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Moses in Midian

2: 16-25



Moses lived in the land of **Midian** for the remainder of the reign of **Thutmose III**. **The Midianites** were primarily herdsman, migrating with **their** livestock according to the seasons. **They** were also involved in international trade (**Genesis 37:28**).²⁴ **Their** founder was **Midian**, a son of **Keturah**, wife of **Abraham**, who had been sent to the east away from **Isaac (Genesis 25:2-6)**. **They** lived in the southeastern Sinai and northwestern Arabia on both sides of the Gulf of Aqaba.²⁵ It goes without saying that the culture and lifestyle of **Midian** was drastically different than those of **Egypt**.

The long years **he** would spend in the desert were not wasted years, but a time of maturity and reflection on the things of **God (Acts 7:29)**. **He** needed the discipline of physical toil and the lessons this kind of occupation conveys. **ADONAI** was preparing **Moses** to be a leader of men, so for forty years **he** received experience by leading the flocks of **the Midianite** priest.²⁶ **He** gained much knowledge of the Sinai area, which would later be useful as **he** would lead the nation of **Isra'el** in that wilderness land.

It seems that almost every great man of **YHVH** spends time in the desert preparing for **his** ministry. John the Baptist was a man of the desert eating locusts and wild honey. Rabbi Sha'ul was in Arabia for several years. **Jesus** spent time in the desert alone. So **the LORD** might prepare you for a ministry with a period of exile in some desert, and the thing that will interfere with your preparation is impatience.



It is significant that **Thutmose III** reigned for forty years after Hatshepsut's death, and **Moses** lived in **Midian** for exactly the same amount of time. It is only after the death of **Thutmose III** that **Moses** returned to **Egypt**.