

MOSES, LAWGIVER AND DELIVERER AND THE HEBREW NATION
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

NOTE: In this lesson about Moses, the emphasis is placed on his role in the Holy day of Passover. However, for the reader's interest, there is a study of Moses written with the emphasis on how he wore the "Whole armor of God" which can be found under the series, "The armor of God".

Say-Welcome to Sabbath School. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we study today.

Say-Today in preparation for Passover and the Spring Holy Days, our discussion will focus on the life of Moses, a type of God, the lawgiver and deliverer. As always we will look to the Bible for our answers.

Say-The story of Moses begins in the book of Exodus and for the complete story of his work, one must continue on to Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Inspired by God, Moses wrote these books and it composes about 1/7th of the entire Bible.

Say-It is important to understand the spiritual significance of the story of Moses and the Nation of Israel for the events parallel the life of a Christian which each of us must take when we are called of God. We begin as slaves to sin and through Christ, when we repent and are baptized and receive God's spirit, and we endure until the end, we will live with God forever in the Promised Land, symbolic of the coming Kingdom of God.

Say-As we travel on the journeys with Moses today, it is an opportunity for us to "look in on" how God called Moses and through him orchestrated the deliverance of the Nation of Israel (His bride) out of Egypt, the land of sin, and how Moses became a faithful servant of God.

Say-Remember the book of Genesis ended with the death of Joseph and all the descendants of Israel/Jacob, 75 in all, living in Goshen where Joseph, when he was the Prime Minister of Egypt, had arranged for them to come and escape the famine in Canaan.

Say-From the death of Joseph until the birth of Moses it was about 300 years. Moses was born in Goshen in Egypt to Israelite parents. By now the Israelites had grown to a mighty nation; the Bible says, "The land was filled with them", Gen. 1:7.

Say- It is also important to make note that a new pharaoh (King) of Egypt knew nothing about the Hebrew nation and the relationship Joseph and his family had established with the former pharaoh. The new pharaoh regarded them with dislike and scorn.

Say-The Land of Goshen the Israelites had been given, lay along the eastern branch of the Nile River. The soil was rich and fertile and filled with natural meadows and it was perfect for the Hebrew shepherds to graze their flocks, Gen 49:24, Psalms 34:10, 78:72.

Say-The new pharaoh was jealous of the prosperity of the Hebrew people and he feared them as a threat to his kingdom. He chose slavery as a means to control them and being the Hebrew people were not natives, they lacked the "rights" of the native Egyptians.

Say-Soon the once peaceful, contented Israelites now had ruthless taskmasters over them. The men worked from daylight till dark and built large cities, Pithom and Ramses in Goshen replacing the beautiful verdant land. Working in the hot sun, they formed bricks with the mud from the Nile River bank. Others became skilled carpenters and craftsmen. For the Israelites this was the beginning of many years of bondage and slavery, Exodus 12:40.

Say-However, as hard as Pharaoh and his Egyptian taskmasters tried to wear down the Israelites, the Bible tells us, "They prevailed and God made them stronger than their enemies", Psalms 125:24, Ex.1.

Say-Finally Pharaoh declared a royal edict designed to keep them in subjection and he ordered that all Israelite baby boys should be thrown into the river while the daughters could be saved, Ex. 2:2. What would the Israelite people do? What would you have done?

Say-The Hebrew women, against Pharaoh's orders, did not obey Pharaoh but obeyed their true God, Ex. 1:17. With God orchestrating all of the events, soon a beautiful son was born to Amram and Jochebed and knowing it was wrong to destroy him, they hid the baby boy for three months, Num. 26:59.

Say-Finally the day came when Jochebed could no longer hide the beautiful baby. She gathered some reeds from the river's edge and together with pitch and slime she carefully made a tiny reed box, (Strong's, Heb. 8394, ark/box) and placed it by the shallow edge of the river.

