

God Raises Up a Rescuer

Exodus 1:1–4:16

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God raised up one of His greatest prophets to be the instrument of deliverance for the people who had become the nation of Israel.

I. Over the next four centuries God fulfilled His promise to create a great nation from Abraham’s descendants. (v. 48:1-4)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.” (Genesis 17:1-8)

The LORD spoke to Moses in the tent of meeting in the Desert of Sinai on the first day of the second month of the second year after the Israelites came out of Egypt... The total number was 603,550. (Numbers 1:1, 46)

II. In time all that Joseph had done for Egypt was forgotten and Israel’s descendants were enslaved and oppressed. (Ex. 1:8-14)

III. The Hebrew midwives obeyed God rather than the Pharaoh. (v. 1:15-22)

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. (Romans 13:1)

The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men [human authority]! The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” (Acts 5:27-32)

By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. (Hebrews 11:23)

IV. God miraculously saved the life of the one He had chosen to rescue His people. (v. 2:1-10)

V. Moses killed to protect the life of a kinsman and had to flee as a result. (v. 2:11-15)

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. (Hebrews 11:24-25)

VI. Moses found a wife and a home among distant relatives. (v. 2:16-23)

VII. During Moses lifetime the period ordained for Abraham's descendants to incubate in Egypt came to an end. (v. 2:23-25)

Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"

So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. ¹⁴ But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." (Genesis 15:4-16)

VIII. The angel of the Lord manifested Himself to Moses in the form of a burning bush. (v. 3:1-6)

Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?” (Exodus 15:11)

“I am God, and not man—the Holy One among you” (Hosea 11:9)

“There is no one holy like the LORD” (1 Samuel 2:2).

To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. (Exodus 24:17)

God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:15b-16).

IX. God called and commissioned Moses to be the rescuer of His people. (v. 3:7-12)

X. God revealed to Moses His nature describing Himself as I AM, the eternally existing One and sharing His personal, covenant name: Yahweh. (v. 3:13-15)

XI. God commanded Moses to tell the Israelites that He intended to deliver them from their slavery. (v. 3:16-20)

XII. God adds that he will cause the Egyptians to enrich His people as they leave. (v. 3:21-22)

XIII. When Moses expressed lack of confidence regarding this mission, God granted him three miraculous signs as proof of his sending. (v. 4:1-9)

XIV. Moses attempted to avoid the mission citing his poor speaking skills. (v. 4:10-12)

Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action. (Acts 7:22)

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

XV. Finally, Moses simply tried to decline, so God also called Aaron to be Moses’ mouthpiece. (v. 4:14-17)