

**A Man Named Moses**  
**"A God Who Fights for Us"**

**Introduction:** In our study of the life of Moses we have bypassed one of the great sections that prepares us for this text today.

Week #1: Birth narrative—A God Who is Present

Week #2: Flight into the Wilderness—A God Who is Active

Week #3: Burning Bush—A God Who is I Am

**I. From the Burning Bush to the Exodus**

A. After arguing with God, Moses consented to obey and go

1. Not good enough

*But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Exodus 3:11 NKJV*

2. I don't have all the answers

*Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" Exodus 3:13 NKJV*

3. People won't believe me

*Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you.'" Exodus 4:1 NKJV*

4. I'm a terrible speaker

*Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." Exodus 4:10 NKJV*

5. I'm not qualified

*But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send." Exodus 4:13 NKJV*

## B. Rallied the People

*Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. 30 And Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people. 31 So the people believed.*

## C. Before Pharaoh

### 1. First encounter with Pharaoh

- a. Rejection
- b. Must have too much time
- c. Cranked up the work (Pharaoh's edict)

*"You shall no longer give the people straw to make brick as before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. 8 And you shall lay on them the quota of bricks which they made before. You shall not reduce it. For they are idle; therefore they cry out, saying, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.' Exodus 5:7-8 NKJV*

- d. People complain to Moses
- e. Moses complains—"Why did you do this to me? Why did you send me?"
- f. Moses tries to console the people—Exodus 6:1-8

*So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage. Exodus 6:9 NKJV*

### 2. Second encounter with Pharaoh

- a. Pharaoh called for a sign
- b. Rod—Serpent—Magicians (Aaron's rod swallowed theirs)
- c. Heart grew harder

### 3. 9 Plagues

- a. Water to blood—death of sea life
- b. Frogs—tomorrow
- c. Lice
- d. Flies—Goshen set apart

\*Go sacrifice—3 days journey—heart hard

- e. Egyptian livestock
- f. Boils—men and livestock
- g. Hail
- h. Locusts

- i. Darkness which may be felt 3 days

Go ahead—heart hardened again

- 4. Final plague (This would do it—strike the first born!)
  - a. Personal preparation
  - b. Feast
  - c. Blood on doorpost
  - d. 1<sup>st</sup> born in every house
  - e. Prepare to leave
  - f. Angel of the Lord

*And it came to pass at midnight that the Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. 30 So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. 31 Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the Lord as you have said. 32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also." 33 And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead." Exodus 12:29-33 NKJV*

## II. From the Exodus to the Red Sea

- A. They left prepared for battle.

*So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt. 19 And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you." Exodus 13:18-19 NKJV*

- B. God's leading

*And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. 22 He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people. Exodus 13:21-22 NKJV*

- C. Pharaoh's heart hardened/his mind changed

*So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. 7 Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. Exodus 14:6-7 NKJV*

D. Fear of people and collapse of their faith

*Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? 12 Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness." Exodus 14:11-12 NKJV*

E. Moses leads with faith

*And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. 14 The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." Exodus 14:13-14 NKJV*

F. Apparently Moses' public display did not match his private doubt.

*And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. 16 But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. 17 And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. 18 Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen." Exodus 14:15-18 NKJV*

The Lord will fight for you!

### III. The Miracle of the Red Sea

*And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. 20 So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night. 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. 22 So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. 23 And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 24 Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. 25 And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians." 26 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." 27 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. 29 But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. 30 So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.*  
*Exodus 14:19-31 NKJV*

#### A. Promise of God (cloud/angel) stood before

1. Darkness to Egypt
2. Light to Hebrews

#### B. Dividing of Waters (creation pictures)

*Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.*  
*Exodus 14:21 NKJV*

*The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:2 NKJV*

*Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. Genesis 1:7 NKJV*

*Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. Genesis 1:9 NKJV*

C. Walked on dry ground—water wall

D. Egyptians pursued

1. Lost wheels
2. Stuck in mud
3. Recognized it was God

E. Enemy destroyed

F. Key Lesson

*Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses. Exodus 14:31 NKJV*

They trusted in God who fought for them!

#### **IV. Trusting a God Who Fights for Us**

Consider: How Moses must have felt when the waters rolled back

Three Truths

A. Moses learned that a God who fights for us will make life an adventure.

NOTE: Adventure (Advent-surprise)

1. The whole nation was put in the hands of God and invited to an adventure
2. To be God's people is genuinely exciting!

(ILL) The Great Adventure

*The great offer of the gospel is adventure. We're God's representatives.-Bruce Larson*

- Kingdom walk is fun/it's exciting
- Buildings, baptisms, communion, preaching
- Outreaches, missions trips
- Giving
- What we are about to undertake is an exciting journey!!

B. Moses learned that a God who fights for us will act decisively on our behalf to save us.

1. The deliverance of the Hebrews through the Red Sea was a decisive act in human history.
2. Story of deliverance of God's people from bondage
3. A decisive act that portrays the death and resurrection of Christ.

*Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. 1 Corinthians 10:1-5 NKJV*

*Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 1 Corinthians 10:11 NKJV*

*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, 2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. 1 Peter 1:3 NIV*

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. 11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. 1 Peter 2:9-11 NKJV*

(ILL) The Decisive Act

*The preacher brings a report from the battlefield of the conflict between Christ and Satan. The news is that for the whole of humankind Jesus Christ has won the victory in his death and resurrection.*

C. Moses learned that a God who fights for us will keep us in His hands at all times.

1. When the enemy chased—God's cloud became their rear-guard
2. When fear and disappointment comes—He is with us!
3. People afraid—Moses said stand still!

(ILL) Jehovah is still God

*Gladys Aylward, missionary to China more than fifty years ago, was forced to flee when the Japanese invaded Yangcheng. But she could not leave her work behind. With only one assistant, she led more than a hundred orphans over the mountains toward Free China. In their book *The Hidden Price of Greatness*, Ray Besson and Ranelda Mack Hunsicker tell what happened: "During Gladys's harrowing journey out of war-torn Yangcheng ... she grappled with despair as never before. After passing a sleepless night, she faced the morning with no hope of reaching safety. A 13-year-old girl in the group reminded her of their much-loved story of Moses and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea." "But I am not Moses," Gladys cried in desperation. "Of course you aren't," the girl said, "but Jehovah is still God!" "When Gladys and the orphans made it through, they proved once again that no matter how inadequate we feel, God is still God, and we can trust in him.*

**Conclusion:** Whatever you are facing today—God is fighting for you!

1. An exciting journey awaits you!
2. He has acted decisively for you!
3. You are in His hands!

**Song:**

*What a Beautiful Name*