

Moses: a brief summary by Helen Bowden

I am writing this now because a few days ago, I had the thought of how the life of Moses and the life of Jesus compared. And actually the lives of those He calls to His service in our times compare, as well. He has His hand on our life at birth and directs it toward a position in His service to deliver His people.

"HE MADE KNOWN HIS WAYS TO MOSES. HIS ACTS TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL."

MOSES FIRST 40 YEARS—The Hebrew people multiplied and became very mighty in Egypt. Because of this the Pharaoh commanded his people to cast into the Nile every Hebrew son who was born, and every daughter to keep alive.

Though born in slavery in Egypt, Moses was born chosen, (called of God). His mother, Jochebed, was a daughter of Levi and knew God. She saw that Moses was "beautiful" and hid him for 3 months. The time came when that was no longer possible. She put him in a basket and hid him in the reeds by the bank of the Nile. The daughter of the Pharaoh found Moses there and saw that he was one of the Hebrew children. She called on his mother, not knowing it was his mother, to come and nurse him.

When Moses had grown up, his mother brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. He was "educated in the learning of the Egyptians, and he was a man of power and words." When he was approaching the age of 40, it entered his mind to visit his relatives, the sons of Israel, and saw their hard labors and an Egyptian beating one of them. Moses defended him and struck down the Egyptian.

He supposed that his Hebrew brothers understood that God was granting them deliverance through him; but they did not understand. Unfortunately, neither did Moses understand. It was not by his own strength and will that they were to be delivered from bondage, but by the power of God. Having run afoul with the law, he fled to the land of Midian, (place of judgment, trial), in the desert.

MOSES SECOND 40 YEARS—Moses married Zipporah, daughter of Jethro, the priest of Midian. While sojourning there he was shepherd over his father-in-law's flock. During this time it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died, and the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage; they cried out and their cry for help rose up to God.

When Moses was pasturing the flock, he led them to the back part of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. The Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush, which, though burning was not consumed. He said to Moses, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people. I have come down to deliver them and bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land flowing with milk and honey. Therefore, come now and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." To that Moses replied, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" And God said, "Certainly I will be with you."

THE LAST 40 YEARS— the leader of Israel to the end of his life—Moses heard the voice of God revealing His plan and sharing His ways to him. He said to Moses, "I know that the king of Egypt will not permit you to go, except under compulsion. So, I will stretch out my hand, and strike Egypt with My miracles

which I shall do in the midst of it; and after that he will let you go.”

Moses asked the Lord, “What if they will not believe me, or listen to what I say?” At that, I see that the Lord knew that Moses needed a little more faith not only in His power, but also the power being given to him. So, speaking to Moses He said, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.” Then God said, “Throw it on the ground,” and it became a snake; and Moses fled from it. The Lord said, “Stretch out your hand and grasp it by its tail”— so he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand. Moses saw ‘first hand’ the power God had given him.

That miracle was only the beginning of a long string of them, “to make known to Moses His ways, and His acts to the people.” Much later the desert wanderers said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen, but let not God speak to us, lest we die.” If we only see the acts of God and not His ways we will only fear Him, as they did. However, knowing His love will cast out the fear.