



LEVEL 4  
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LESSON 4

# Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



**Moses—A Man of Deliverance**

# Moses—A Man of Deliverance

**T**he Israelite slaves cried out. Year after year, their enslavement to the Egyptians grew worse and worse. Pharaoh, the leader of Egypt, worried that the Israelites were becoming too numerous. By oppressing them in slavery, he thought he could reduce their numbers. Yet the number of Israelites continued to grow. He turned to an even more wicked solution: murder every baby boy born to an Israelite slave by throwing him into the Nile River to drown.

The Israelites had forgotten the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob years ago. They knew only the pagan gods of the Egyptians. But the merciful God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob still heard the cry of His people.

## **A PLAN FOR DELIVERANCE**

Among the slave huts of the Israelites, lived an Israelite woman named Jochebed who gave birth to a baby boy. She and her husband feared Pharaoh, but they bravely disobeyed his wicked command. Instead of drowning their new son, they hid him. But as the baby grew, it became harder and harder to keep him hidden.

After three months, they developed a plan to try to spare his life.

One morning, Jochebed placed her son in a basket and carried him down to the river. She placed the basket in the river, near where a princess, Pharaoh's daughter, bathed. The current carried the basket a short distance downriver, toward the princess.

The baby's older sister, Miriam, ran along the river's edge to watch the basket. Eventually, Pharaoh's daughter noticed the basket floating among the reeds. When she opened it, she was startled to discover an Israelite baby inside. She knew Pharaoh had ordered all male Israelite babies to be killed, but as the infant began to cry, compassion filled her. She decided to protect this infant.

Seeing the princess care for her brother, Miriam quickly ran down to the water's edge. She approached Pharaoh's daughter as she gently rocked the baby.

"Princess, I know someone who can nurse the baby for you," Miriam said. "Would you like me to get her?" Pharaoh's daughter nodded. A while later, Miriam returned with her mother. Pha-

Pharaoh's daughter asked Jochebed to care for the baby until he was old enough to move to the palace. The baby was saved! He would receive the privileges of growing up as an adopted grandson of Pharaoh himself, his mother would be allowed to care for him when he was young without having to hide him, and Pharaoh's daughter would even pay her to do it.

God had protected the person He would later use to deliver the Israelites.

For a few short years, these faithful Hebrew parents were able to raise their son. The time did come, however, that they had to take the young boy to Pharaoh's daughter. She named him

Moses, which means "to draw out," since she had drawn him out of the river.

### **MOSES LEAVES EGYPT**

Moses grew up in the royal household and learned from some of the best Egyptian tutors. He learned Egyptian customs, history and culture. And yet, although he was raised as an Egyptian prince, Moses and others knew he was actually an Israelite. When he noticed how the Israelite slaves were oppressed, he became more and more upset.

One day, Moses came across a disturbing scene: An Egyptian taskmaster was beating a helpless Israelite slave. Furious, Moses ran over and killed the Egyptian.



ILLUSTRATIONS MELISSA BARREIRO

Pharaoh's daughter finds Moses in a basket.



Moses works with Jethro's family.



Realizing the terrible crime he had committed, he quickly buried the Egyptian's body.

The next day, Moses was walking among the Israelites. He discovered that some of them knew what he had done. Eventually, Pharaoh came to know as well. Pharaoh ordered Moses to be executed for his crime, but Moses fled to the desert east of Egypt.

While in the desert, Moses encountered a family that took him in. The father of this family was Jethro, a prominent leader in the land of Midian. In return for housing and food, Moses helped shepherd Jethro's flocks. Eventually, he married one of Jethro's daughters.

As the years passed, Moses became content with his new life and family. However, for Israelites still in Egypt, life was getting worse. A new Pharaoh took the throne, and he persecuted the Israelites even more intensely. Those who knew something about the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob thought that He must have left their descendants or forgotten about them. But even in their suffering, God was still with them: He heard every cry.

### **GOD CALLS MOSES**

One day, Moses was tending to the flock in the desert. As he gazed over the sheep, he noticed something unexpected up on the mountain slope: A bush was on fire! Moses left the sheep with one of his assistants and hurried toward the burning bush. If the brush around it caught fire, much of

the sparse vegetation in this part of the desert would be destroyed.

As he hurried toward the fire, he saw that a small desert tree was engulfed in furious flames, yet it wasn't burning up. Then a strong voice cried out, "Moses! Moses!" Confused and hesitant, Moses answered, "Yes, I am here."

Moses slowly realized that he was witnessing a miracle and hearing the voice of God. God commanded that Moses remove his sandals because he was on holy ground.

"I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," He said. "I have seen what the Egyptians have done to my people. And I will send you to deliver my people out of the land of Egypt and lead them to a land of freedom and prosperity."

Moses was shocked. Would the Israelites believe him when he said he had been sent by God? And even if they did, how could he cause Pharaoh to release them?

