

Some strange thing have been happening lately here in Egypt, but, I will go back a while in order to put you in the picture. Years ago my ancestors lived in Canaan and one of them, named Joseph, was sold by his brothers and ended up here in Egypt. When he had been here about twenty years the Pharaoh had a dream and Joseph was able to interpret the dream. There were going to be seven years of good harvest followed by seven years of famine. Joseph was made second-in-command to Pharaoh and put in charge of storing crops in readiness for the famine. The famine was far-reaching and Joseph's family came from Canaan to buy food. There were about seventy of them and they were allowed to come and settle down here in Goshen.



The above events happened over 300 years ago; however, our numbers increased so much that the Egyptians were afraid that there were getting too many of us so my people were made slaves with Egyptian task-masters over us to ensure that we worked hard at making bricks and other menial jobs.

The Pharaoh even reached the point of ordering that all our male sons who were born were to be thrown into the River Nile.

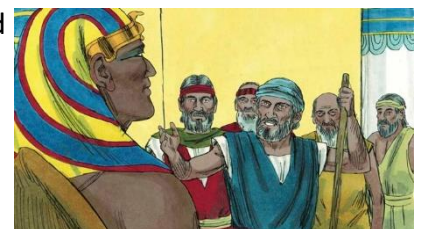


One of the mothers managed to hide her son for three month, but then, as he grew she could no longer hide him so made a waterproof basket of bulrushes, placed the child inside and put him among the reeds on the river. When the princess – the Pharaoh's daughter – came to the river to bathe, she saw the basket and when she looked inside the baby was crying. His mother was appointed as wet-nurse to look after him until he was old enough to be returned to the palace to be brought up as an Egyptian prince, with the princess naming him 'Moses'.

At some point Moses must have been told by someone about his true identity. One day, when he was about forty, he saw an Egyptian task-master beating one of his people. He killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. Unfortunately, the Pharaoh heard what had happened and Moses had to flee for his life. He lived in Midian, married and had a family and we have heard no more about him until now, when forty years later, he has suddenly come back into Egypt.



You must be wondering why Moses has returned. Well, I have been told that he has gone to Pharaoh and said that God has told him to lead all of my people out of Egypt. He has had to ask Pharaoh if he can take us a three day journey into the wilderness in order to make sacrifices to God. Now, how about that for a 'tall story'! I can't see Pharaoh allowing his entire slave workforce to go off like that with the strong possibility that he might never see us again. What do you think? If I was Pharaoh I would definitely have said, "No"!

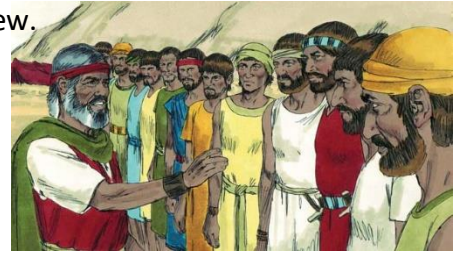


# *Pharaoh would not listen*

The result of the request of Moses was disastrous from our point of view.

It caused Pharaoh to put extra pressure on us and we were then even made to find the straw with which to make the bricks, but still had to produce the same number of bricks each day. It is a bit of an understatement to say that we were not at all pleased with Moses. He

came and spoke to us and assured us that God had remembered the covenant he had made with our fore-fathers years ago about taking us into the Promised Land, but I am afraid that we were so broken in spirit by the recent events that we were not interested in what Moses was saying.



Something then happened that absolutely amazed us all. Apparently God told Moses to go to the river the next morning and wait for Pharaoh. He was to tell him that because he had not yet released the people, when Aaron struck the water in the Nile with his rod then all the water would be turned into blood. Well, that is exactly what happened. Not only was the water in the Nile turned to blood but

also the canals, ponds, pools and even the water in the water pots in the houses was turned into blood. All of the fish in the river died. People were frantically trying to dig wells to try and find fresh water to drink. The Egyptians worship several gods who are responsible for watching over the River Nile, but it would seem that not one of those gods was capable of reversing the current situation that was to last for a whole week.



Moses went to Pharaoh again to make his request and warned him that his continued refusal would cause God to send a plague of frogs. Now frogs are considered to be sacred by



the Egyptians because they live in two worlds – in water and on land. People can be punished by death if they tread on one accidentally. There were frogs everywhere. There were so many frogs that it was almost impossible not to tread on them! It was horrible. There were frogs in the beds, in the ovens and in the baking bowls. Even Pharaoh was not able to cope with the frogs and sent for Moses and asked him to take them away, but of course, once the frogs had gone you can guess the response of Pharaoh yet again.

We had not heard of Moses for forty years, but we have most certainly heard of him now! The Lord has continued to show His power by sending more plagues upon the Egyptians. Never for one moment did we have any idea of the power of the Lord until He continued to send those awful plagues. Things did not make sense to us when Moses first came back to Egypt as our situation appeared to get worse instead of improving, but, each plague that has happened has helped to increase our faith in God. For years the Egyptians have mistreated us but during these past few weeks we have seen that the gods they worship are powerless against the mighty hand of our God.

Moses has now called the Elders together and has told them to prepare for the tenth and final plague that God is about to send upon the Egyptians. It really does look as if we shall be free at last to go out of this country and make our way to the Land that God promised all those years ago.



*God keeps His promises*