

026 God Speaks to Moses

MEMORY VERSE: 'I have promised to bring you up out of your misery.' Exodus 3:17

SCRIPTURES: Exodus 2:11-25; 3

AIM: To teach that God did not forget the Israelites

Moses, who once was a baby floating in a little boat in the river, was now a grown man.

Moses had everything he wanted living in the splendid palace of Pharaoh. The princess who had found him had adopted him as her baby. He had the best food, beautiful clothes and a fine education, trained in the best courts. But he never forgot he was a Hebrew boy and not an Egyptian.

One day he said to himself, "I shall go and visit my Hebrew brothers to see how they are doing."

When he arrived where the men were working, Moses couldn't believe what he saw. The conditions were very bad. The men worked long hours carrying heavy bricks and mortar. And they were beaten if they didn't work hard enough.

Moses saw an Egyptian man knock one of his Hebrew brothers to the ground. Moses became very angry. He looked this way and that way and when Moses thought no one was looking, he did a terrible thing. He killed the Egyptian man and hid his body in the sand.

Moses soon went back to visit the Hebrew people again. This time he saw two of his own people fighting. "Why are you fighting each other?" he asked.

"Who do you think you are?" they asked Moses. "Do you plan to kill us like you killed the Egyptian?"

Moses was frightened. Someone had seen what he had done. The secret was out. The story spread to the palace and the King was furious. "He shall die!" Pharaoh shouted.

"I must leave here as fast as I can," thought Moses. And he ran away into the land of Midian.

He came to a small village and sat down by a well to rest. Seven girls, daughters of Jethro, came towards him. They wanted to fill the water troughs for their father's flocks.

Just then some other shepherds arrived with their sheep. Roughly they told the girls to get out of the way until their own sheep had been given water.

"That's not fair," thought Moses and he jumped up to defend the girls. He made the men wait while he helped the girls, drawing water himself until all their sheep were satisfied. The girls were delighted.

When they returned home their father said, "What brings you back so early today?"

"A stranger dressed like an Egyptian defended us against the shepherds," they told him. "He drew water for us and gave it to our sheep."

"Where is he now?" Jethro asked. "Did you just leave him there? Go and invite him home for dinner."

Moses accepted the invitation. He stayed with Jethro and took care of his sheep. Later Moses married one of Jethro's daughters. Once a proud prince in Egypt, Moses had now become a hard-working, humble shepherd.

One day he was out with the sheep near the edge of the desert when he saw a most extraordinary thing. A bush was on fire but the bush wasn't burning up into ashes. Cautiously Moses moved closer to have a better look. "I wonder why it keeps burning and doesn't burn up?" thought Moses.

Then he heard a voice coming from the burning bush. "Moses! Moses!"

"Who is it?" asked Moses.

“Don’t come any closer, the voice told him. It was God’s voice! “Take off your shoes because you are standing on holy ground.”

The voice continued, “I have seen how cruelly My people are being treated in Egypt and I have heard their cry for help. I have chosen you to be their leader, to bring them out of that land.”

“Me?” exclaimed Moses. “Oh, I’m sure I can’t do that. I’m not the person for an enormous job like that!”

“I will be with you,” God said.

“If the people of Israel ask me who sent me, what am I supposed to say?” Moses asked.

“Just tell them Jehovah the God of their ancestors sent

“But the king won’t listen to me,” Moses said.

God then told Moses that Pharaoh would see His great power and would let the people leave their bondage in Egypt. Moses trusted God and accepted the great challenge that lay before him.