Moses gave excuses for why he couldn't complete such a mission. So God had to strengthen Moses's faith.

### **GOD'S GREAT POWER**

God told Moses to take the wooden staff he used for herding the sheep and throw it to the ground. When Moses did so, it became a snake, causing Moses to leap back. God told Moses to pick it up by the tail. He did so, and it transformed back into a staff.

"Put your hand into your coat," God said. When Moses took his hand out from his coat, it was covered with the terrible

disease of leprosy. "Put your hand back into your coat," God said. Moses obeyed, and his hand returned to normal.

Finally, God told Moses that if the people still didn't believe that Moses had been sent by God, he could take water from the river. When it was poured on the ground, God would miraculously turn it to blood. God demonstrated His power to Moses in three amazing miracles, but Moses still didn't think he could do it. He told God that he couldn't speak well enough.

God told Moses that his brother, Aaron, would speak for him. Moses finally stopped giving God excuses and began to realize that he would be going back to Egypt.

Meanwhile, God had instructed Aaron to go out and meet Moses in the wilderness. He did so, and reunited with his brother after 40 years. Moses told him what had happened, and they began the long journey back to Egypt.

They arrived in an Egyptian area called Goshen, where the Israelites lived and called their elders together. Aaron spoke for Moses and told the people the God of their fathers had heard their cries and seen their suffering and was going to deliver them out of Egypt. He also performed a few miracles from God.

The people believed what Aaron and Moses told them and worshiped God.

### **MOSES MEETS PHARAOH**

The time had come for Moses and Aaron to go before Pharaoh. Standing before Pharaoh in his court, Aaron said, "We

represent the God of Israel. He has commanded that you release His people, so we may go to the desert to worship Him.”

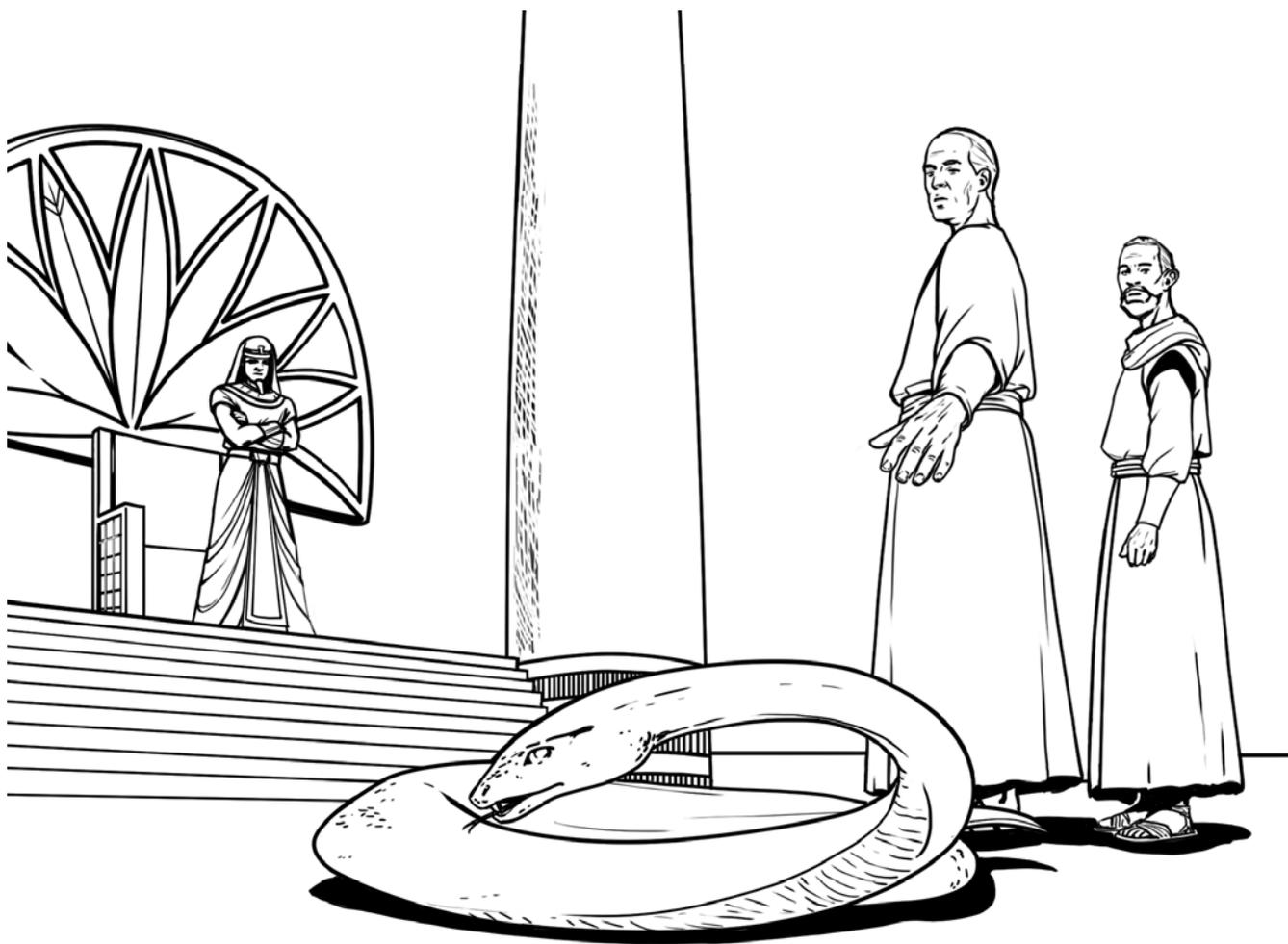
“Who is this God that tells me what to do?” Pharaoh demanded. “I do not know such a God, and I will not release the Israelites.” Aaron tried to convince Pharaoh to release God’s people, saying that they would only be gone for three days. Pharaoh ordered guards to remove the two men from his court.

