

Moses – part 2

Moses gave up the pleasures in Egypt
by Victor Torres

What is the most important thing to you right now? Think about it. Is it money? Or the things that money can buy? Is it being liked by your friends? Or getting admired by other people? Is it family? Or is it Jesus Christ?

If Jesus Christ is not the most important “thing” to you, then you're in for a lot of pain and sorrow. **A lot** of pain and sorrow.

Exo 1:13 (MKJV) And the Egyptians made the sons of Israel serve with harshness.

Exo 1:14 **And they made their lives bitter with hard work** in mortar and in bricks, and in all *kinds of* work in the field; **all their work in which they made them do was with harshness.**

If you are slaves of your flesh (symbolized by the Egyptians), you will live a bitter life like the nation of Israel. You will be forced to do all sorts of things that are against the word of God.

Gal 5:19 (ERV) **The wrong things the sinful self [old man] does are clear:** committing sexual sin, being morally bad, **doing all kinds of shameful things,**

Gal 5:20 worshipping false gods, taking part in witchcraft, **hating people, causing trouble, being jealous, angry or selfish, causing people to argue** and divide into separate groups,

Gal 5:21 being filled with envy, getting drunk, having wild parties, and doing other things like this. **I warn you now as I warned you before: The people who do these things will not have a part in God's kingdom.**

Being jealous, angry or selfish, doing all sorts of shameful things. Does that sound fun to you? Ask your parents. We've been there, done that. It's a life of misery. Sure you'll have fun for a short time when you get drunk or go to wild parties, but you'll always feel empty in the end. That's how it is when you serve a king who doesn't know Joseph (Joseph is a symbol of Jesus Christ).

The only one who can fill that emptiness is Jesus Christ. A life of serving Him is full of peace and joy. But if we want to serve Christ, then we need to know Him.

Some of you might be asking, if we want to know more about Jesus Christ, then why are we studying all these characters in the Old Testament? Why not go directly to Jesus' story in the New Testament?

Here's the reason: all these stories tell us something about Jesus Christ.

A good summary of what we have gone through so far can be found in the book of Acts.

Act 7:1 (CEV) The high priest asked Stephen, "Are they telling the truth about you?"

Act 7:2 Stephen answered: Friends, listen to me. Our glorious God appeared to our ancestor Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he had moved to Haran.

Act 7:3 God told him, "Leave your country and your relatives and go to a land that I will show you."

Act 7:4 Then Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After his father died, Abraham came and settled in this land where you now live.

Act 7:5 God didn't give him any part of it, not even a square foot. But God did promise to give it to him and his family forever, even though Abraham didn't have any children.

Act 7:6 God said that Abraham's descendants would live for a while in a foreign land. There they would be slaves and would be mistreated four hundred years.

Act 7:7 But he also said, "I will punish the nation that makes them slaves. Then later they will come and worship me in this place."

Act 7:8 God said to Abraham, "Every son in each family must be circumcised to show that you have kept your agreement with me." So when Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him. Later, Isaac circumcised his son Jacob, and Jacob circumcised his twelve sons.

Act 7:9 These men were our ancestors. Joseph was also one of our famous ancestors. His brothers were jealous of him and sold him as a slave to be taken to Egypt. But God was with him

Act 7:10 and rescued him from all his troubles. God made him so wise that the Egyptian king Pharaoh thought highly of him. The king even made Joseph governor over Egypt and put him in charge of everything he owned.

Act 7:11 Everywhere in Egypt and Canaan the grain crops failed. There was terrible suffering, and our ancestors could not find enough to eat.

Act 7:12 But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our ancestors there for the first time.

Act 7:13 It was on their second trip that Joseph told his brothers who he was, and Pharaoh learned about Joseph's family.

Act 7:14 Joseph sent for his father and his relatives. In all, there were seventy-five of them.

Act 7:15 His father went to Egypt and died there, just as our ancestors did.

Act 7:16 Later their bodies were taken back to Shechem and placed in the tomb that Abraham had bought from the sons of Hamor.

Act 7:17 Finally, the time came for God to do what he had promised Abraham. By then the number of our people in Egypt had greatly increased.

Act 7:18 Another king was ruling Egypt, and he didn't know anything about Joseph.

Act 7:19 (GNB) He tricked our ancestors and was cruel to them, forcing them to put their babies out of their homes, so that they would die.

Act 7:20 It was at this time that Moses was born, a very beautiful child. He was cared for at home for three months,

Act 7:21 and when he was put out of his home, the king's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son.

So you can see here how the disciples of our Lord are very familiar with the stories and writings in the Old Testament. They all knew about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They know the stories of Joseph and Moses. Back then, the New Testament hadn't been written yet. All they had was the Old Testament. But these followers of Jesus were taught by Christ Himself that the Old Testament is about Him and about His chosen people. He tells us Himself that Moses wrote about Him.

Joh 5:46 (ERV) If you really believed Moses, you would believe me, **because he wrote about me.**

So today we will continue to study the story of Moses which teaches us more things about our Lord and Savior.

Heb 11:23 (CEV) **Because Moses' parents had faith, they kept him hidden until he was three months old.** They saw that he was a beautiful child, and they were not afraid to disobey the king's orders.

