

# The God Story

## The Birth of a Nation

### Moses Part1

# Introduction

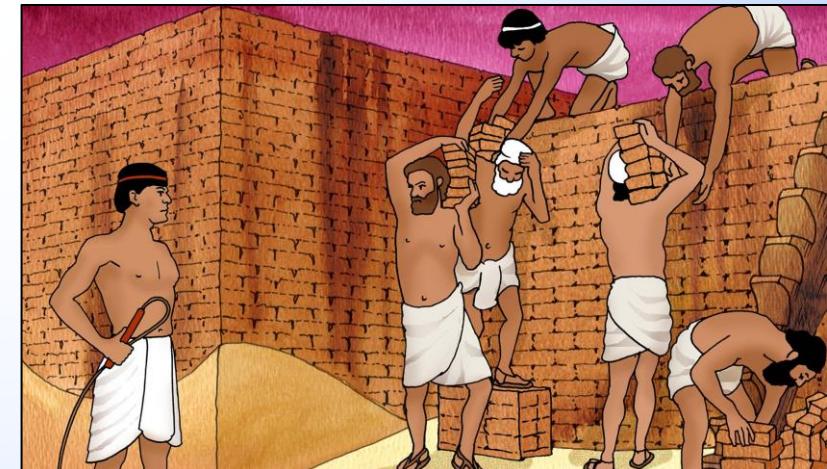
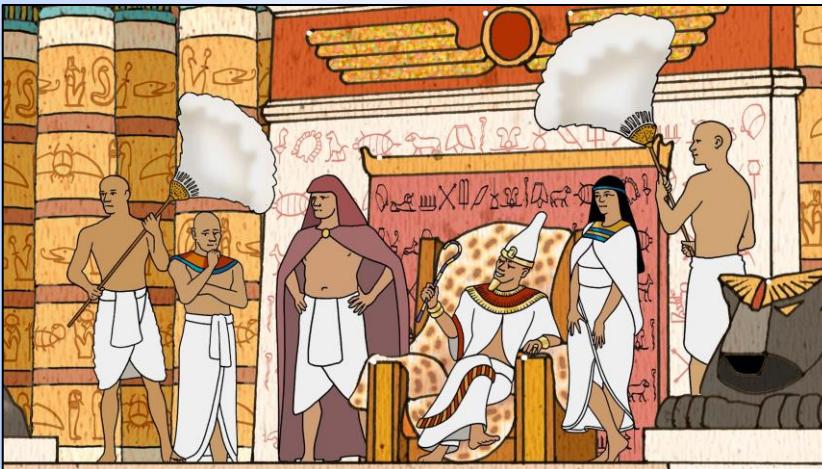
# The God Story

- ▶ Themes of God's presence, family and Kingdom interwoven through the bible narrative
- ▶ Previous chapters – Abraham & Gods promise
- ▶ Abraham → Isaac → Jacob → Joseph
- ▶ Egypt Land of Blessing to Slavery in 400 Years
- ▶ **It takes an encounter with Gods presence for Moses to start the journey of building a separate family culture for Israel, which leads to the establishment of a Kingdom**

