

LESSON 3

MOSES BREAKS WITH EGYPT

Scripture Text: Exodus 2:11-25

Moses studied in the schools in Egypt and was educated by Pharaoh's daughter. At the age of forty, he went to Midian, married, and herded sheep for his father-in-law for forty years. The sparing of his life was for a purpose. God directed many events in the life of Moses by His providential care. But while living in his own power, Moses failed in an endeavor to liberate the Israelites. However, he did succeed in breaking ties with Egypt. Included in this lesson is the second forty years of the life of Moses. Try to recognize ways in which the hand of God can be seen in Moses' life.



MEMORY VERSE: *Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you.*
— Isaiah 35:4b

Moses, a Type

Moses is a type of Jesus Christ. He was raised up from among the people he was to deliver, as Christ was born human among those He came to save (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18; Acts 3:22; 7:37). Moses was chosen as a savior of Israel from slavery. Christ is the Savior of the world from sin. Moses' life was in danger by the decree of the king, Pharaoh. Christ's life was in danger by the decree of the king, Herod. Moses was rejected as Israel's savior at his first attempt, yet was exalted by God (Acts 7:23-29). Christ was rejected as Savior by many, yet was exalted by God (Isaiah 53:3; Acts 4:10-11).

The Influence of a Mother

Verse 10 relates only that **the child grew**. How much of Moses' character, his loyalty to his people, his obedience to God, his respect for God's way above the pleasures of the world, were due to his mother's training in his earliest years? Why did God arrange for him to have this time in her care? What if she had pushed off her responsibility upon a baby sitter? What if she had taken the attitude that there was nothing she could do under the circumstances in the little time she had? It was at home that he learned about the true and living God who had directed his ancestors. He learned why his fellow Hebrews had come down into Egypt, and how they were being persecuted. He learned to put his faith in God and trust in His promises. There is no more important training in a child's life than that which he receives at home. There he learns from his parents those great truths that become the basis of his character throughout life. We can never overestimate the influence of the home on the religious life of the child.

Moses Acts and Fails

Exodus 2:11-22. **When Moses was grown**—forty years of age—**that he went out unto his brethren**. He went out, God had not yet called and directed him. This is the reason for much of the failure in leadership in our day also. **And looked on their burdens**. He had compassion on them. Here we find an early, important step in being called to be a leader for God. When he was forty years of age, Moses renounced the pleasures of Egypt and joined himself with his own people, the despised race of slaves whom he, by God's grace, was going to deliver from their toilsome

bondage (Hebrews 11:24-26). Forsaking all honor, reputation, glory and riches that Egypt had to offer him, he became one with his lowly brethren, entering into their sufferings and trusting God for their deliverance. This is a type of our breaking with sin and joining in the walk with the saints of God.

He spied an Egyptian smiting . . . one of his brethren. Moses was thinking that the day of deliverance had finally come. Looking with compassion upon his afflicted brethren one day, he saw an Egyptian smite a Hebrew. All of the pent-up anger and frustration of forty years burst forth, and **he slew the Egyptian, and hid his body in the sand.** Through his zealous action Moses had given the signal. This was escape day if only Israel would follow their deliverer. **Who made thee a prince and a judge over us?** His deed had the opposite effect upon his people. When Moses realized that his effort to deliver Israel had been received in this way, he fled from Egypt and for forty long years dwelt in the land of Midian, where he learned the lesson of obedience and humility in the school of loneliness and communion with God. Many times we want to help God out with our own plans and in our own strength. How far could Moses get by killing one Egyptian at a time? The banners under which the Christian goes forth to conquer are obedience, humility, faith, and patience.

God's Compassion

Exodus 2:23-25. **And the children of Israel . . . cried, and their cry came up unto God.** After Moses failed to deliver by his own strength, the Hebrews continued in their state of servitude. Then **they cried. And God heard . . . and God remembered his covenant with Abraham.** During the many, many long years in Egypt, the people had forgotten God and the religion of their forefathers and were following after the heathen practices of Egypt. But God did not forget Israel. **God had respect unto them.** Long ago He had made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 17:7-8, 19; 35:12). He would not go back on His promise that He had made with Abraham of old. He was going to deliver Israel from Egypt in order to bring them into Canaan and make them a great people. What a loving God we have! We can call upon Him in our need, and He will hear and deliver us.

We must not allow our enthusiasm to run away with us. Zeal must yield to discipline if God is going to use us for His great work. His plans, not ours, are to be the guiding principle of our living.

JUST A THOUGHT

**It isn't how high you go in life that counts
but how you got there.**