Say-Miriam, the older daughter, stood back to see what would happen to the baby. She didn't have to wait long. Soon pharaoh's daughter and her maidens came down to the river to bathe. She saw the tiny reed box floating in the river; she went over and opened it. Being a daughter of Pharaoh, she could've had the same hard heart but God was in control of all of these events and as she opened the box, the baby cried and being a childless woman, she had compassion on the baby and wanted him very much for her own, Ex. 2:6.

Say-Pharaoh's daughter realized the baby boy was from a Hebrew slave woman. "Go call the child's mother and bring her to me and nurse him", Ex. 2:7, 8. Do you see, God had reunited the beautiful baby with his mother.

Say- It was also the beginning of God's plan to rescue his people from the bondage of slavery. Pharaoh's daughter allowed the baby's mother to stay with the baby for awhile. During time spent with his mother, he was taught the truth of God, the ways of God, His nature, His kindness and His Laws of Love.

Say-Soon the baby was old enough to move to the Royal Court of pharaoh's daughter and the baby became her son. She named the baby "Moses" because she had "drawn (born) him out of the water", Ex. 2:10.

Say-Moses grew and grew and he was instructed with all the wisdom and learning of the Egyptians. But what a mother Moses' mother had been. She so thoroughly raised him with the "TRUTH" of the real God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, temptations of the heathen Gods could not alter the early lessons he had of the true God and he never changed his childhood faith. The Bible tells us, "By faith Moses, when he had come of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God..., Heb. 11:24, 25.

Say-Soon Moses, never losing sight of who he was, became a mature man of 40 and one day he saw the suffering of his people. He set about to defend them and destroyed the Egyptians whom had harmed his Hebrew people. But God had a plan for Moses and He did not want Moses taking the law into his own hands and so his first attempt to help his ailing people failed. To save his life, Moses escaped to Median and spent many lonely years wondering in the wilderness, Ex. 2:11-15.

Say- All that happened to Moses was for a purpose and the experiences he had in the roughness of the wilderness taught him the survival skills he could not have learned in the softness of the queen's palace.

Say-Soon Moses met Jethro (shepherd of God), the high priest of Median and he was the owner of many sheep. Moses became the shepherd of his flock and eventually married Jethro's daughter, Zipporah, Ex. 2:21.

Say-As the shepherd of his father-in-law's flock, Moses learned the geographical layout of the territory very well. Little did Moses realize that through this very wilderness area he would someday lead "God's flock", the Nation of Israel!

Say-Finally, while tending the flock and far away from Egypt, God called him in the midst of the desert area at Mt. Sinai (also called Mt. Horeb). In the midst of a burning bush, God confronted him and commissioned him to lead His people, Israel, out of the Egyptian bondage, the land of sin, Ex. 3.

Say-God said, "I have heard their cry and I have seen their affliction and I know of their sorrows", "I have come to bring them to a good land, a land flowing with milk and honey". "You must go to Pharaoh and bring My children out of Egypt", Ex. 3:7-10. (This was the first step in the salvation process, the "calling" of God's people out of Egypt symbolic of the land of sin. Remember, "No one can come to the Father except He call them, Jn 6:44, 14:6.)

Say-Moses was not as confident as he had been in his younger years and immediately made all sorts of excuses why he was not suited for the job. He said, "My speech is not good" and "They will not believe me. But God said, "I will teach you what you should say". Finally assured of God's help and armed with God's power to work miracles and with Aaron, his brother, at his side, he went as God's servant, Gen.15:12-21, Ex. 4, Ps. 105:26.

Say-Now 200 miles from Egypt, Moses and Aaron, with the "Rod of God" in hand (symbolic of the power of God), took the message God had given them to Pharaoh, Ex. 4:17. Pharaoh had never heard of the God of Israel and had never seen His power.

Say- As hard as it was for Moses to bring God's message to Pharaoh, and his people, he obeyed God and went before him. Neither Pharaoh nor the discouraged Israelite children believed Moses and Aaron. But God said, "Tell them I am the Lord, I will bring them

out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will redeem them with a stretched out arm, ...and I will make them my people and will bring them into the land I promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob", Ex. 6. (This was the next step of the "Salvation process for the Israelites. They would have to count the cost and make a decision.)

