



## **WEIRD: cause normal isn't working.**

Exodus

Any overview of the Bible has to travel through the life of Moses. For the Israelites, Moses was one of three heroes along with Abraham and David who were revered in the Jewish faith.

The promise of God given to Abraham has come true and now those descendants are more than just a family they are a people group. Still living in Egypt. But now they are enslaved and resented.

Let's pick up the story in Exodus

### **Exodus 1:22**

<sup>22</sup>Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

### **Exodus 2:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, <sup>2</sup>and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup>But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. <sup>4</sup>His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup>Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. <sup>6</sup>She

opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

<sup>7</sup>Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

<sup>8</sup>"Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. <sup>9</sup>Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. <sup>10</sup>When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

Moses grows up as a prince in Egypt, but he was always aware of his Hebrew roots.

### **Exodus 2:11-12**

<sup>11</sup>One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. <sup>12</sup>Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

Hearing of this the Pharaoh tries to kill Moses, but he escapes to the wilderness. It's there after several years that God speaks to Moses.

### **Exodus 3:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>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 wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

<sup>4</sup>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."

<sup>5</sup>“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”

**God calls Moses to go back to Egypt and tell the king to let the Israelites go. Out of Egypt. Out of slavery. Free to worship. Free to be their own people.**

What happens next is a series of interactions between Moses and the Pharaoh, and a series of plagues sent by God upon the Egyptians. Eventually after 10 plagues including the death of every first born male child in Egypt, the Pharaoh agrees to let the Israelites leave.

Just before the Israelites leave Egypt God institutes a sacrifice and a meal that will become the Passover Celebration.

#### **Exodus 12:17**

<sup>17</sup>“Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come.

So the Israelites move out of Egypt, and right to the banks of the Red Sea. You see God wanted the Israelites to know that He was involved right from the beginning.

#### **Exodus 14:10-15**

<sup>10</sup>As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

<sup>13</sup>Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. **Stand firm** and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. <sup>14</sup>The Lord will fight for you; you need only to **be still.**”

<sup>15</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to **move on.**”

Israel is in a tight spot. The Red Sea on one side and the army of Egypt on the other. What does Moses and God tell Israel to do?

**Stand firm. Be still. Trust God. Move forward.**

When your marriage is being tested. When work is being difficult. When life is pushing in. When there seems to be no way out.

When nothing is going your way. Don't give up. God will provide a way.

I love this...

#### **Exodus 14:13**

The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.

Let God work. He will lead you. He will deliver you. The problems you see today... you will never see again.

#### **Exodus 14:21-22**

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, <sup>22</sup>and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

Egypt's army follows and is destroyed by God as the waters of the Red Sea cover them. The Israelites celebrate what God has done.

What happens next is unexpected. Moses leads the people of Israel toward the land that God had promised Abraham. But the people grumble and complain and even

wish to go back to Egypt and be slaves. For 40 years God's chosen people wander in the wilderness.

It is during this time that God gives Moses the Law which gives this new nation a set of rules to live by. God gives Moses the regulations on how to worship and the design for the Tabernacle.

This is that Covenant relationship we have talked about. Established through Moses and the Law.

Now a lot happens during these years that we don't have time to get into today, but notice this...

**Moses was chosen by God and set apart to lead the Israelites.**

He is the first prophet for the Israelites. As they become a nation, Moses is God's choice to lead the people. They didn't always agree, but they looked to Moses for direction and leadership.

And because of that Moses is revered by Israel. Even today.

**Deuteronomy 18:18**

<sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him.

Can you imagine how WEIRD Moses felt?

Think about it, Moses grew up a Hebrew in the palace of the Egyptian king. From the opulence of the palace he could see the Hebrew people being overworked, mistreated and scorned. Must have been a WEIRD place to be.

As he grows up he defends his blood relatives and they turn on him, so he leaves Egypt. He spends a lot of time alone in the wilderness until God calls him back to Egypt to be his spokesman.

He follows God's call and leads the Israelites out of Egypt and all they do is grumble, complain and want to go back to Egypt. But Moses continues to follow God and sets up the Law and Worship.

Throughout his life Moses was a humble, reluctant leader. And God blesses his leadership. He's not perfect. As a matter of fact because of his own sin, he is not allowed to lead the people into the promised land.

WEIRD. But chosen. WEIRD but called by God.

