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Moses Fled From Pharaoh and Went to Live in Midian

2: 11-15

Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian **DIG: Why does Moses feel the way he does about the Hebrews? Why does he flee? What character traits do you see in Moses when he lived in Egypt? Which ones will serve him well in the long run? Which get him into trouble again?**

REFLECT: How do you feel about God using a murderer to further His plans? How might God use a personal flaw or failure of yours for His greater glory?

The first thirty-five years of Moses' life were spent in the courts of **Egypt**. **He** was raised and trained like an **Egyptian**. He looked like an **Egyptian**, talked like an **Egyptian** and acted like an **Egyptian**. **He** was educated in the great Temple of the Sun, which was the outstanding university of the day. They had an outstanding library there, and we are told that **Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians (Acts 7:22)**. But the one great lack in **his** education was that **he** was not taught how to serve **ADONAI**.²¹



Thirty-five years after **Moses** was brought into the house of **Pharaoh, Thutmose III** had taken control of the throne because **Hatshepsut** had died. **He** was the

fourth **Pharaoh** of the Eighteenth Dynasty. **He** was probably about thirty at the time and had grown up hating **Hatshepsut** and anyone associated with **her**. Not only was **Moses Hatshepsut's** adopted **son**, but **he** was royalty and an indirect heir to the throne. As long as **Hatshepsut** was alive, **Moses** was in safe hands. But after **her** death, **Moses** no longer had the protection of **his** adoptive **mother**. Therefore, **Thutmose III** set out on a campaign to **kill him**.

Thutmose III was perhaps the greatest of all the so-called Warrior **Pharaohs**. **He** evidently undertook seventeen victorious campaigns. This **Pharaoh** was a natural leader and general. **He** made unpopular military decisions that proved to be correct. **He** planned **his** attack in such a way that he always had the high ground and left **his** enemy at a disadvantage. In fact, **Thutmose III** has been called *the Napoleon of Ancient Egypt*, and was feared both inside and outside of the land.

Despite the education that **Moses** received in the courts of **Egypt**, **he** could not get rid of the belief that **he** belonged to the people of **Isra'el**. **One day, Moses went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor**. It seemed that **Moses** made a conscious decision to change **his** lifestyle and identify with **his own people** after the death of **his** adoptive **mother Hatshepsut**. Stephen comments on this incident: **When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his fellow Israelites**. This was not a casual **visit** to see how **they** were doing. **His** adopted **mother** was dead and **he** probably knew that **Thutmose III** would try **to kill him**, so there was nothing left for **him** in **Egypt**. **He saw one of his own people being mistreated by an Egyptian overseer, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian and hiding him in the sand**. This was a turning point in **his** life. **Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them** from slavery, **but they did not (Acts 7:23-25)**. **He** would indeed **rescue them** from slavery, but **God's** timing would not come for another forty years.

By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. The Greek tense from the Septuagint here is an aorist tense, which means it was a once and forever act. **He** made a once and forever decision not **to be known as the son of Hatshepsut**. There is nothing to suggest that **he** did not love **his** adopted **mother**, but **Egypt** was dead to **him**. It was probably at that point that **he** shortened **his** name. **He** had no intention of contending for **the Egyptian** throne and **he chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time**. **He** understood that **the Messiah** would be fulfilled through the nation of **Isra'el**; therefore, **he**

regarded the disgrace on behalf of the Messiah as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible (Heb 11:24-27).

Somehow **he** knew that the **Hebrew** slaves were the ones that **ADONAI**, or **God**, would use to bring about the Jewish **Messiah**, who at **His** Second Coming, would set up a far greater Kingdom than that of **the Egyptian** empire. So it was a conscious act on the part of **Moses**. **He** intuitively knew **God's** program. **He** knew **God** was going to use **Isra'el** and get **them** out of **Egypt**, and **he** also knew **he** was the instrument to be used. Perhaps this was from **his** own mother because **she** recognized **that he was** a special instrument of **God (Acts 7:20)**. However, while **Moses** understood **God's** program, **he** didn't understand **God's** timing.

When **Moses** killed the **Egyptian** overseer, the only ones present were **the Jews**. **He** expected that it would have been kept a secret. However, **he** was about to learn a bitter lesson. **The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your brother" (2:13)? The man** replied mockingly: **Who made you ruler and judge over us?** This reaction foreshadowed the relationship between **Moses** and the entire nation of **Isra'el**. Here **the man** questioned **Moses'** authority – why, **he** was no more than **the son** of a **Hebrew** slave. Who was **he** to lord it over **his** fellow **Hebrews**?²² Then **he** sarcastically asked: **Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?** That shook **Moses** to the core because **he** realized that in one **day** the word had gotten out about what **he** had done. **Then Moses was afraid and thought to himself, "What I did must have become known" (2:14)**. At that time **he** knew that **his** offer to rescue **his own people** from slavery had been rejected.



When **Thutmose III** heard of this from the **Hebrews** he tried to kill **Moses**, but **Moses** fled from **Pharaoh** and went to live in **Midian**, where he sat

down by a well (2:15). Wells were important for shepherds and semi-nomadic people. It was quite natural that **Moses** would be drawn to **a well**, not only for the physical sustenance, but because it was the meeting place for shepherds and travelers.²³

As far as **Moses** was concerned, **he** understood that normally those of the royal household could **kill** anyone they wanted to without penalty. Except that now with **Hatshepsut** dead, **Thutmose III** was looking for a way to **kill him**. So when **Moses** killed the **Egyptian** overseer, **the king of Egypt** had **his** excuse. **Moses** then **fled to live in Midian**, not because **he** was afraid of **Pharaoh**, but because **his own people** did not **realize that God was using him to rescue them** from slavery (**Acts 7:25**). **His** forty years in **Egypt** were over. All of **his** education in **Egypt** did not prepare **Moses** to deliver **his people**. However, **ADONAI** would prepare **Moses in** the land of **Midian** to be the deliverer of **God's people, Isra'el**.