Say- Moses, now 80 years old, said to Pharaoh, "Let my people go, that we may hold a feast unto the Lord in the wilderness", Ex. 5:1. God made Moses powerful before Pharaoh and after a series of ten plagues the bonds of slavery were broken.

28He sent darkness, and made it dark;

29He turned their waters into blood, and slew their fish.

30Their land brought forth frogs in abundance, in the chambers of their kings.

31He spake, and there came divers (different) sorts of flies, and lice in all their coasts.

32He gave them hail for rain, and flaming fire in their land.

33He smote their vines also and their fig trees; and brake the trees of their coasts.

34He spake, and the locusts came, and caterpillars, without number,

35And did eat up all the herbs in their land, and devoured the fruit of their ground, Psalms 105:28-35.

Say-Now with the final plague about to happen, on the eve of Israel's dramatic departure, the final warnings had been given to Pharaoh and the blood of a perfect lamb was placed above the door of each Israelite home as instructed. Midnight came and the Death Angel "Passed Over" every Israelite home and spared their lives but smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, Exodus 12:29, Psalms 105:36, Exodus, 12:30. (This was symbolic of the repentance process of salvation).

Say-Shortly after midnight, Moses, by divine guidance, led God's people southward out of Egypt through the wilderness towards Mt. Sinai. By now the nation of Israel had grown to over 600,000, plus all their cattle and flocks of sheep and camels. The Bible tells us God,

... brought them forth ... with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes, Psalms 105:37

He "made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock", Psalms 78:52.

14And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest, Ex. 33:14.

20Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared, Exodus 23:20.

45That they might observe his statutes, and keep his laws, Psalms 105:39-45.

Say-The next day had come and now the Israelites were out of Goshen and situated between the mountains and the Red Sea. Pharaoh was sorry he had let all that free labor go. Quickly he made ready 600 chariots pulled by horses and he was after them in urgent pursuit!

Say- Moses saw Pharaoh's army coming and the Israelites were shaken but He said, "Fear not, stand still and see the Salvation of the Lord...the Lord shall fight for you....hold your peace", Ex. 14:14.

Say-As Pharaoh's armies approached, Moses did as God instructed and "Lifted up his rod over the sea and divided it and the children of Israel went through the Red Sea on dry ground, (symbolic of baptism). The Egyptians pursued and went in after them but God, "Spread a cloud for a covering", over His people and shielded the Egyptians from them, Psalms105:39.

Say-Pharaoh and his armies were troubled. They could see, "God was fighting for His people the Israelites and they tried to flee but it was too late. The sea closed over them as Moses stretched out his hand and destroyed them, Exodus 14. (This event was symbolic of burying the old man sin.)

Say-At last FREEDOM and victory over sin for God's people. As we compare this miraculous story of the deliverance of our ancestors with our personal experience of coming out of our Egypt, we can almost join in the praise, thanksgiving and jubilation as Moses, inspired by God, sang this song; a song describing the entire "Passover" event which is one of the most famous songs in Biblical history.

"The lord is my strength and salvation, He is my God", 1Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. 2The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. 3The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name. 4Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea. 5The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone. 6Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy. 7And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble. 8And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea. 9The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them. 10Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters. 11Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness,

fearful in praises, doing wonders? 12Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them. 13Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

14The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina. 15Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away. 16Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased. 17Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O LORD, which thy hands have established. 18The LORD shall reign for ever and ever, Exodus 15:1-18.

Say-But there were still more miracles ahead of them just as there are in the journey of our lives. Now in the wilderness and, "Led in the day by a cloud and a pillar of fire by night", (Nehemiah 9:12) the Bible tells us

40The people asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven. 41He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the dry places like a river. 42For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant. 43And he brought forth his people with joy, and his chosen with gladness, Ps. 105:40-43.

