

MOSES

"A Faithful and Humble Leader"



Moses is one of the most important people in the history of Christianity and Judaism! This lesson will focus on some highlights of his amazing life.

Background from the New Testament:

Moses is referenced multiple times in the New Testament. Some of the key passages include:

Acts 7:17-47. Included in this passage is a nice, high level summary of Moses' 120 years of life. His life can be broken down into three 40 year periods. Included is a brief summary by Chuck Swindoll and also Dwight L. Moody :

- a) **Birth through 40 years.** Swindoll: "In Egypt, nursed by his mother and taught by Egyptian schools." Moody: "Thinking he was somebody."
- b) **40-80 Years of Age:** Swindoll: "In desert, nursed by solitude and taught by God." Moody: "Learning he was a nobody."
- c) **80-120 Years of Age:** Swindoll: "With the Hebrew people in the wilderness, nursed by trials, discouragements and tests, and taught by the Law, which he received from God's own hand." Moody: "Discovering what God can do with a nobody."

Hebrews 11:24-29. Moses was prominently featured in the Hebrews 11 Faith Hall-of-Fame, where his faith was commended. In **Hebrews 3:1-6** Moses' faithfulness was described as foreshadowing that of Jesus.

Matthew 17:1-4. Moses was one of two Old Testament saints to appear to Jesus at the transfiguration (along with Elijah).

Highlights from the Life of Moses

Important events in the life of Moses include being saved from an early death by Pharaoh's daughter. He is called to serve God through a burning bush. Pharaoh's continuing refusal to release God's people brings plagues on Egypt and the death of each Egyptian family's firstborn. He leads the Israelites miraculously cross the Red Sea, then receives God's laws and commandments at Mount Sinai.

- 1) **A Humble Birth, yet Royal Upbringing (birth – 40 years of age).** Moses, whose name means 'taken out' or 'drawn forth,' is born into an Israelite family from the tribe of Levi. The family consists of sister Miriam (roughly twelve years old) and brother Aaron (three years old). Shortly before his birth, Pharaoh decreed the death of all Hebrew male children. Unable to conceal her baby for very long, his mother Jochebed carried out a plan to save her child. She put him in a small ark (basket) and placed it in the reeds along the river, hoping he would be found and allowed to live. Pharaoh's daughter finds the baby and immediately adopts him. Miriam, who serves the princess, suggests and arranges for her mother to nurse the child.

Moses grows up and is taught and trained in Pharaoh's court. From the age of twenty to forty he was "mighty in words and deeds" (Acts 7:22). He, according to historian Josephus, becomes general of the Egyptian army and leads a successful campaign against the Ethiopians (Antiquities (History) of the Jews, Book 2, Chapter 10).

Key Passage: Exodus 1:1 through 2:10.

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- 2) **An exiled herdsman (40 – 80 years of age).** Around the age of forty he flees Egypt to escape punishment for killing an Egyptian taskmaster who wrongly beat and killed a Hebrew slave. His journey takes him to Midian where he ends up working for a man named Jethro. He soon marries Jethro's daughter Zipporah. After spending forty years as a herdsman, God commissions him, through a burning bush, to free the children of Israel from their Egyptian bondage.

Key Passage: Exodus 2:11-25

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- 3) **National Leader (80 – 120 years of age).** Moses journeys back to Egypt with his brother Aaron, who acts as his spokesman. Their confrontations with Pharaoh Thutmose III (ruled Egypt from 1479 to 1425 B.C.) lead to ten plagues brought on Egypt and the killing of their firstborn. The Exodus occurs when the Israelites leave Egypt. After the children of Israel show a lack of faith to enter their inheritance, God judges them unfit to receive this blessing and has them wander the wilderness for forty years. Moses then spends the last forty years of his life serving God and governing the people. He leads the people to Mount Sinai where God gives them His laws and commandments. During this period of his life, Moses writes the first five books listed in the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy).

Moses dies at the age of 120. Joshua, his mentee and second in command, leads the Israelites into the Promised Land.

Key Passages: Exodus Chapters 3-40; Book of Numbers; Book of Deuteronomy

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