



### **Interesting Men in the Bible: Moses**

Names in the Bible fascinate me. Yes, Moses was his name but the meaning behind the name relates to something in his life. Moses *means to draw or pull out*. Did you realize that Pharaoh's Daughter named Moses? I like those other translations of Moses like Mustafa. Bible verses like in Romans 13 that say God designates authority. Are bad leaders given to a nation to punish the people? A bad leader in Egypt made an order to kill all the first-born male Hebrew babies to curb the population. Yet, out of this mess came the greatest Bible character of all time: Moses.

He is famous in all three religions just as Abraham was. Yet, Moses is the granddaddy of them all. He relayed the Ten Commandments from God. These simple rules, laws, or commands are the fabric of every justice system in the world. He represents the law to the Jewish people and the world. The old law books of the Bible are called the Pentateuch. Moses' life is covered in four of these big books. What a roller coaster life. Moses went from Hebrew baby to prince of Egypt. Then he returned to his Hebrew heritage and spent forty years in the desert. Then God called him to challenge Pharaoh, walk through the sea, and lead his people across desert. Moses led an epic life!

In a way, Moses' life is one of trials. He killed an Egyptian and then fled to the desert. Forty years he lived there away from the luxuries of Egypt. Moses survived several water trials. First, he was rescued while floating as a baby in the Nile. Then we find Moses pressed against the Red Sea while Pharaoh's army is bearing down upon him. God splits the sea and Moses is rescued. Then we have Moses strike a rock in the desert for water twice. The second time Moses does it in anger and is banished from entering the promise land. Much of the trials of Moses are to do with water.

In Exodus 4:24-26 we find Moses in a strange story. It says that God tried to kill Moses. Then Zipporah (Moses' wife) saves Moses by circumcising his child. We get no information why God was going to kill Moses. I wonder if some of this story is missing? Yet, Pharaoh and first-born sons seem to play a role in this story. Was Moses refusing to commit his son to Hebrew? I also feel that Moses was having trials with himself. He tried to talk God out of him facing Pharaoh. Moses didn't want to lead the people. Was Moses harboring a rebellious spirit?

Then we have the trial of Moses and the People. In Exodus 32:11 God is angry with the people. Moses boldly tells God that it is God's mess. It is fairly bold of Moses to confront God. Over and over Moses had to defend the Hebrews. He broke the Ten Commandments that God had given him at the feet of the people. Moses had to make a staff like a snake to save some of the Hebrews from God's wrath. Even his sister and brother needed saving from God. Moses was constantly listening to grumbling and rebellion. Then he had to contend with God's anger. Moses had many trials with the desert people.

Then comes the Maturation of Moses. He begins as a Hebrew baby that grows up to be a prince in Pharaoh's palace. I can imagine that he felt powerful and entitled as a young man. I suspect that Moses knew that he was special. Did he think it was his right to kill the Egyptian

and rescue a fellow Hebrew slave? Then we find Moses fleeing for his life into the desert. Moses then disappears from the pages of the Bible for forty years. All of a sudden, a burning bush appears. An older and more subdued Moses finds God in the desert. More growth in Moses is about to happen.

Exodus 4 is amazing. Moses has been drawn back into the saving business. This time it's to rescue the Hebrew people from Egypt. Yet, Moses is timid and unsure of himself. It's a far cry from the boy that killed an Egyptian. Though a series of discussions Moses convinces God to use his brother Aaron. Yet, God is not finished with Moses. We see Moses begin his new forty-year journey unsure of who he is. Yet, through all the trials of water, his own character flaws, and the people, we find a new and improved Moses that gives a riveting speech before his death.

The Bible honors and respects Moses. All the subsequent generations praise and practically worship this man. Even the Bible considers Moses with high esteem. The book of Matthew is the telling of a new Moses named Jesus. Jesus is far superior to Moses but he always respects what Moses did and represents. Jesus gives Moses praise several times.

The writer of Matthew parallels Moses to Jesus. Moses raises up a snake pole and Jesus is raised on the cross. Jesus crosses the water on foot and is baptized. Jesus also calls himself the living water. Jesus battled with Satan in the desert in trials. Moses did not make it into the promise land but Jesus will take us there. Two of the greatest sets of verses come from Moses: The Ten Commandments and The Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4). Jesus upholds the laws of Moses and reinforces them with the Sermon on the Mount. Moses is a great man of the Bible in the eyes of men and the eyes of God.