Moses' parents hid him for three months because they had faith in God. They were not afraid to disobey this cruel king who ordered all newborn baby boys to

be thrown into the Nile river. Moses' parents had the kind of faith that God wants to see from us. This is the only time we should disobey those in authority – if they are telling us to do an evil thing. If the government forbids you to read your Bible or forces you to fight for their country, then it is time to disobey them and trust that God will reward you for it.

“They saw that he was a beautiful child”. That's how we, your parents, see you. You are beautiful to us. We're not talking about physical appearance here. Every baby is beautiful to its parents. What it is saying is you are very precious to us.

That's also how the Father sees His creation. We are worth more than many sparrows to Him, so He tells us not to worry about anything because He takes care of even the sparrows.

God nourishes us through our family. When you are just kids, it is your physical family. But when you grow up, you will know people who will be your spiritual family. Moses' parents, his sister Miriam and the midwives (people who help during childbirth), they are all symbols of God's spiritual family. Like Moses parents, they will always protect you and take care of you. Like Moses sister, they will always follow you and make sure you are okay. Like the midwives, they are always there to help.

Exo 2:4 (CEV) The baby's older sister stood off at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Exo 2:5 About that time one of the king's daughters came down to take a bath in the river, while her servant women walked along the river bank. She saw the basket in the tall grass and sent one of the young women to pull it out of the water.

Exo 2:6 When the king's daughter opened the basket, she saw the baby and felt sorry for him because he was crying. She said, "This must be one of the Hebrew babies."

Exo 2:7 At once the baby's older sister came up and asked, "Do you want me to get a Hebrew woman to take care of the baby for you?"

Exo 2:8 "Yes," the king's daughter answered. So the girl brought the baby's mother,

Exo 2:9 and the king's daughter told her, "Take care of this child, and I will pay you." The baby's mother carried him home and took care of him.

Exo 2:10 And when he was old enough, she took him to the king's daughter, who adopted him. She named him Moses because she said, "I pulled him out of the water."

Exo 2:11 **After Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were hard at work, and he saw an Egyptian beating one of them.**

So even though Moses grew up as a prince of Egypt, he always knew that he was a Hebrew, a grandson of Israel. That last verse in Exodus that we looked at doesn't quite give us the full picture. Let's go to the New Testament to see more of what Moses really did when it says "After Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were hard at work".

Act 7:21 (GNB) and when he was put out of his home, the king's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son.

Act 7:22 He was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians and became a great man in words and deeds.

Act 7:23 "When Moses was forty years old, he decided to find out how his fellow Israelites were being treated.

The Bible tells us that Moses grew up as a great man in words and deeds under the Pharaoh's daughter. He was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians. He was forty years old before he decided to find out how his fellow Israelites were being treated. When he saw how they were being treated, he decided to give up his life as a prince of Egypt and decided to suffer with God's people instead.

Heb 11:24 (GNB) It was faith that made Moses, when he had grown up, refuse to be called the son of the king's daughter.

Heb 11:25 He preferred to suffer with God's people rather than to enjoy sin for a little while.

You may ask, why in the world would he do that? He was living the life! He was living a life of luxury and pleasure. Why would "He [prefer] to suffer with God's people rather than to enjoy sin for a little while"?

Moses lived a very comfortable life and he could have lived another 60 years in Egypt. Sixty years is a long time, but it is a very short time compared to the time we will enjoy with God if we decide to give up our life for Him.

Our Lord also was tempted in the same way by the devil:

Mat 4:8 (CEV) Finally, the devil took Jesus up on a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms on earth and their power.

Mat 4:9 The devil said to him, "I will give all this to you, if you will bow down and worship me."

Mat 4:10 Jesus answered, "**Go away Satan! The Scriptures say: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'** "

Our Lord is showing us here what we should give top priority in our life through the story of Moses.

Exo 2:11 (CEV) **After Moses had grown up**, he went out to where his own people were hard at work, and he saw an Egyptian beating one of them.

Exo 2:12 Moses looked around to see if anyone was watching, then he killed the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand.

Exo 2:13 When Moses went out the next day, he saw two Hebrews fighting. So he went to the man who had started the fight and asked, "Why are you beating up one of your own people?"

Exo 2:14 The man answered, "Who put you in charge of us and made you our judge? Are you planning to kill me, just as you killed that Egyptian?" This frightened Moses because he was sure that people must have found out what had happened.

Exo 2:15 When the king heard what Moses had done, the king wanted to kill him. But Moses escaped and went to the land of Midian. One day, Moses was sitting there by a well,

Moses killed an Egyptian to protect a fellow Israelite. Although his motive was good, killing someone is never good. Lord willing, we will see that in the end, God will use this evil thing that Moses did to bring out good. This is a pattern of how God operates, as He used Jacob's trickery of Isaac to bring out Jacob's good in the end. He also worked out the well being of Joseph's brothers through the evil deeds they committed against Joseph.

Heb 11:25 (CEV) He chose to be mistreated with God's people instead of having the good time that sin could bring for a little while.

Heb 11:26 Moses knew that the treasures of Egypt were not as wonderful as what he would receive from suffering for the Messiah, **and he looked forward to his reward.**

Moses believed that suffering for Christ will get him a reward that is more wonderful than the life he was living under Pharaoh. If you can only remember one thing from this study, I want you to remember this. ***If we give up living in sin to serve Christ, we will get a reward that is far more satisfying than***