Say-Finally they arrived at the foot of Mt. Sinai. There God gave Moses His Holy Laws and Moses gave the Law to the people. "He made known unto them His Holy Sabbath" and they agreed to obey all he had said, Ex. 16, 17, 18, Nehemiah 9:14.

Notes of interest: The book of Exodus ends with the Israelites still at the foot of Mt. Sinai and the completion of the Tabernacle. The book of Leviticus, is an account of how God's people were to worship God. The book of Numbers is a chronology or journal of the 40 years in the wilderness, the counting of all the people and the organization of the vast number of people so they could more easily handle them and care for them. In Numbers 7, 8, and 9 is recounted the preparation for the journey when Moses received the instructions from God to start the journey to the Promised Land and ends after 40 years, on the banks of the Jordan River with the Promised Land in sight.

Say-Moses had led the people out of Egypt and through the wilderness. Now on the banks of the Jordan River, Moses reviewed with God's people the history of God's care for them. This time Moses sang instead of talked and said, "Remember how

10He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. 11As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: 12So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him. 13He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock; 14Butter of kine (cows), and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats,

with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape, Deut. 32:10-4). May we remember also, we dare not forget.

Say-Moses instructed God's people to, "Obey God and reviewed all the Laws God had given them and instructed them to teach their children and to put His laws on their hearts", Deut. 32:46, 47. He said, "If you obey God, God would destroy their enemies before them", Deut. 9:3.

Say-Finally Moses blessed all the tribes and continued in his song as he sang, "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them. Israel then shall dwell in safety alone.....", Deut. 33:27, 28. Moses departed for Mt. Nebo where he was privileged to view the Promised Land before he died.

Say-May we all take Moses' final warning he gave our ancestors on the banks of the Jordan River and cherish the calling we have been given and write God's Laws on our hearts that we might not sin against God and endure until the end. Enjoy and drink in of the spiritual meanings of God's Spring Holy Days.

MEMORY VERSE

"I have heard their cry and I have seen their affliction
and I know of their sorrows",
"I have come to bring them to a good land,
a land flowing with milk and honey".
"You must go to pharaoh and bring My children out of
Egypt",
Ex. 3:7-10.

ADDITIONAL NOTES OF INTEREST

Egypt - symbolized Sin

Pharaoh - Symbolized Satan

Moses and Aaron - symbolized the Two Witnesses spoken of in Revelation

Rod or Staff-The "Rod of God" symbolized the power of God

Wondering in the wilderness - symbolized the newly converted Christian living as a stranger and pilgrim looking for a homeland.

The placing of blood on the door frame - symbolized the repentant heart and accepting the sacrifice of the perfect Lamb of God.

Going through the Red Sea - symbolized baptism

Pharaoh's armies - symbolized the world, our friends, our families that come after us to change our mind about obeying and following the true God.

Moses - symbolized a type of God, the Lawgiver, Deliverer

The perfect lamb - symbolized the True Lamb of God, one without blemish, Jesus Christ.

Trials and testing in the wilderness - symbolized the trials and testing and resistance the converted Christian encounters when one chooses to walk the "Strait and narrow way", the way to eternal life.

The Promised Land - symbolized the Kingdom of God.

<http://www.coloring.ws/t.asp?b=m&t=http://www.coloring.ws/bible/exodus2.gif>

<http://www.coloring.ws/t.asp?b=m&t=http://www.coloring.ws/bible/exodus8to10.gif>

NOTE: It has come to my attention that some are not able to get the picture link to work. If this happens, just select, copy and paste in the address bar and push "enter" and it should come up for you that way. Below are the memory verses for cutting and placing with the appropriate coloring picture to be placed in each child's notebook.

MEMORY VERSE

"I have heard their cry and I have seen their affliction and I know of their sorrows",

"I have come to bring them to a good land,
a land flowing with milk and honey".

