

## Walking Through the Word

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Creation to Judges (Week 7)

Story: **Up the River and Out of Town** (E: A Baby and a Basket and Moses Becomes a Shepherd, p 73-77)

Location: **Exodus 1:1-2:25**

### Bios & definitions

**Exodus:** the name of the second book of the Bible, the Hebrew title is *we'elleh shemoth*, which means "these are the names of (see also Gen 46:8)," evidence that rather than being a separate book, Exodus was written to continue the narrative from Genesis; and the English title comes from the Greek, *exodos*, which can mean "exit, departure" and is the record of the Israelites "exit" from Egypt

NOTE: Jewish and Christian scholars believe this book was authored by Moses, part of the first five books of the Bible known as the *Pentateuch*; biblical records place the dating of the exodus from Egypt to be circa 1446 BC, with an alternate dating of c. 1290 BC; the Pharaohs referenced in the story of the exodus are then either Thutmose III and Amenhotep II (1446, 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty) or Seti I and Rameses II (1290, 19<sup>th</sup> dynasty)

**Pharaoh:** a title for the king of Egypt, from the Egyptian *par' oh*, meaning "great house"; it first was used to describe the palace in which the king resided, and eventually became the description for the king himself; the Pharaohs of the book of Exodus are symbolic of tyrants over God's people as well as historical people

**Amram and Jochebed:** "a man from the house of Levi" and "a daughter of Levi" (see Exo 2:1), supported from genealogy records (Exo 6:20, Nu 26:59) to be the father and mother of Moses, Aaron (the elder brother, see Exo 7:7) and Miriam (the elder sister, see Exo 2:4), both born before the decree for the destruction of Hebrew children

**Moses:** son of the Hebrews, destined to die by Egyptian decree, hidden in a basket of bulrushes and pitch, sent "up the river" Nile and watched by his sister, Miriam; rescued by the Pharaoh's daughter, from the water and given the name *Mosheh*, from the Hebrew *mashah* for "drawn out" and the Egyptian for "is born"; nursed by his mother until he was of age (see Exo 2:7-10); returned to the palace and educated in Egyptian ways; murderer of an Egyptian man; married Zipporah (see 2:21) of Midian, father to Gershom (2:22) whose name means "a stranger there"

NOTE: an excellent rendering of this story can be seen in Veggie Tales "Moe and the Big Exit"

**Jethro:** priest of Midian (3:1), whose name may mean "his excellency," also called Reuel (2:18), meaning "friend of God"; welcomed Moses into his land and offered him a job tending flocks because Moses had helped his daughters fend off shepherds at a well

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Creation to Judges (Week 7)

Story: **A Burning Bush, the Big Pitch and Plagues a Plenty** (E: Moses and the Burning Bush, Moses and Aaron Before Pharaoh, "Let My People Go," and The Death Angel, p 77-88)

Location: **Exodus 3:1-12:41**

### Bios & definitions

**Moses:** like David, Moses was called from tending a flock to lead God's people; uncertain God could use him because of physical limitations (see Exo 4:10) and his own personal fear (3:11, 13; 4:1, 10)

**Aaron:** brother to Moses, eloquent of speech (see Exo 4:14) and used by God to speak for Moses to the Pharaoh and to the Israelite people (4:27-31)

**plagues:** 10 signs of God's power, used to "persuade" the Pharaoh to let the Israelites go; 1) water of the Nile turned to blood (Exo 7:14-25), 2) frogs (8:1-15), 3) gnats (8:16-19), 4) flies (8:20-32), 5) cattle disease (9:1-7), 6) boils (9:10-17), 7) hail (9:18-35), 8) locusts (10:1-20), 9) darkness over the land (10:21-29), and 10) death of the firstborn (11:1-12:41)

**Passover:** the feast of Unleavened Bread, established as a memorial for God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, reminiscent of the death angel that passed over the houses of the Israelites who had the blood of an unblemished lamb smeared on the lintels of their doors, signifying that they were obedient to God and therefore looked over as the angel of death came to smite the firstborn of all of Egypt

Story: **Parting the Waters and Problems Afoot** (E: Crossing the Red Sea, Water for Thirsty Travelers, Food for Hungry Travelers, Water from a Rock and Moses Holds Up His Hands, p 88-95)

Location: **Exodus 13:17-17:16**

### Bios & definitions

**Marah:** the place in the wilderness of Shur (east of Egypt in the NW corner of the Sinai peninsula) where the Israelites found water, but could not drink it because of its bitterness; from the Hebrew *marim* meaning "bitterness"; God sweetened the waters with a tree when Moses cried out to the Lord; they were then led to Elim, a land with 12 springs (fresh water); God here reveals himself as *Jehovah-Rapha*, The Lord thy Healer

**Wilderness of Sin:** the Israelites left Elim and traveled through the SW part of the Sinai peninsula ("Sin" is derived from Sinai) where the Israelites complained of having nothing no meat or bread

**manna:** described as "a fine flake-like thing, fine as the frost on the ground" (Exo 16:14) and "like coriander seed, white and its taste was like wafers with honey" (16:31); God's provision for bread

**Rephidim:** the place where the people quarreled with Moses and complained about water (again) and God provided by having Moses strike a rock; Moses named this place *Massah* and *Meribah*, meaning test and quarrel, because they tested the Lord and quarreled with Moses; also the place where Israel was first attacked on their wilderness journey (by the Amalekites); Moses was "held up" by Aaron and Hur to lead Joshua and the Israelites to victory; God here revealed himself as *Jehovah-Nissi*, The Lord thy Banner