelites. (pg. 52) (Exodus 12:31)
9. How long had the Israelite people lived in Egypt? (pg. 52) (Exodus 12:40)
10. According to God, why did Pharaoh let the Hebrews go? (pg. 52) (Exodus 6:1)
 - But he changed his mind again and pursued them to the Red Sea. (pg. 53) (Exodus 14:5)
11. Why did Pharaoh change his mind and pursue the Israelites to the Red Sea? (pg. 53) (Exodus 14:5)
 - When God led the Israelites out of Egypt, He led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness. He said that *“If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.”* (Exodus 13:17-18)
 - By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light. (pg. 53/54) (Exodus 13:21)
 - The Israelites escaped by crossing the sea on dry ground, while Pharaoh and his army followed them and drowned. (pg. 55) (Exodus 14:15 – 15:19)
12. If the people listened and kept God’s commands, what did he promise to do? (pg. 55) (Exodus 15:26)
 - The people of Israel entered the Wilderness of Sin not long after leaving Egypt on their journey to the Promised Land (pg. 55) (Exodus 16:1). It is one of six wildernesses through which the Israelites traveled on their way to Canaan.
 - The only other mention of the Wilderness of Sin is in the book of Numbers as part of the journal Moses kept detailing the Israelite journey from Egypt to their campsite in Moab (Numbers 33:11–12).

- The Israelites began to murmur about insufficient food and water, saying Moses brought them out to the desert to die. (pg. 55) (Exodus 16:3)

13. The people said they would rather do what? (pg. 55) (Exodus 16:3).

- God hears their complaints and miraculously provided water, meat (quail) and ‘manna.’ (pg. 56) (Exodus 16:11-12; Psalm 105:40)
- When we talk about manna, what is it? (pg. 56) (Exodus 16:15) (Exodus 16:31; Numbers 11:8; Psalm 78:23-25)
- They received exactly the amount needed for each day. (pg. 56) (Exodus 16:19)
- Any extra would be full of maggots and have a terrible smell. (Exodus 16:20)
- On the sixth day of the week, they gathered a double portion, with no manna falling on the seventh day. (pg. 56) (Exodus 16:22)
- The people of Israel set out from the Wilderness of Sin, arriving in Rephidim, where there was no water to drink. The people complained again. (pg. 56-57) (Exodus 17:1)
- God told Moses to strike the rock with his staff and water came gushing out (pg. 57) (Exodus 17:1-6). This is the same staff Moses used to turn the Nile river into blood (pg. 49) (Exodus 7:20).
- Moses called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?” (pg. 57) (Exodus 17:7)

In the Lower Story of Lesson Four, Moses isn’t qualified for such an important task. But in the Upper Story, God sees Moses’ weakness as the best channel for his strength. When Israel is successful in being freed from the Egyptian oppression, everyone will see God.

Next week we’ll look at the powerful commandments God gives to Moses and the Israelites and how he builds his Upper Story covenant with them.

Homework: Take time this week to read Lesson 5 of *The Story*.

Why Did God Send Plagues of Egypt in Exodus?

The choice of specific plagues speaks directly to God's nature and His clear message about the danger of idolatry. God was demonstrating to Pharaoh that He, alone, is the One True God.

Here are the plagues and the corresponding Egyptian god:

1. The Nile turns to blood: The Egyptian god Hapi was pictured as a water bearer and was known as the God of the Nile.
2. Frogs: Heket goddess of fertility, was depicted with the head of a frog.
3. Gnats/Lice: Geb was the god of the earth (or the dust of the earth). When Aaron waved his staff over the "dust of the earth," there arose a plague of gnats or lice.
4. Flies: Khepri, the god of creation, was depicted as having the head of a fly.
5. Livestock: Hathor, the goddess of love and protection, was depicted with the head of a cow.
6. Boils: Isis was the goddess of medicine, so God sent unyielding boils to affect the people.
7. Hail: Nut, the goddess of the sky, is what inspired God to send hail and fire from above.
8. Locusts: Seth was the god of storms and disorder. God sent a storm cloud of locusts that destroyed their food supply.
9. Darkness: Ra is the famous Egyptian god of the sun which God darkened for three days while sustaining light in the land of Goshen where the Israelites dwelled.
10. Firstborn Death: Pharaoh set himself up to be worshiped as a god, so God came against him with the death of every firstborn in the land, including Pharaoh's child.

In the Bible, the number ten indicates completion. The Egyptians were "completely" plagued.