

Week 5 - Moses

So far this season, we have traced God's promise about a deliverer that would one day defeat sin once and for all. We saw when God made the promise to Adam and how God kept that promise as He saved Noah and his family from the universal flood. Last week we talked about how God narrowed the promise down to the family of Abraham, and today we are going to see how God continued the promise as the family of Abraham became the nation of Israel.

God had told Abraham that his descendants would be slaves in a foreign land for 400 years before they would come back to the land God had promised them. A great famine caused Abraham's grandson, Israel, and all of his family to move to Egypt where they were made to be slaves.

After 350 years, there was a pharaoh in Egypt who feared the Israelite slaves because there were so many of them. He worried that they would rise up and revolt, so he made an order that any baby boy that was born to an Israelite should be drowned in the Nile River. One specific Israelite family decided to disobey this order and instead of drowning their brand-new baby boy, they placed him in a floating basket in the river in the place where the princess would be sure to see him.

The princess did find the baby in the basket and chose to raise him as her own son. This slave boy, named **Moses**, was given the privilege to grow up in the palace and learn all about the Egyptian culture and language. But even though he was raised by the princess, his birth parents still taught him all about the true God and His promises that He made to Adam, Noah, and Abraham.

As Moses got older, he understood the prophecy given to Abraham and knew that the time for Israel to be in Egypt was about over. He knew that God would soon deliver His chosen people and bring them back to the land He had promised them. Moses wanted to be the deliverer, so he took matters into his own hands and killed an Egyptian. Instead of starting a rebellion, Moses was forced to run for his life into the desert and out of Egypt where he lived for 40 years before God spoke to him.

God told Moses to go back to Egypt and be a prophet who would do amazing miracles to show God's power and prove that He was the one true God. God proved His might by doing these great miracles that no man could do on his own. Instead of Moses getting credit for rescuing the people and furthering God's promise, God made sure everyone knew that Moses was just the messenger and God deserved all the credit. God was the only one that could do the saving.

Once the people of Israel finally were able to leave Egypt, God made a new covenant with the people. He declared Himself to be their God and revealed Himself to them as a Rescuer and Savior. He taught the people who He was and how He should be worshiped. The rules He gave were never meant to give the people freedom from sin, but they were to point to God as the only one that could really defeat sin. Moses was a historian too, as he wrote the first five books of the Bible that show all that God did for the people and all that He promised.

God used **Moses** greatly, but He promised Moses that there would be one to come later who would not just show how to worship God, but this Savior would be God Himself. We'll keep watching to see how God kept His promises next week.

Discussion Questions:

- Why did the people of Israel need to be rescued from Egypt?
- Was Moses the Savior that Israel needed?
- Who was the only one that could truly save Israel, both physically and spiritually from their sin?