

Bible Stories for Adults

The Birth and Flight of Moses

Exodus 1 - 2

Opening

Gathering: Give an example of where God's timing proved much better than your desired timing.

Today's Focus: God will fulfill His plan and promises for our lives in His perfect time and manner.

Key Verses: *The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, ... not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.* 2 Peter 3:9

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. Romans 6:22

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. 2 Cor. 12:9

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Land o' Goshen (*Genesis 46-47*)

Why did God bring the Israelites to Egypt?

Genesis 46:1-4 = *I will make you into a great nation. I will go with you.*

How was Israel kept separated from the Egyptians in this populous land?

Genesis 46:31-34 = Settled Goshen, *shepherds are detestable to Egyptians*

Goshen - Eastern border of Nile delta, First part of Egypt reached by travelers from Canaan

Egyptian capital was likely Tanis, western border of Goshen (where Joseph lived)

What was significant about the quality of the land in Goshen?

Genesis 47:5-6 = Very lush, *the best part of the land*

Why did Pharaoh need someone to take charge of his livestock?

Genesis 47:13-17 = Pharaoh owned all livestock & land in exchange for grain

How did God provide for the Israelites in Goshen?

Genesis 47:12 = Joseph provided food although famine was severe

Just Like Rabbits (*Exodus 1:1-7*)

What part of God's promise was especially developed in Egypt?

Exodus 1:6-7 = Israelites multiplied greatly and filled the land

How many belonged to the covenant family when Israel moved to Egypt?

Exodus 1:1-5 = 70 direct descendants (7 means total, complete to Hebrew)

How many belonged to the covenant family when they left Egypt?

Exodus 12:37-38 = 600,000 men plus women, children, servants, herds

Hyksos (*Genesis 41:38*)

What was so extraordinary about the great power that Pharaoh gave Joseph?

Genesis 43:32 = Hebrews were detestable to Egyptians; Why give power to a Hebrew?

Hyksos - Egyptian for *foreign kings*, Also called "Shepherd Kings"

Disliked by Egyptians - *All shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians* (Genesis 46:34)

Semitic invaders conquered in 1730 BC, ruled over Nile delta to Canaan 150 years

Fine for Hyksos to give power to a fellow Semite; Possibly Apepi II of 16th dynasty

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A New King (*Exodus 1:8*)

Egyptian kings ruled southern Egypt from Thebes during time of Hyksos
1570 BC - Ahmose, first king of 18th dynasty, defeated Hyksos and regained all Egypt
Likely began period of dislike & suspicion for Israelites living in their Goshen
How is this change of ruler described in our story?
Exodus 1:8 = *A new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power*

New Kingdom period began - Egypt expanded militarily, grew to include Canaan
Lost much control to Hittites under Ikhnaton (Tutankhamon's father-in-law)
New energy & expansion under 19th dynasty with Rameses I and Rameses II (1304 BC)
Height of splendor under Rameses II - many statues, building programs
Great battle with Hittites at Kadesh (1288 BC) weakened both militaries
Rameses II was possibly *the Pharaoh of the Oppression* (when Moses grew up)
Next king, Merneptah, was far weaker and had big troubles with invaders from Phrygia
Costly battle on Egyptian coast, followed by loss of Canaan (for 900 years)
Possibly *the Pharaoh of the Exodus* - too many other problems

Above is based on the exodus occurring around 1290 BC, Joseph around 1670 BC
A valid case can also be made for the exodus in 1466 BC, Joseph around 1900 BC

It's No Fun Here Anymore (*Exodus 1:9-16*)

How did this new set of kings change life for the Israelites?
Exodus 1:9-11 = Forced into slavery to keep in control & from growing
How well did the Egyptian's plan work to weaken and lessen the Israelites?
Exodus 1:12 = *The more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied & spread*
How did the Egyptians respond?
Exodus 1:13-14 = They worked them with hard labor ruthlessly

Were the Israelites being punished or disciplined by God for their sins?
Psalm 105:23-25 = No, God was building and strengthening His chosen nation
What had God told Abraham about his descendants in a foreign country?
Genesis 15:12-14 = Descendants to be enslaved 400 yrs then returned with wealth
Why was it important that the Israelites endure hardship in Egypt?
Exodus 3:7-10 = So they wouldn't be content and want to stay in Egypt

Growing Through Troubles (*Romans 6:15-18*)

Is Christianity a life of freedom or slavery?
Romans 6:15-18 = Both - Freed from sin to be slaves to righteousness
Is a Christian protected from hardship?
Acts 14:22b = *We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God*

How should we, as Christians, view hardship?
Hebrews 12:5-11 = As discipline from a loving father
Isaiah 1:25-26 = As purification to build righteousness
Romans 5:3-5 = Rejoice in suffering, it produces perseverance, character, hope
2 Corinthians 12:7-10 = Man's weakness opens way for Christ's power
What should we remember when we are going through troubles that we don't understand?
Romans 8:28 = *In all things God works for the good of those who love Him*

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Those Darn Hebrew Rabbits (*Exodus 1:15-22*)

What new approach toward limiting the power of the Hebrews did the king (Pharaoh) derive?

