

Sample Chapter From

More Than Just a JOURNEY

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Jehovah God

Lesson One

Wouldn't we all love to drift into a palace and become part of a King's family – to be swept up and carried away by that person of wealth and royalty? Suddenly our lives change from the ordinary to the extraordinary. In that one moment our journeys would become something more. There is a story that speaks of one doing just that. One born into slavery drifted into a palace. The very moment the king's daughter laid eyes upon him she fell in love with him and decided from that moment that he would become hers. Moses would become his name and that moment would become his journey.

Egypt would be ruled by a new king - Pharaoh. When Pharaoh noticed that the Israelite people were becoming too numerous, he feared them as a threat to the Egyptian's National security and began a plan to stop their population growth. Pharaoh began to discriminate against the Israelites and oppress them with hard, difficult, and demanding labor. When the Israelites continued to multiply, the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly. (EX: 1) Pharaoh, the powerful heartless king, eventually ordered that all infant males must be thrown into the Nile River. Moses' mother hid him for three months and then one day she placed him in a small basket and put him into the river. With one small nudge from her hand, Moses' mother released her child into the hands of the dark waters and in a sense literally placed him in the hands of the Lord. Did she know where the waters would lead? Did she know that every evening the princess goes down to the Nile River to bathe - or did God intervene and provide this divine encounter between Moses and Pharaoh's daughter?

Along with the help of Moses' sister, Miriam, the basket miraculously drifted along the river and up alongside Pharaoh's palace where the princess was bathing. Perhaps the princess thought Moses was sent to her by the god of the Nile River. I wonder if the princess knew what her father had ordered the Israelites to do when they gave birth to a son. We see in Exodus 2: 6 that the princess had a compassionate heart for this baby.

"She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying and she felt sorry for him." Ex: 2:6

At that moment the princess's heart stirred. Miriam, with wisdom and promptness, asks, *"Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" Ex: 2:7*

The girl went and got the baby's mother. Not only does Moses' mother get her son back for a while, but she gets paid to take care of him! God is working and His plan is powerful! God's plan did not involve Moses dying, in fact, as we see, God protected him by placing him in the home of the very one trying to kill

him. Every step had its purpose and every year Moses spent with Pharaoh had its reason.

During Moses' years of growing up in the palace, God was building character, teaching, and training. Moses learned everything there was to learn about the Egyptians. He became familiar with routines, customs, and strengths. He understood their teachings, beliefs, and protocol. In Acts we see that Moses was well educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and he was well versed in speech and in action. Moses was confident in who he was at that time.

Acts 7: 20 – 22 – “At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child. For three months he was cared for in his father’s house. When he was placed outside, Pharaoh’s daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.”ⁱ

We can say, “Boy, that lucky Moses.” But God’s plan from the very beginning for Moses was not so that he would have the finest education, enjoy being lavished with wealth, and have the power of a king. God’s purpose for Moses was to lead the Israelites out of slavery. By placing Moses in the palace, Moses would be able to go back and get through the gates. He would be able to walk into the presence of the king on more than one occasion and be allowed to speak. Had it been anyone else, they probably would not have made it past the doors – or most likely they would have been killed. Pharaoh himself was regarded as a god and to not bow down to him was considered treason! Because God had placed Moses in the palace, Moses was able to speak into Pharaoh’s life. Pharaoh would allow Moses to come before him.
