

The Story Chapter 4 Moses and I AM

Remember the Five Movements:

1. The Garden
2. The Nation of Israel
3. The Story of Jesus
4. The Church
5. The New Garden

TIMELINE

As we continue to look at the Nation of Israel we know that God is using them to show us **His Presence, His Power, and His Plan** to get us back!

Exodus 1:1-5

1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; ³ Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; ⁴ Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. ⁵ The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt.

So, this is where we left off last week.

Jacob and his whole family has now moved to Egypt because of the famine.

- Joseph knows that he was sent there ahead of them so that he could save them during this famine.

And here's where we are now...

Exodus 1:6-14

⁶ Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, ⁷ but the Israelites were fruitful and multiplied greatly and became exceedingly numerous, so that the land was filled with them.

⁸ Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt.

⁹ "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. ¹⁰ Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." ¹¹ So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³

and worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁴ They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor the Egyptians used them ruthlessly.

So, the Israelites, while living in the land of Egypt, were multiplying and growing at such a fast pace they were becoming “**exceedingly numerous**”.

A new King comes on the scene that knows nothing about Joseph and what he did for Egypt.

- The only information that this King has is that they have a group of people living inside their borders that is getting to big to control.
- Out of fear, the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves, but they continued to multiply and grow their nation.

This is when the King of Egypt put a rule in place that all Israelite baby boys must be thrown in the Nile river.

During this time is when we see the birth of Moses.

Moses was born to one of the sons of Levi, who was one of the sons of Jacob.

- When he was born, his mother hid him for three months and then, because she couldn't hide him anymore, placed him in a basket in the Nile river.

One of Pharaoh's daughters found him.

- And with the help of the baby's mother, she raised him in an Egyptian home.
- She named him Moses.

SO, Moses is an Israelite being raised as an Egyptian in a time where the Egyptians were using the Israelites as slaves!

He is 40 years old at this point:

Moses sees one of the Egyptians beating and Israelite slave one day and he kills him.

- Once he figures out that word is spreading that he killed an Egyptian he flees to Midian. He lives there for 40 years before God calls on him.

[MAP](#)

[Exodus 3:1-10](#)

3 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.” ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” ⁵ “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

So, after 40 years of hiding in Midian, God shows up in a burning bush and calls Moses to go get his people out of Egypt.

And, this is Moses’ response: (Which would probably be the response most of us would have given)

Exodus 3:11

¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

CREDIT: I watched Max Lucado talk about this passage the other day and he made a great point:

You and I could have easily told Moses why he was the perfect guy to do this job...

- He was raised as an Egyptian
- He knew the language
- He knew how they thought and what all the rules were
- He was the perfect guy to go back and make this happen.

Here's the deal: God never told him any of that.

God did not try to convince Moses that he was the one who could make this happen.

God told Moses two things that would get him through.

Exodus 3:12

¹² And God said, "I will be with you."

1. I will be with you.

Here's something we need to learn right here: We don't have to be qualified when God is with us!!

- If He's called you to do it He will get you through it!

Exodus 3:13-14

¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose 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?' Then what shall I tell them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

2. Tell them I AM sent you.

This is huge for Moses.

God is making it very clear that Moses is not going to be successful because of something he brings to the table.

- He is going to be successful because of what God brings to the table.

Why does the name I AM work so well here.

EX: When someone asks you how you're doing, what do you say?
I am fine, I am tired, I am hungry...

What if someone answered you with I am... and nothing else.

Here's why we have to add something to this I am statement: We are always changing.

- You have a different I am... statement every day of the week, and maybe every few minutes of the day.

HUGE POINT: GOD NEVER CHANGES!!!

- He's the only One Who could ever say I AM and mean it, because He always is, always has been, and always will be!!

What could be more empowering to Moses that know that God is with him and, by the way, God is the ultimate constant in the universe around him?

He is making sure that Moses knows this is not about what he can do. It's about what God is going to do through him.

What is God calling you to do today that you are wavering on because you don't think you could get it done?

- **TRUTH:** He's not calling you to get something done. He's calling you so He can get something done through you!!

KEY: You may be scared, weak, tired, worn out, or whatever.
HE IS STILL I AM!!

Back to them:

God brings Aaron along (Moses' brother) to help him speak since Moses is worried about his problem speaking.

- "Faltering lips"

In chapter 4 Moses and Aaron go back to Egypt to stand before Pharaoh.

Exodus 5:1-2

5 **Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert.' "** **2** **Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go."**

Interesting enough: After their first visit with Pharaoh the oppression and treatment got even worse than it had been.

The Israelites were complaining to Moses because he wouldn't just leave things the way they were.

- Even in slavery they had become comfortable.

MacLaren's Exposition of Scripture: He makes a great point. The plan the whole time was to take the people of Israel back out of Egypt and back into the Promised Land that the Lord had set for them.

- However, they lived in comfort for many years where they multiplied into a great nation.
- If the oppression had not come, they may have never left!

Remember Movement 2: [God will use the nation of Israel to show us His Presence, His Power, and His Plan to get us back!](#)

He does ALL of that in this one story.

His Presence: He's already told Moses that "He would be with Him".

His Power: In Chapters 7-11 we see God bring 10 different plagues down on the people of Egypt.

- He told Moses when he called him that He would use these plagues to show Pharaoh the amazing power of God.

His Plan to Get us Back: Now this you have to see...

The last plague was The Plague on the Firstborn.

Exodus 11:4-6

⁴ So Moses said, "This is what the Lord says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. ⁵ Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the slave girl, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. ⁶ There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again.

The Passover

This is what the Lord told Moses for the people of Israel.

- Here is how you protect yourself during this plague:

Exodus 12:3, 5-7

³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁵ The

animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.

How they should eat the meal:

Exodus 12:11

¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.

Look what He tells them next:

Exodus 12:12-13

¹² “On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

Then this happens:

Exodus 12:29-32

²⁹ At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. ³⁰ Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

³¹ During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. ³² Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go.

His plan to get us back...

The Israelites took blood from a perfect sacrifice and painted a spot on the top of the door frame and the sides.

- Listen: They were protected by standing under the blood of a perfect sacrifice.

This is a perfect picture of His ultimate plan to get us back!

Our salvation today is based totally on us being under that covering of the blood of Jesus Christ shed on that cross.

- Our only freedom comes from that blood.

Hebrews 10:19

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

If you are a Believer today it is only because you have allowed the blood of Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross to cover you.

This is HUGE: If you are not living under that protection of the blood of Jesus Christ, today is the day to change that.

Question: Have you surrendered your life to the life-giving blood of Jesus Christ and received the promise of salvation?

Here's the Truth:

- The night of the original Passover, something in EVERY house had to die.
- For those without the blood of sacrifice, it was their first born.
- For those with the blood of the sacrifice, it was the lamb. The SUBSTITUTE!!

Truth for Today: Because of the sin we are born into from the choice of Adam and Eve, something has to die.

Now, we're all going to die physically one day.

But I'm talking about a spiritual death!

- It can be you or it can be a substitute!

Jesus Christ died on the cross to take your place so that you don't have to die for your sin.

- He already shed His blood on that cross so that you don't have to.

But, you have to be willing to step up under that blood and receive His covering.

Have you done that? Are you living under the covering of the shed blood of Jesus?

That's our question today!