

THE STORY

STUDY 4

CHAPTER 4

1. *What was significant about Moses' birth?*

Moses was to be God's man to deliver his people from oppression and slavery in Egypt. However he was born at a time when his own life would be in serious danger.

The King had issued a decree that all the Hebrew new born boys were to be killed by throwing them into the River Nile. His birth was at the worst possible time a deliverer for Israel could be born.

Yet God worked in what seemed to be a hopeless and desperate situation to deliver Moses' life from danger when he was born. Something God seems to do often as we have seen, he acts in those hopeless and desperate occasions (eg: Abram and Sarah having Isaac at such an old age) He would do the same for the Israelites through Moses in the years to come.

2. *How did God display his love and concern for his people after hearing their cries and groaning?*

The text (pg46) says that God after hearing their cries and groaning came down to rescue them and bring them up out of the land.

The imagery that these verses give us, is that God left where he dwells and descended into time and space to put into action his plan of deliverance for his people personally.

God showed his love and concern for his people by not ignoring their plight but by personally coming to rescue them.

His rescue plan for his people was to send Moses to Pharaoh to bring them out of Egypt. And so we see him personally calling on Moses in flames of fire from within a bush to go and rescue his people and equipping Moses with all he needed to fulfil his plan.

3. *In what ways was Moses qualified to lead the people? In what ways did he feel he was not qualified?*

a.) How he was qualified?

He was born a Hebrew/Israelite – He had a strong commonality with God's people.

He was raised by his Hebrew mother and so knew the history and customs of his people. He was taught in the ways of God.

He grew up in the Egyptian royal palace and so was well aware of the Egyptian customs and beliefs. He was well educated and trained to be a leader.

He had a heart for the plight of God's people which led him to defend a Hebrew from Egyptian oppression.

After fleeing Egypt Moses became a foreigner in a foreign land and so knew what God's people felt like without a place/land of their own.

He worked for Jethro (his father-in-law as a shepherd) - he would become Israel's shepherd as they journeyed to the promised land.

b.) How Moses felt he was not qualified?

He felt that he had no right to approach Pharaoh and demand freedom for his people, he did not have riches, he did not have military power, he was not a prominent man in world politics, he was instead a fugitive from Egypt, merely a hire-hand to look after sheep whom the Egyptians considered outcasts of society.

Moses felt that he could not convince the Israelites that God had sent him and he asked God "who shall I say has sent me?"

Moses also felt that he was not eloquent with his speech and tongue. How could he not only convince the Israelites that he has been sent by God but how could he convince Pharaoh to let God's people go.

4. Have you ever felt unqualified or unable to do something, as Moses did? How did you handle it?

Maybe you have been asked to do something at school, or in the work place, or even in the church.

Maybe you felt fearful, unqualified, unable or you simply just did not want to get out of your comfort zone.

Did you make excuses? Did you try push someone else to do it? Did you run from it? Or Did you trust God?

5. The Story notes several amazing miracles in the deliverance of the people from Egypt. Do you believe God performs miracles today? Why or why not?

A miracle according to dictionary.com is an effect or extraordinary event in the physical world that surpasses all know human or natural powers and is

ascribed to a supernatural cause; or such an effect or event manifesting or considered as a work of God; or a wonder, a marvel.

God performs miracles every day. The existence and sustaining of the world is a miracle. The creation and birth of new life, the numerous miraculous healings which occur every day, the miraculous life saving moments that people testify about, the unexplainable life dependant provisions that people receive, the sudden protection and safe keeping of many from perilous situations, and we could go on, these are all miracles performed by God at his own discretion, in his own way, in his own wisdom and for his own purposes.

The greatest miracle seen today is the miracle of the blind sinner receiving spiritual sight to see his desperate condition and to see that his only hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ. A miracle of heart change, from a heart bent towards unrighteousness now to a heart pursuing righteousness. Christians are a miracle of God.

However, no person can be prescribed to God when or how he must perform a miracle. Many do not receive miracles, but it does not mean that God is not still a miracle performing God.

We have the joy and privilege to pray to a miracle working God and trust his wisdom and purposes.

6. *What can you learn about the character of God from the story of the Israelites' deliverance from slavery?*

God is kind and compassionate. He cared for Moses and provided for him from birth to death. He looked down upon the suffering of his people and was deeply moved to the point of rescuing them from it. He provided for his people when they complained in Egypt and when they were journeying to the promised land.

God is faithful to his promises. He promised his people they would become a nation and would inherit their own land – God's deliverance shows us that he is faithful to his promises. He is the God who can save and deliver us from our enemies.

God is wise. He planned Israel's deliverance long before Moses was born, and prepared him to be the deliverer and leader of his people. God also used miracles in his wisdom to not only free the Israelites from Egypt, but to show them and the Egyptians through the miracles that he is the only true God.

God is trustworthy. When he called Moses and Moses gave excuse after excuse, all that God said he would be and do for Moses he was and did.