

Moses in Midian

CHARACTERS: Narrators 1 & 2, Israelite 1, Pharaoh, Voice of God, Moses, Zipporah, Sister, Jethro

RUN TIME: 7-8 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Exodus 2-4

NARRATOR 1: Years later, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his own people and observed their forced labor.

NARRATOR 2: He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people.

NARRATOR 1: Looking all around and seeing no one, he struck the Egyptian dead and hid him in the sand.

NARRATOR 2: The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong,

MOSES: Why are you attacking your neighbor?

ISRAELITE 1: Who made you a leader and judge over us? Are you planning to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?

MOSES: (*aside; afraid*) What I did is certainly known.

PHARAOH: Moses killed an Egyptian?! Kill him.

NARRATOR 1: Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in the land of Midian.

NARRATOR 2: The priest of Midian had seven daughters who watered their father's flock.

ZIPPORAH: Who is that stranger sitting down by the well?

SISTER: I don't know but these shepherds are kicking us out of place at the well.

ZIPPORAH: The stranger is coming to our rescue.

SISTER: He's watering our flock.

JETHRO: My daughters, why have you come back so quickly today?

ZIPPORAH: An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds.

SISTER: He even drew water for us and watered the flock.

JETHRO: So where is he? Why then did you leave the man behind? Invite him to eat dinner.

ZIPPORAH: Yes, father. (*to MOSES*) Please come to dinner.

JETHRO: Please stay with us and marry my daughter Zipporah.

MOSES: I agree.

ZIPPORAH: I have given birth to a son.

MOSES: His name will be Gershom, because I have been a foreigner in a foreign land.

JETHRO: I heard that the king of Egypt died.

MOSES: The Israelites groan because of their difficult labor and they cry out.

JETHRO: Their cry for help ascends to God because of the difficult labor.

NARRATOR 2: God heard their groaning and remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

NARRATOR 1: Meanwhile, Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Reuel, also known as Jethro, the priest of Midian.

MOSES: Come, my flock to the far side of the wilderness, to Horeb, the mountain of God.

NARRATOR 2: Then the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire within a bush.

MOSES: What a strange sight. That bush is on fire but not consumed. I must go over and look at this remarkable sight. (*curious*) Why isn't the bush burning up?

VOICE OF GOD: Moses!

MOSES: Here I am.

VOICE OF GOD: Do not come closer. Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground

NARRATOR 1: Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

VOICE OF GOD: I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

MOSES: Have you seen the misery of your people in Egypt?

VOICE OF GOD: I have heard their cries and will rescue them from the power of the Egyptians.

MOSES: Tell me more.

VOICE of GOD: I will bring them from Egypt to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

MOSES: Good.

VOICE OF GOD: Go. I am sending you to Pharaoh so that you may lead My people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.

MOSES: (*in a high, shocked, squeaky voice*) Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?

VOICE OF GOD: I will certainly be with you, and this will be the sign to you that I have sent you: when you bring the people out of Egypt, you will all worship me at this mountain.

MOSES: If I go to the Israelites and say to them: The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ what should I tell them?

VOICE OF GOD: I AM WHO I AM. This is My name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation. Tell them I AM has sent you.

MOSES: Ummm.

VOICE OF GOD: Ask pharaoh to allow the Israelites to go on a three-day trip into the wilderness so that they may sacrifice to me.

MOSES: Pharaoh may not like that.

VOICE OF GOD: I know that the king of Egypt will not allow you to go, unless he is forced by a strong hand.

MOSES: Ummm

VOICE OF GOD: I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My miracles that I will perform in it. After that, he will let you go.

MOSES: Ok, but

VOICE OF GOD: I will give my people such favor in the sight of the Egyptians that when you go, you will not go empty-handed.

MOSES: How will that happen?

VOICE OF GOD: Each woman will ask her neighbor and any woman staying in her house for silver and gold jewelry, and clothing, and you will put them on your sons and daughters. So you will plunder the Egyptians.”

MOSES: What if they won’t believe me and will not obey me but say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you’?

VOICE OF GOD: What is that in your hand?

MOSES: A staff.

VOICE OF GOD: Throw it on the ground.

NARRATOR 1: Moses threw it on the ground, and it became a snake.

NARRATOR 2: Moses ran from it.

VOICE OF GOD: Grab it by the tail.

MOSES: (*amazed*) It’s just my staff again.

VOICE OF GOD: Put your hand inside your cloak.

NARRATOR 1: Moses obeyed. When he took it out, his hand was diseased, white as snow.[

VOICE OF GOD: Put your hand back inside your cloak.

MOSES: (*relieved*) It's back to normal.

VOICE OF GOD: If they will not believe the evidence of the first sign, they may believe the evidence of the second sign.

MOSES: What if they don't believe even these two signs or listen to what I say?

VOICE OF GOD: Take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the Nile will become blood on the ground.

MOSES: Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent—either in the past or now. I'm slow and hesitant in speech.

VOICE OF GOD: Who made the human mouth? Who makes him mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, Yahweh?

MOSES: Yes, but ...

VOICE OF GOD: Now go! I will help you speak and I will teach you what to say.

MOSES: (*begging*) Please, Lord, send someone else.

VOICE OF GOD: Isn't Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. You will speak with him and tell him what to say. I will help both you and him to speak and will teach you both what to do.

MOSES: (*relieved*) Aaron will speak to the people.

VOICE OF GOD: He will be your spokesman, and you will serve as God to him. Take this staff in your hand to perform the signs.