

A SUMMARY OF THE SECOND BOOK OF MOSES  
COMMONLY CALLED  
**EXODUS**



*Moses Lets the Red Sea Return, Christoffer Wilhelm Eckersberg*

## KEY EVENT

15

**Israel Is Enslaved in Egypt**

Exodus 1:8–22

➤ After many years, a new Pharaoh came to power. He did not know Joseph. He did not like the Israelites living in Egypt, so he made them work hard as slaves. To stop them from becoming too powerful, he ordered all the Israelite infant sons to be thrown into the Nile River.

EXODUS

**Israel Is Enslaved in Egypt**

1:1–22

**15** **1** “These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt ... Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher” (Exodus 1:1–4). After Joseph died, **“the descendants of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong; so that the land was filled with them”** (Exodus 1:7).

Many years later, a new king ruled in Egypt. This Pharaoh did not know Joseph. He was scared that the Israelites would turn against the Egyptians and escape from the land. So he made the Israelites work hard and long hours. They worked in the fields and made bricks.

The more work they were given, the more they grew in number. So Pharaoh told the midwives to kill the Hebrew boys when they were born. But the midwives feared the LORD and did not follow Pharaoh’s command. **“So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and grew very strong”** (Exodus 1:20). Then Pharaoh ordered all Hebrew infant sons to be thrown into the Nile.

**Birth and Youth of Moses**

2:1–25

**2** An Israelite woman from the tribe of Levi had a son. She hid him for three months. When she could no longer hide him, she made a basket and placed the child in it. Then she put the child among the reeds in the river.

The baby’s sister watched from a distance. The daughter of Pharaoh came to the river and found the basket with the baby crying. She felt sorry for the Hebrew baby. Pharaoh’s daughter had the baby’s sister take the child to a Hebrew woman to care for him. The child’s sister took him to their mother. When he was old enough, Pharaoh’s daughter

brought the baby into Pharaoh's household to raise him as her own. **"She named him Moses, for she said, 'Because I drew him out of the water'" (Exodus 2:10).**

One day, Moses saw an Egyptian hurting a Hebrew slave. Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand. The next day, Moses saw two Hebrews fighting. When he stopped them, they asked if he would kill them also. Then Moses realized others knew of his crime, and he became afraid. **"When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses" (Exodus 2:15).** So Moses ran away from Egypt to the land of Midian.

In Midian, he married a woman named Zipporah. She was the daughter of a priest of Midian. Moses dwelt in his father-in-law's house for many years. During that time, the king of Egypt died, and the Israelites in Egypt were crying out to God for help. **"And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God saw the sons of Israel" (Exodus 2:24-25).**



*The Finding of Moses, Giovanni Francesco Romanelli*

## KEY EVENT

16

**The Burning Bush**

Exodus 3–6

➤ God appeared to Moses in a burning bush. Moses asked the Lord his name. He responded, **“I AM WHO I AM”** (Exodus 3:14). With his name, God told Israel that he had always existed and was the Creator of all things.

EXODUS

**Moses and the Burning Bush**

3:1–22

**16** **3** While Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, on Mount Horeb, he came upon a bush that was on fire. He noticed that even though it was on fire, it was not burning up. God called Moses from the bush. He told Moses to remove the shoes from his feet because he was standing on holy ground. Then God said, **“I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”** (Exodus 3:6).

God had heard the cries of the Israelites in Egypt. God told Moses that he was sending him to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt and into a land flowing with milk and honey. Moses did not think he was worthy of this task, but God promised to be with him.

Moses asked God for his name, so he could tell the Israelites who had sent him. **“God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM’”** (Exodus 3:14).

God told Moses how he would take his people out of Egypt. He said that he would make Pharaoh let them go, and when they left, they would be wearing the Egyptians’ jewelry.

**God Prepares Moses to Return to Egypt**

4:1–31

**4** Moses was afraid no one would believe the LORD had appeared to him. So God gave Moses three signs of his power to use in Egypt. God told Moses to throw his staff on the ground. When he did, it changed into a serpent. When Moses grabbed the serpent’s tail, it turned back into the staff. Next God told Moses to put his hand in his cloak by his chest. When he pulled it out, it was leprous and white as snow. God had him return the hand to the cloak. This time, God healed it. For the third sign, Moses was to take water from the Nile and pour it on dry ground. God would turn the water into blood.

Moses told the LORD, **“I am slow of speech and of tongue” (Exodus 4:10)**. He asked God to find someone else to speak for him, so God said he would send Moses’ brother Aaron to be his mouth.