**Any talk of a Messiah would have to be compared to one of Israel's first and greatest leaders, Moses.**

Mark Moore in Core 52 says,

"Nearly every author of the New Testament compared Moses to Jesus. Jesus is not merely like Moses. He's superior to this Hebrew superstar."

**Jesus birth mirrors Moses.** Jesus is born during the reign of a crazed leader, Herod. Who was so concerned about his throne that he began killing babies who he determined were a threat to his power.

**Matthew 1:16**

<sup>16</sup>When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

**Jesus passed through water** at his baptism just as the Moses and the Israelites passed through the Red Sea on their way to being tested in the wilderness.

#### **Matthew 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup>As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

God endorses Jesus at his baptism and that water ushered in a new era for Jesus just as it had for the Israelites. For Jesus this was the beginning of his public ministry, for Israel they became a free nation and passing through the Red Sea was God's endorsement of Moses as the leader for Israel.

And where do Jesus and Moses both go following these events? The wilderness to be tested.

#### **Matthew 4:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

The forty days of fasting mirror the forty years of wilderness wandering by the Israelites. **Jesus is then tempted** by the Devil, while Moses and Israel are tempted to go back to their old ways in Egypt.

Both Jesus and Moses were known as **humble leaders**.

#### **Numbers 12:3**

<sup>3</sup>(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

#### **Matthew 11:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Moses has a conversation with God on Mount Sinai and also has a conversation with Jesus on a mountain in Matthew 17.

#### **Matthew 17:1-3**

<sup>1</sup>After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup>There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup>Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Finally, Jesus's Last Supper was during the Passover meal that Moses had established.

#### **Matthew 26:26-28**

<sup>26</sup>While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

<sup>27</sup>Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup>This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Clearly, Moses foreshadowed Jesus.

**All of Moses life points to Jesus.**

From time to time God would speak with Moses, and every time Moses left, his face would glow.

- Moses developed a habit of COVERING HIS FACE (I BELIEVE) so that the WEIRD GLOW wouldn't distract the people from what God was telling them.
- Moses would go back up to, speak with God, gain a glowing face, show that to people as he told them what God had said, and then COVER HIS FACE again so that the glow wouldn't be a distraction.
- Moses covered himself - faded away - SO THAT God's word would shine.
  - Moses faded to give way for God's words.

WHY did Moses do that?

- **Moses wanted God to be GREATER than himself.**
  - Think about it like this - MOSES was a TOOL for God's use. The tool does not get the glory - the creator is the one who gets the glory - the TOOL fades into the background and the Creator gets the glory.
    - If you see a beautiful house, you don't praise the HAMMER. You give praise to the one who created it.
- **Moses was great, but Jesus is GREATER.**
  - In the NT, Moses and Jesus are often compared by the various writers, and EACH TIME Jesus is shown to be GREATER.
    - Moses knew that God was greater, and when Jesus came, He knew that He was greater than MOSES. Jesus often said things like "Moses told you \_\_, but I tell you \_\_\_\_\_."

Why is this WEIRD?

- It's weird for us to fade into the background and push someone else forward for glory. It goes against the norm to allow someone else to shine.
  - Moses faded so God could SHINE.
    - WE fade so God can SHINE.

In order for this to happen, in order for US to FADE and give God glory we must FIRST come to the conclusion:

HE, meaning Jesus is GREATER and He must become greater to each Christian person. This is for each of us as individuals and it's for everyone in our life who does not yet know Jesus.

**Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

Meaning simply, that Jesus is the ONE WHO SHINES while we fade into the background - FOR HIS GLORY and so lost people might see Him.

We can be the kind of people, and the kind of church that changes this community and this world by realizing that IT AIN'T ABOUT ME, it's about JESUS!!

**Luke 9:23**

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

It's good to look back over history. We learn and grow. Jesus fulfills all the comparisons to Moses and then some.

Are we glowing or are we allowing Jesus to shine in our lives?

# Small Group Questions.

1. How long have you been with Two Rivers? How did you hear about the church and what has been your most favorite thing at church?
2. Stand firm. Be still. Trust God. Move forward. - Of these things that God spoke to the Israelites, which one of these do you struggle with the most? Why?
3. Read Deuteronomy 18:18 - *I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him.* What does this tell us about Jesus?
4. In what ways is Jesus like Moses? In what ways is He different?
5. How do we fade so that God may shine?