"You must go to pharaoh and bring My children out of Egypt"

Ex. 3:7-10.

Memory verse for Tots.

MEMORY VERSE

"I have heard their cry...

"You must go to pharaoh
and

bring My children out of Egypt"

EX. 3:7-10.

Below is the Sabbath School lesson for Tots.

MOSES AND THE HEBREW NATION

THE HEBREW PEOPLE HAD GROWN TO TWO MILLION STRONG;
IN EGYPT THEY LIVED; TO GOD THEY BELONGED.
EGYPT HAD A KING, PHARAOH WAS HIS NAME;
WITH SO MANY HEBREWS, PHARAOH'S PLANS WOULD
HAVE TO CHANGE.

THE PHARAOH WORRIED HE WOULD LOSE CONTROL;
FOR THE HEBREWS HAD GROWN TO TWO MILLION MORE!
FROM DAYLIGHT 'TLL DARK, HE MADE THEM SLAVES;
IN BONDAGE THEY WORKED, ANY RESISTANCE BROUGHT
PHARAOH'S GREAT RAGE!

HE MADE THEIR LIVES BITTER BUT NO SLAVE COULD BE A
QUITTER;
WITH BRICKS AND STONE, DAY AFTER DAY, NO MATTER HOW
LONG; THE SLAVES SERVED PHARAOH WITH RIGOR.

THEN ONE DAY THE PHARAOH SAID, "ALL BABY BOYS
MUST BE DEAD"
BUT THE HEBREWS DISOBEYED AND SAID, "OUR BABIES MUST
LIVE; IT IS BY THE GOD OF HEAVEN WE WILL BE LED".

THEY HID THE BOYS HERE AND HID THE BOYS THERE;
THEY HID THE BABY BOYS EVERYWHERE.
ONE DAY, A BEAUTIFUL BABY, NAMED MOSES, WAS BORN,
HIS SISTER WAS WORRIED, PERPLEXED AND FORLORN. EX.2:4

SOON THE HEBREW MOTHER MADE A BASKET OF REEDS,
JUST PITCH AND SLIME WAS ALL SHE WOULD NEED.
FINALLY WATERTIGHT AND SEALED, TO GOD SHE DID KNEEL;
PLEASE PROTECT MY BABY; YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL.

SOON, ON THE MIGHTY NILE, AMONG THE TALL, TALL REEDS,
THE BABY IN THE BASKET WAS SET AFLOAT;
NOW DOWN TO THE RIVER, PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER CAME TO
BATHE AND TO SOAK.

HER DUTIFUL MAIDENS WALKED ALONG THE RIVER'S SIDE;
THEY SOON SPIED THE BASKET AND OPENED IT UP AND THE
TINY BABY CRIED! EX. 2:5,6

THE PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER HUGGED AND HELD THE BABY
NEAR; SISTER MARIAM ASKED, "SHALL I GET HIS MOTHER
HERE"? EX. 2:7
MOSES' MOTHER CAME QUICKLY; THEIR REUNITING WAS SO
DEAR;
IT WAS PLAIN TO SEE GOD'S HAND HAD ALWAYS BEEN NEAR.

MOSES GREW UP AND IN PHARAOH'S COURT BECAME WISE
AND STRONG;
THERE HIS MOTHER TAUGHT HIM THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
RIGHT AND WRONG.

SOON FLEEING EGYPT, A GOOD SHEPHERD HE BECAME, BUT
ONE DAY, TENDING HIS FLOCKS, DOWN DEEP IN HIS
HEART;
HE LONGED FOR HIS FAMILY, STILL SLAVES TO PHARAOH, AND
GOD SAID, "FOR THE HEBREW NATION, BACK TO EGYPT,
HE MUST DEPART"!

GOD SAID, "I HAVE HEARD THEIR CRY...
YOU MUST GO TO PHARAOH AND BRING MY CHILDREN OUT OF
EGYPT".
EXODUS 3:7-10

BY B. R. B.