Moses told Jethro he had to return to Egypt. **“And the LORD said to Moses in Midian, ‘Go back to Egypt; for all the men who were seeking your life are dead’” (Exodus 4:19)**. Moses left for Egypt with his wife and sons on a donkey.

In Egypt, Moses and Aaron gathered the elders of Israel. Aaron spoke the words and showed the signs that the LORD had given to Moses. **“And the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the sons of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped” (Exodus 4:31)**.

## Moses and Aaron Obey God’s Commands

5:1–7:13

**5–7** Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and asked him to let God’s people go on a three-day journey into the wilderness to make sacrifices to the LORD. But instead of letting them go, Pharaoh made their work more difficult. Before, they were given straw to make bricks. Now they had to make the same number of bricks and find the straw to make the same number of bricks.

Moses told the LORD that the Israelites were being punished for what God had asked. The LORD told Moses, **“I will take you for my people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians” (Exodus 6:7)**. But the people did not listen to Moses because their spirit was broken from being slaves for so long.

God told Moses and Aaron to go back to Pharaoh. But Moses was afraid that Pharaoh wouldn’t listen to him. The LORD told Moses that Aaron would speak for him. **“So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did as the LORD commanded” (Exodus 7:10)**. They showed a sign from God. Aaron threw his rod onto the ground, and it changed into a serpent. Then Pharaoh’s magicians threw down their rods, and they turned into serpents too. Aaron’s serpent swallowed their serpents. Still, Pharaoh did not listen.

## KEY EVENT

17

**The Ten Plagues**

Exodus 7:14–11:10

► After Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go, God sent ten plagues to Egypt. Each plague showed that a god of Egypt was not real. God was teaching the Egyptians and the Israelites that he is the one true God.

EXODUS

**The First Four Plagues**

7:14–8:32

**17 7–8** The LORD told Moses to meet Pharaoh by the river the next morning. Moses was to bring the rod that had turned into a serpent. God told Moses to tell Pharaoh, **“The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you saying, ‘Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness’” (Exodus 7:16).** God told Moses to tell Aaron to take his rod and stretch his hand over the waters so they would all become blood. Moses and Aaron did as the LORD asked. Aaron struck the water in the Nile with his rod, turning the water into blood. All the fish died, and the people could not drink the water. But the Egyptian magicians did the same, so Pharaoh’s heart was still hardened to God.

After seven days, the LORD told Moses to ask Pharaoh again to let his people go so they could serve the LORD. When Pharaoh refused, God sent a plague of frogs to cover the land. Pharaoh said he would let the people go if the frogs were taken away. When God took the frogs away, Pharaoh changed his mind, and his heart was hardened.

Then the LORD brought gnats from the dust of the earth. The gnats covered all the people and animals. The magicians of Egypt could not bring forth the gnats in the same way. The magicians said to Pharaoh, **“‘This is the finger of God.’ But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them; as the LORD had said” (Exodus 8:19).**

Next God sent a swarm of flies into all the Egyptian houses, including their servants and people. **“But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and did not let the people go” (Exodus 8:32).**

**More Plagues**

9:1–35

**9** The LORD told Moses to go back to Pharaoh and tell him to let his people go. If Pharaoh refused, another plague would come that would kill many of the animals in Egypt. **“But the LORD will make a**

**distinction between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt, so that nothing shall die of all that belongs to the sons of Israel” (Exodus 9:4).** The LORD did this, but Pharaoh still would not let the people go.

Next God sent a plague of boils that broke out as sores on the skin of all the people and animals. Because of the boils, the magicians could not stand before Moses.

The LORD told Moses to stretch his hand toward the sky, and he sent thunder and hail upon Egypt. The hail, thunder, and flashes of light were like nothing they had seen before. The hail struck down every plant and beast left in the fields of Egypt. **“Only in the land of Goshen, where the sons of Israel were, there was no hail” (Exodus 9:26).** Still, the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he would not let the Israelites go.

## The Eighth and Ninth Plagues

10:1–11:10

**10–11** Pharaoh would not humble himself before the God of Israel. For this, God sent a plague of locusts upon Egypt. **“The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt ... they ate all the plants in the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left; not a green thing remained” (Exodus 10:14–15).** Pharaoh asked for forgiveness and for the locusts to be taken away. But when the locusts were gone, Pharaoh again hardened his heart to God and did not let the Israelites go.



*Aaron Transforming the Water of the Nile into Blood, Jan Simonsz. Pynas*