

MOSES **brings message of** ***HOPE*** **to the** ***ISRAELITES***



Scripture Portion - Ex. 4:18 - 6:12

Moses & Aaron Brings God's Message

One day, God spoke to Moses from a burning bush. He told Moses that He had seen how the Israelites were suffering in slavery and had heard their cries for help. God wanted Moses to lead His people out of Egypt, but Moses was unsure if they would listen to him.

To help Moses, God gave him three special signs:

1. Moses' staff turned into a snake when thrown on the ground and then back into a staff when it look hold of the snake.
2. His hand became sick with leprosy when he put his hands into his cloak but was healed when he put it inside his cloak a second time.
3. Water from the Nile River turned into blood when poured on the ground.

These signs were to show the Israelites that God had sent Moses.

But Moses was still worried because he wasn't a good speaker. So God chose his brother Aaron to help him.

Moses and Aaron met with the leaders of the Israelites. Aaron told them everything God had said. He shared the wonderful news that God had seen their suffering and was going to rescue them. When the people heard this, they were so happy that they bowed down and worshiped God.

More Trouble before Rescue

After Moses and Aaron spoke to the Israelites, they went to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and told him what God had said. They asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go on a 3-day trip to the desert to worship God. But Pharaoh refused to let them go.

Pharaoh didn't stop there. He thought the Israelites were asking for too much, so he decided to make their work harder. He told the slave drivers and overseers—those who made the Israelites work—to stop giving them straw to make bricks. Now, the Israelites had to find their own straw, but still had to make the same number of bricks.

Pharaoh hoped this would make them too busy to think about anything else. He even called the Israelites lazy!

The Israelites tried hard to do all the work, but it was too difficult, and they were beaten by the slave drivers.

The Israelites went to Pharaoh to complain, but he didn't listen. He told them they were lazy and had too much time to think about worshipping God in the desert.

When the Israelites left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting for them. They were upset and blamed Moses and Aaron for all the extra trouble.

Moses Confronts God with His Worries

When Moses heard the people complaining, he went back to God. He was confused and wondered why God had sent him if things were only getting worse. He didn't understand why God had not yet rescued the Israelites as He had promised.

God answered Moses and reassured him. He explained that because Pharaoh refused to let the people go, he would soon see God's great power. In the end, Pharaoh would have no choice but to let them go.

Even though the Israelites were discouraged, Moses took God's message of hope back to them. But they were so tired and upset that they didn't want to hear it. They were hoping for things to get better right away, and when it didn't happen, they couldn't understand why God hadn't acted yet.

Conclusion

Obedying God doesn't always make life easy right away. Just like the Israelites, we might get upset or feel sad when things don't go the way we hoped. They thought that when Moses came to help, everything would get better right away. But instead, things got harder.

It's easy to lose heart when things don't go as we thought, but it's in those moments that we need to trust God even more. We have to believe that God is still working behind the scenes, even when we don't see it. Just because things are hard doesn't mean God isn't keeping His promises. God's timing is perfect, and He will always do what He said He will do.