# The dark empire in Egypt

Leader driven by Fear, Insecurity and Pride

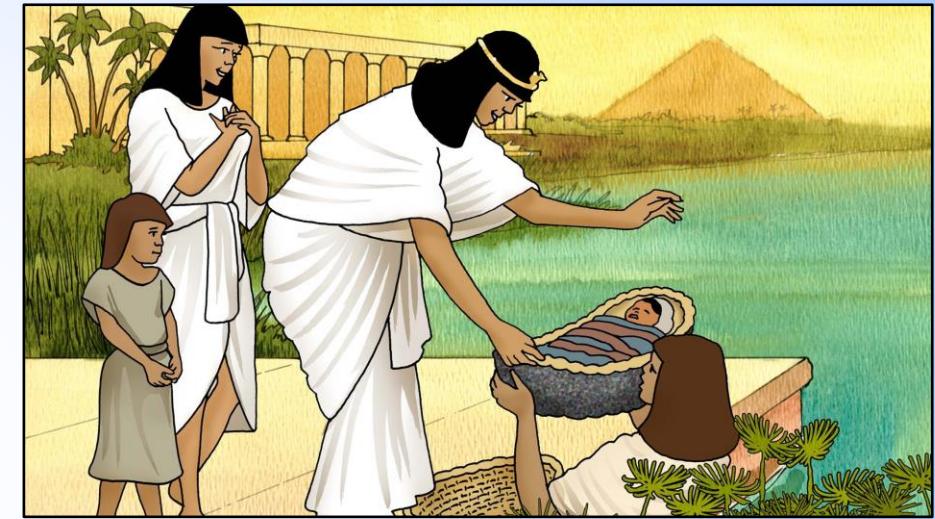
- ▶ Enslave Israelites
- ▶ Have Midwives destroy newborn babies
- ▶ Take out a generation



# The Birth of Moses

Moses Saved By providence.

- ▶ Midwives
- ▶ Faith of Mother
- ▶ Pharaohs' daughter
- ▶ Role of sister



# Moses flees to Midian

- ▶ Moses Kills Egyptian and flees to Midian
- ▶ Marries Zipporah, and had a son Gershom
- ▶ Lives 40 years as a Shepherd
- ▶ During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning, and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them. Exod 2:23-25)



# Exodus 3 vs 1-2 The Burning Bush

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

## Key quote

---

*“Through the symbolism of the bush, crackling with fire yet not consumed, God is communicating something deep to Moses. He wants Moses to know something new is happening to him: God’s love is going to burn up every false and unformed part of him, in order that he might become who he was created to be.”*

---

# Exodus 3 vs 3-6 The Burning Bush

So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” 6 Then he said, “I am the God of your father,[a] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God



# Exodus 3 vs 7-10: God's plan

The Lord said, “I have indeed **seen** the misery of my people in Egypt. I have **heard** them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am **concerned** about their suffering. 8 So **I have come down** to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and **to bring them up out of that land** into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. **I am sending you** to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites **out of Egypt.**”



# Exodus 3 vs 11-14 Moses' doubt

11 But Moses said to God, “**Who am I** that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

12 And God said, “**I will be with you**. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you[b] will worship God on this mountain.”

13 Moses said to God, “**Suppose I go** to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ **Then what shall I tell them?**”

14 God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM**. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘**I AM has sent me to you to you**.’

# Exodus 3 vs 11-14 YHWH

- ▶ YHWH
- ▶ 'I am who I am' or 'I will be who I will be.'

## — Key quote —

*"God is essentially saying to Moses, 'You cannot comprehend me fully, you can't box me, I am beyond your terms and categories description....Yet in these moments Yahweh has come close to Moses to say he is intimately acquainted with the pain of his people. From this point on we must carry forward a holy tension when we think about God. Yahweh is both infinite and intimate, transcendent and immanent, majestic and approachable, undefinable yet knowable!"<sup>2</sup>*

---



# What do we learn from Moses' encounter?

- ▶ God is with us, he sees, listens & remembers, he is concerned for us.
- ▶ God is present and can speak to us at any time or place
- ▶ God is intimate with us – he know our name
- ▶ We need to be available – Here I am
- ▶ God is active- he sent Moses, Jesus & Holy Spirit. He works through family: we disciple one another. He sends us
- ▶ We should share our concerns and trust in Him.
- ▶ We need to remember who God is: YHWH

# Stories of Gods encounter

- ▶ God has spoken to me at significant times to prepare me for life changes.
- ▶ Mothers death
- ▶ Cancer journey
- ▶ Church direction
  - ▶ I will lead you forth with a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. When you look to the left or the right you will see a desert but I am taking you to a land of blessing and plenty.
- ▶ Hope & Anchor