Moses left the palace discouraged. He prayed to God, looking for answers

and encouragement. God assured Moses that He would deliver His people from Pharaoh.

### **A MIRACLE-WORKING GOD**

God sent Moses and Aaron back to the royal court. Pharaoh let them come before him again, but demanded that they perform a miracle to prove the existence of their God. Moses told Aaron to cast down his rod. Immediately, it wriggled into a snake, startling Pharaoh and the others in attendance.



The snake that came from Aaron’s rod ate the snakes from Pharaoh’s magicians.

Pharaoh called for his magicians. He wanted to know if this was a form of trickery or an actual miracle of God. The magicians called on the power of demons to make it appear as though their rods became snakes as well. But the snake that had come from Aaron's rod quickly slithered toward the other snakes and swallowed all of them. The crowd gasped, and Pharaoh's eyes narrowed.

"We gave you the proof you demanded," Aaron said. "Now will you let God's people go?"

"No. Your people will never leave," the king responded coldly. He waved his hand in dismissal, and Aaron and Moses were again escorted out of the court.

## **GOD PLAGUES EGYPT**

Moses once again went to God for encouragement. God told Moses to meet Pharaoh the next morning on the bank of the river, where he bathed.

As they stood on the bank of the river the next day, Aaron lifted his rod and said, "I speak on behalf of the God of Israel: Let my people go! For I will smite the river with my rod and the water will turn to blood. All of the fish shall die, and your people shall thirst."

Pharaoh was amused. Such an immense trick was impossible. But when Aaron struck the water, a deep red color began spreading in the river.

Startled, the king and his servants got out of the river. For seven days, the people of Egypt suffered as the freshwater had

become blood. People had to dig in the sand to find water to drink as well as to give to their livestock.

But Pharaoh still refused to allow the Israelites to leave. On the eighth day, the river and all the freshwater became clear again. Pharaoh did not learn the lesson. He refused to recognize the greatness of the God of the Israelites, which meant God would have to continue to send plagues on him and the Egyptians.

God told Moses and Aaron to once again go before Pharaoh and ask him to free the Israelites.

"If you refuse, Pharaoh, your nation will be overwhelmed with frogs," they told the king. "They will come out of the Nile and millions will be in your houses, even your beds—you won't be able to get away from them!" Pharaoh had put the previous miracle behind him: He scoffed and refused.

The next morning, Pharaoh woke up up, feeling something moving at his feet. When he pulled the blankets back, he saw frogs of all sizes on his bed. When he jumped out of his bed, even more covered the floor. In fact, frogs were everywhere throughout the nation, just as Moses and Aaron had warned! Frogs jumped in and out of windows, terrorizing the homes of the Egyptians. Servants in the palace had trouble preparing food because frogs had gotten into pots, pans, sacks of meal, bowls of fruits, dishes of food—everywhere!

The Egyptians tried to kill as many frogs as they could. But this left stinking



When Aaron struck the Nile River with his rod, all the water turned to blood.



God plagues Egypt with innumerable frogs.

dead frogs everywhere, and it seemed the more they killed, the more frogs leaped out of the river. Pharaoh's magicians were of no help, and he quickly realized the only solution to this plague was the God who had caused it.

Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron to his court. He told them that if God would remove the plague, he would allow the Israelites to leave.

By the next morning, the plague had ceased. The nation was covered in dead frogs, which now had to be cleaned up. But once he got what he wanted and things returned to normal, would Pharaoh keep his promise?



# BIBLE MEMORY The Ten Plagues

Turning water into blood

Frogs

Lice

Swarm of wild animals

Diseased livestock

Boils

Thunderstorm of hail and fire

Locusts

Three days of darkness

Death of the firstborn

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## Word Hunt

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BASKET  
DELIVERANCE  
EGYPT  
GOSHEN

MIDIAN  
MIRACLES  
MOSES  
PHARAOH

PLAGUES  
PRINCESS  
RIVER NILE  
TASKMASTER