

Moses' Sin

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Moses was nourished in his father's house three months. Cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him and nourished him for her own son. He was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds (Acts 7: 20-22). Adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter, in conformity with high position, learning science, arithmetic, writing, astronomy, medicine and sacred symbols, he enjoyed full pleasures of the Egyptian Court, amassing accumulated treasure. Josephus tells; Moses became military commander, when Ethiopia next neighbor to Egypt, thinking it would be a mark of cowardice if they did not subdue all Egypt, made an inroad into Egypt and carried off Egyptian effects. Egypt made Moses general of their army. Tharbis, daughter of the king of Ethiopia, happened to see Moses lead the army and fight with great courage. Believing him to be author of the Egyptian success, she fell deeply in love with him. Upon prevalency of that passion, she sent to him her most faithful servant to discourse with him about their marriage. He accepted, on condition she would procure delivering up the city; and gave her the assurance of an oath to take her to his wife; that when he had taken possession of the city, he would not break his oath to her. Agreement made, it took effect immediately. Moses gave thanks to God, consummated his marriage, and led the Egyptians back to their own land (The Antiquities of the Jews/Book 2/Chapter 10/Section 1).

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing Him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest He that destroyed the firstborn should touch them (Hebrews 11: 24-28).

Moses slew an Egyptian. Pharaoh sought to slay Moses. Moses fled to Midian where he helped daughters of the priest of Midian draw water at the well. Jethro the priest, gave his daughter Zipporah, as wife to Moses who was content to stay with the man. Zipporah bare him a son, Gershom. Leading the flocks of Jethro to the backside of the desert, Moses came to the mountain of Horeb. Before him burning with fire was a bush of wild acacia, remaining unsinged and uninjured by the firey element around it! Determined to draw near and ascertain the cause of this sight, as he approached a Voice called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Receiving divine commission, Jehovah made Himself known to Moses as the God of his fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jehovah had seen the affliction of His people, heard their cry under their taskmasters, and had come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and bring them up to a good and broad land flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 3: 4-8). Milk and honey, the simplest and choicest production of a land abounding in grass and flowers, found abundantly in Palestine.

Text: Exodus 4: 18-31 ASV portioned

Moses went to his father-in-law, and said, let me return to my brethren in Egypt, and see whether they be alive. Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace. Jehovah said to Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt; for all the men are dead that sought thy life. Moses took his wife and sons, set them upon an ass, and returned to Egypt. Moses took the rod of God in his hand. Jehovah said Moses, do before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your hand. I will harden his heart, and he will not let the people go. Say to Pharaoh, thus says Jehovah, Israel is my son, my first-born: and I have said unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me; and thou hast refused to let him go: behold, I will slay thy son, thy first-born. It came to pass on the way at the lodging place, that Jehovah met him, and sought to kill him. Then Zipporah took a flint, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet;

and she said, Surely a bridegroom of blood art thou to me. So he let him alone. Then she said, a bridegroom of blood art you, because of the circumcision. Jehovah said to Aaron, go into the wilderness to meet Moses. He met him in the mountain of God, and kissed him. Moses told Aaron all the words of Jehovah and all the signs. Moses and Aaron gathered all the elders of the children of Israel: and Aaron spake all the words which Jehovah had spoken to Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. The people believed: and when they heard that Jehovah had visited the children of Israel, and that he had seen their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

If Moses was to carry out the divine commission with success, he must first prove himself a faithful servant of Jehovah in his own home. This he learned from an occurrence at the inn returning from Midian. On the way, at the lodging-place, Jehovah met him, and sought to kill him. Moses was guilty of a capital crime. Jehovah sought to execute a death sentence against him. The manner, is not stated, but from some act proceeding directly from Jehovah, Moses was threatened with death. The hostile attitude of Jehovah was occasioned by neglect to circumcise his son. As soon as Zipporah cut off the foreskin of her son, Jehovah let Moses go. Circumcision had been enjoined upon Abraham by Jehovah as a covenant sign for all his descendants; and the sentence of death was pronounced upon any neglect of it, as a breach of covenant; the uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant (Genesis 17: 14). Jehovah earnestly demands His commandments be kept. The first child, Gershom must have been circumcised. Moses sin had sprung from weakness of the flesh, from a sinful yielding to his wife's dislike of circumcision, cause of the omission. Zipporah being compelled by Jehovah to purchase Moses life by the blood of her son leaves her to throw it at Moses feet, calling him a bloody husband. Induced by what happened Moses sent his wife and sons back to his father-in-law. After removal of sin, Jehovah blesses Moses with divine favor in the arrival of Aaron. Moses related

all that had happened to Aaron.

Jehovah expected Moses to first prove himself a faithful servant in his own home. I am no Moses, but I have a divine commission. You have a divine commission. After learning of men like Moses, how anyone could think obedience unnecessary is a wonder. Sin is coming short of the glory of God. It is not our business to contest it. It is our business to avoid it. Seek first His kingdom, and righteousness!