

## **Moses is Born**

---

What an unhappy time it was for God's people in Egypt! Do you remember that wicked King Pharaoh made a law that all the new baby boys who were born to the Israelites must be drowned in the river? Pharaoh sent his soldiers to stand guard and watch the people of Israel and snatch away the baby boys and drown them. No wonder God's people cried hard to Him and begged Him to let them leave the wicked land of Egypt and go back to the land of Canaan.

But it was not quite time yet. The people of Israel were in such a big hurry, and it seemed that God was working so slowly! But He knows everything and does everything at exactly the right time.

Right at this very dark, unhappy time, God gave a special, beautiful baby boy to an Israelite mother and father. This mother and father had a big girl, whose name was Miriam, and a little boy of three years old, whose name was Aaron. Do you think the mother and father were sad and afraid when their new baby boy was born? What if a soldier would find the baby and throw him into the river? No, this mother and father loved the Lord and trusted Him to take care of their baby.

For three months they hid him where no soldiers could find him, probably in a room in their house. But when his lungs became stronger and he cried loudly, they could not hide him anymore. They had a plan: they would obey the king in a special kind of way. The king had said to put the babies in the Nile River, and that is just what they would do. But they would not drown the baby!

Maybe the mother and father smiled to themselves as they made a basket-boat called an ark from weeds that grew along the edge of the river and then put something gummy like tar all over it to keep the water out of the little boat. Then the baby's mother laid him in the basket-boat near the weeds that grew at the edge of the water. Now he was in the river! That mother had so much faith and love for God that she trusted God to take care of her baby in this time of terrible danger. The baby's sister Miriam watched him from her place in the river's weeds.



Every day in this warm country of Egypt the princess, the daughter of Pharaoh, came to take a bath and a swim in the river; and her maids came with her to take care of her. As she walked along the riverside, she saw something different in the water. A little basket! Quickly, she sent a maid to get it. When she opened it, the baby cried. Was he hungry? Was he afraid? The princess' heart melted. What a special, beautiful baby! She knew it was an Israelite baby, and she knew that her wicked father ordered them all to be drowned. But she liked this baby boy and wanted him for her own little boy. The princess was probably spoiled and selfish and usually got what she wanted.

Just then Miriam, the baby's sister, ran up. Miriam was a girl who could think very fast. When she heard that the princess wanted to keep the baby, Miriam offered to find a lady from the Israelites to take care of the baby while he was still small. When the princess said, "Go," do you know what lady Miriam ran to find? The baby's own mother. I think his mother must have smiled to herself as she met the princess and the princess said, "Take this child away and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages." The baby's mother would get paid for taking care of her own baby. But the princess was the one who gave the baby his name. She called him **Moses**, and that means "because I drew him out of the water."

Some day Moses would be the great leader to take the Israelites out of Egypt, back to Canaan, and God was getting him ready for that. When he was small, he needed a mother who feared the Lord to teach him all about loving and trusting the Lord and keeping His laws. When he was older he would go to live with the princess, and she would take care of him so that he would always be safe from the wicked king's soldiers. God always works everything just right.

**REMEMBER:**

Moses' mother was so glad she could teach him about God when he was little. Our daddies and mothers are glad, too, that we stay little for quite a long time. Then they can teach us all the beautiful stories God has given us in the Bible.