Exodus 1:15-16 = Told midwives to kill all Hebrew boys as they are born

How well did this plan work?

Exodus 1:17-19 = Midwives didn't follow and gave excuses to Pharaoh

How did God respond to the midwives' tactic?

Exodus 1:20-21 = Israelites grew even more numerous, midwives had kids

What was Pharaoh's third plan?

Exodus 1:22 = Throw all Hebrew baby boys into the Nile

Yet Another Hebrew Boy is Born (*Exodus 2:1-2*)

What tribe was a special baby born into?

Exodus 2:1-2 = Levites, Called later by God to serve as priests

Who were the members of this family? = Jochebed was Amram's father's sister (aunt) – Exodus 6:20

Numbers 26:59 (Exodus 6:20) = Amram, father; Jochebed, mother; Aaron, Moses, Miriam

What was God's plan for this family?

Micah 6:4 = I sent Moses, Aaron & Miriam to lead you out of Egypt

Exodus 28:1-2 = Aaron was first high priest of Israel

Thrown Into the Nile (*Exodus 2:3-4*)

How did Jochebed use the Nile to protect Moses from death in the Nile? = Hid for 3 months (v2)

Exodus 2:3-4 = Put him in a basket and floated him down the Nile

Hebrew word translated as *basket* is translated elsewhere as *ark* (Genesis 6-9)

How did Moses' parents have the courage to disobey Pharaoh's edict?

Hebrews 11:23 = By faith

What other Hebrew baby was saved from a king's slaughter of Hebrew boys?

Matthew 2:13-16 = Jesus was taken to Egypt to hide from Herod

The Saving Waters (*Exodus 2:5-10*)

How was the Nile used to save Moses?

Exodus 2:5-9 = Pharaoh's daughter found Moses and kept him as her own

How did Moses get his name? = Moses in Egyptian means son (Rameses, Thutmose)

Exodus 2:10 = *Moses* is Hebrew for *draw out*, Pharaoh's daughter drew out Moses from water

Moses = Egyptian for *is born*; Used in Pharaoh names such as Ahmose, Thutmose, Rameses

What purpose might God have had for Moses being raised in Pharaoh's house?

Acts 7:20-22 = Educated in Egyptian wisdom & ways, Powerful in speech & action

What are other examples of water saving God's people?

Genesis 7:7 = Noah & family entered ark to escape waters of flood

Exodus 14:21-22, 27-28 = Israel saved from Egyptians by crossing Red Sea

Mark 16:16 = *He who believes & is baptized shall be saved*

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Hebrew or Egyptian? (*Exodus 2:11-15*)

What event shows us that Moses was very aware of his Hebrew heritage? = *his own people*

Exodus 2:11-12 = He murdered an Egyptian for beating a Hebrew slave

Had anyone seen what he had done?

Exodus 2:13-14 = Hebrews accused him of killing the Egyptian

What did Moses do when word got out of what he had done?

Exodus 2:15 = He ran away to Midian

Meeting Women by the Well (*Exodus 2:16-20*)

What did Moses do at the well and how did it lead to a home for him?

Exodus 2:16-20 = Protected 7 sisters from shepherds, Was invited to eat

How did God bless Moses in Midian?

Exodus 2:21-22 = Married Zipporah, Had son Gershom (*an alien there*)

What other wives were met at a well?

Genesis 24 = Abraham's servant met Rebekah for Isaac's wife

Genesis 29 = Jacob met Rachel

Moses in Midian

Did Israel's problems get better while Moses was in Midian?

Exodus 2:23 = *Israel groaned in their slavery and cried out*

Did God ignore Israel's cries? = Remembered in Hebrew does not imply something was forgotten

Exodus 2:24-25 = God heard, remembered (brought to mind) His covenant & was concerned

Closing Prayer

Response

1. When has it seemed that God had forgotten me, when He was actually waiting for His perfect time?
(Exodus 1:8; 2:23-25; Genesis 15:13-16; Hab. 2:3; 2 Peter 3:8-9; Galatians 4:4-5; Hebrews 10:37)
2. How do I view hardship? Can I rejoice in suffering?
(Exodus 1:9-14; Isaiah 1:25-26; Romans 5:3-5; Hebrews 12:5-11)
3. Do I look to God for His strength when I am weak?
(Exodus 2:23; Psalm 18; 59:16-17; 1 Corinthians 1:25; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 13:4)
4. What impossible situations in my life has God used to work His good plan?
(Exodus 1:22-2:10; Acts 7:9-14, 20-22; Romans 8:28; Hebrews 11:23)
5. When have I helped others beyond their expectations?
(Exodus 2:16-19; John 13:1-17; Romans 12:9-21; Hebrews 13:2)

Next Week - *The Call of Moses* (Exodus 3 - 4)