

Moses Stories

Nacho Mama's Bible Study



September 21, 2017

Baby in a Basket



Moses Flees to Midian



Burning Bush



Burning Bush

God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

Moses: “Here I am.”

God: “Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”

God: “I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

Moses: “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

God: “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

Moses: “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

God: “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Moses Becomes a Prophet

Moses: “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

The Lord: “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

Moses: “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.”

Then the LORD’s anger burned against Moses and [the Lord] said: “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it.”

Freeing the Slaves

LORD to Moses: “Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the river. Confront him on the bank of the Nile, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. Then say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness. But until now you have not listened. This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.’”

...Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood. The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink its water. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.

But...Pharaoh’s heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said. Instead, he turned and went into his palace, and did not take even this to heart.

10 Plagues

Nile to blood

Frogs

Gnats

Flies

Livestock Death

Boils

Hail

Locusts

Darkness

Death of Firstborn

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Thanks to Connie Clarkson (See Exodus 7-12)

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I'VE GOT YOU DOWN FOR BLOOD, FROGS,
LICE, LOCUSTS AND HAIL ... WOULD YOU
LIKE ANY FLIES WITH THAT?

There is no historical or archaeological evidence that Yahweh-worshipping Israelites/Canaanites/Hebrews – as an entire people – were ever slaves to the Egyptians in Egypt.

Pieces that Fit (sort of)

- There were Canaanite slaves in Egypt, but not when Yahweh-worship arose. Yahweh worship came after the exodus.
- Canaanites sometimes forced into servitude (cultivating fields), but not in Egypt.
- A relatively few Canaanites were taken to Egypt as prisoners of war but not the entire Canaanite population.
- Egyptian papyruses depict slaves making bricks from mud and adding straw to them, but that would have been small groups of prisoners of war and would have included Nubians.

Pieces that don't really Fit

- Canaanite pharaohs actually ruled the lower kingdom of Egypt for a period of time.
- Canaanite pharaohs were ousted by the Hyksos whose primary deity was the storm god, Baal.
- When the Hyksos were finally ousted, *they* were the ones who traveled through the Sinai desert and migrated into southern Canaan.

Nile to blood = Hapi, god of the Nile

Frogs = Heqt, wife of Nile god, goddess of fertility/harvest, depicted as frog

Gnats made by striking the dust of the earth = Geb, earth god

Flies = Khepri, god of beetles (and apparently, flies?)

Diseased Livestock = Apis, god of strength and fertility, depicted as a bull

Boils = Imhotep, master of science/medicine (a commoner)

Thunder and Hail = Nut, goddess of the sky

Locusts who ate “every tree...that grows in the field” = Nepri, god of nourishment/grain

Darkness = Ra and other gods associated with the sun, like Horus, Ptah, Tem, and Shu.

Death of firstborn = aimed at the Pharaoh, himself, who was considered by the Egyptians to be God on earth.

Vanquishing of Pharaoh





HD

African American Interpretation

- **Nubian slaves**
- **Two levels**
- **Moses freed higher-class, “white” slaves**