

**A Man Named Moses**  
***“A God Who is Active”***

**Introduction:** Hebrews lived in Egyptian slavery for 400 years before God raised up their deliverer.

A. Man named Moses—God delivered him from a near certain death.

- Pharaoh (King) hated the Hebrews and felt threatened by them.
- Edict to the midwives
- Edict regarding the Nile River
- Discovery of the Princess
- Providence of God

**HE WAS A PRESENT GOD**

Story of Moses as an adult begins...

A. Moses defending his own

*Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. 12 So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. Exodus 2:11-12 NKJV*

1. Aware of who he was—first 3 years his mother told him of Yahweh
2. Raised in Pharaoh’s home
3. Goes out to where they are laboring—odd for him (identity crisis—a Hebrew but not a slave).
4. Saw their burdens and saw one of his own being beaten (beating=nakah)
5. He looked both ways, “this way and that way.”—Panah koh koh
6. He saw no one (ra-ah- ish)

*So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice. 16 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. Isaiah 59:15-16 NKJV*

**NOTE:** Not looking to see who was watching but he saw no one else to help

7. He “killed the Egyptian” and hid him in the sand (word killed=nakah) he beat him maybe without intention of murder.

## B. Moses rejected by his own

*And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?" 14 Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!" Exodus 2:13-14 NKJV*

1. Next day tries to break up fight between two Hebrews—why fight each other?
2. Didn't see Moses as deliverer—"who made you judge and ruler over us?"

## IRONY...

*And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening. Exodus 18:13 NKJV*

NOTE: Story later indicates Moses thought they would see him as deliverer

*For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. Acts 7:25 NKJV*

3. He is misunderstood by his people AND becomes the object of Pharaoh's wrath

*When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well. Exodus 2:15 NKJV*

## C. Moses finds a new home

*Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. 18 When they came to Reuel their father, he said, "How is it that you have come so soon today?" 19 And they said, "An Egyptian delivered us from the hand of the shepherds, and he also drew enough water for us and watered the flock." 20 So he said to his daughters, "And where is he? Why is it that you have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread." 21 Then Moses was content to live with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses. 22 And she bore him a son. He called his name Gershom, for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land." Exodus 2:16-22 NKJV*

NOTE: He goes from deliverer who is ready to act to a fugitive frightened for his life.

1. Defends the seven sisters
2. Impresses father-in-law to be
3. Marries Zipporah—a son named Gershom

IMPORTANT: Moses will live in Median as long as he lived in Egypt—40 years

- He intercedes 3 times in text (Hebrew, brother, daughters of Reuel)
- Names son Gershom—I have been a stranger in a foreign land”
- Lives in Median 40 years, but not at home
- He is 80 years old, a fugitive, away from his people and his home
- What of all the time?
- Where is God in all of this?
- Is He at all active?

TRUTH: Moses was driven out as Israel will be later (mini-Exodus). He learns the hospitality of the wilderness before the Hebrews.

This was not wasted time—God was ACTIVE in 3 ways

## **I. God was active in the life of Moses.**

### **A. Beginning of passage, Moses was a self-confident man in a position of privilege**

1. What he thought was inaugural act of deliverance—was defiant rebellion.
2. God didn’t give up.

### **B. During that long period, God was shaping the character of Moses**

*During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. Exodus 2:23 NIV*

1. Compassion by experiencing what it means to be an alien.
2. Tempered his self-importance can’t deliver on his own.
3. God softened and matured his heart.
4. God taught Moses not only about the wilderness but about his people
  - a. They were shepherds
  - b. Jacob, Joseph
  - c. Moses had been in a palace

**HAD LOST HIS HISTORY BUT NOW BEING TAUGHT IT IN THE WILDERNESS**

(ILL) Jesus becoming flesh

## **II. God was active in Egypt.**

*Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Exodus 2:23 aNKJV*

### **A. The King who sought Moses life, now died**

*This material is copyrighted. Its use in the local church or in any other setting as a teaching tool or ministry presentation requires written permission from the author.*

B. Meant Moses could return

### III. God was active with the Hebrews.

*Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. 24 So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them. Exodus 2:23-25 NKJV*

- A. The action slows down—God hears their groaning
- B. Not just listening, but readiness to act
- C. Remembers His covenant—not mental recollection, but a kind of remember that includes action
- D. God looked on Hebrews like Moses did—with compassion—ready to do something
- E. Personal knowledge and mercy toward His people

**Conclusion:** From a human point of view his 40 years in Midian seemed like wasted time—the deliverer isn't delivering.

(ILL) We get impatient, hurried—I did in Bible college

1. In life of Moses and in the lives of the Hebrews, circumstances are not changing
2. But, time waiting is not time wasted
3. God had been at work
  - Older sister Miriam
  - Princess
  - Moses courage against abuse
  - Jethro and Zipporah's hospitality
  - Death of Pharaoh
  - Cry of people
  - Moses' shepherding

Stage set for Revelation and work from God

**Good News—We are a waiting people**

- Wait for God to act in a world filled with disaster, depression, disease
- Wait for God to break through the injustice
- Wait for God to transform from the inside out

*For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Romans 8:19-22 NKJV*

- Wait for Christ to return and set things right
- God hears our groaning and remembers His promise to us—He sees and is concerned

*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9 NKJV*

*Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:13 NKJV*

- He is at work

*For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Philippians 2:13 NKJV*

(ILL)

### *Timex and Waiting*

*When Timex (the watch company) asked people how long they would wait before taking action in a wide variety of situations, researchers discovered that we'll consent to wait only:*

- *Thirteen seconds before we honk at a car in front of us that's stopped at a green light;*
- *Twenty-six seconds before we shush people who are talking in a movie theater;*
- *Twenty-six seconds before we take the seat of someone who's walked away;*
- *Forty-five seconds before we ask someone who's talking too loud on a cell phone to "keep it down"*
- *thirteen minutes for a table at a restaurant;*
- *Twenty minutes for a blind date to show up before we leave*
- *And twenty minutes for the last person to show up for Thanksgiving dinner before we dig in.*

## *Trapeze Artists Must Wait*

*Not long before his death, Henri Nouwen wrote a book called Sabbathical Journeys. He writes about some friends of his who were trapeze artists. They were with the circus, and their lives had an effect on him. They were called The Flying Roudellas. One thing they told Henri Nouwen is that there's a very special relationship between the flyer and the catcher on the trapeze. The flyer is the one that lets go, and the catcher is the one that catches. As you might imagine, this relationship is important especially to the flyer. When the flyer is swinging high above the crowd on the trapeze, the moment comes when he must let go. He arcs out into the air, and his job is to remain as still as possible and to wait for the strong hands of the catcher to pluck him from the air. This trapeze artist told Nouwen, "The flyer must never try to catch the catcher." The flyer must wait in absolute trust. The catcher will catch him. But he must wait.*