



A Palace, a Prince, and Preparation

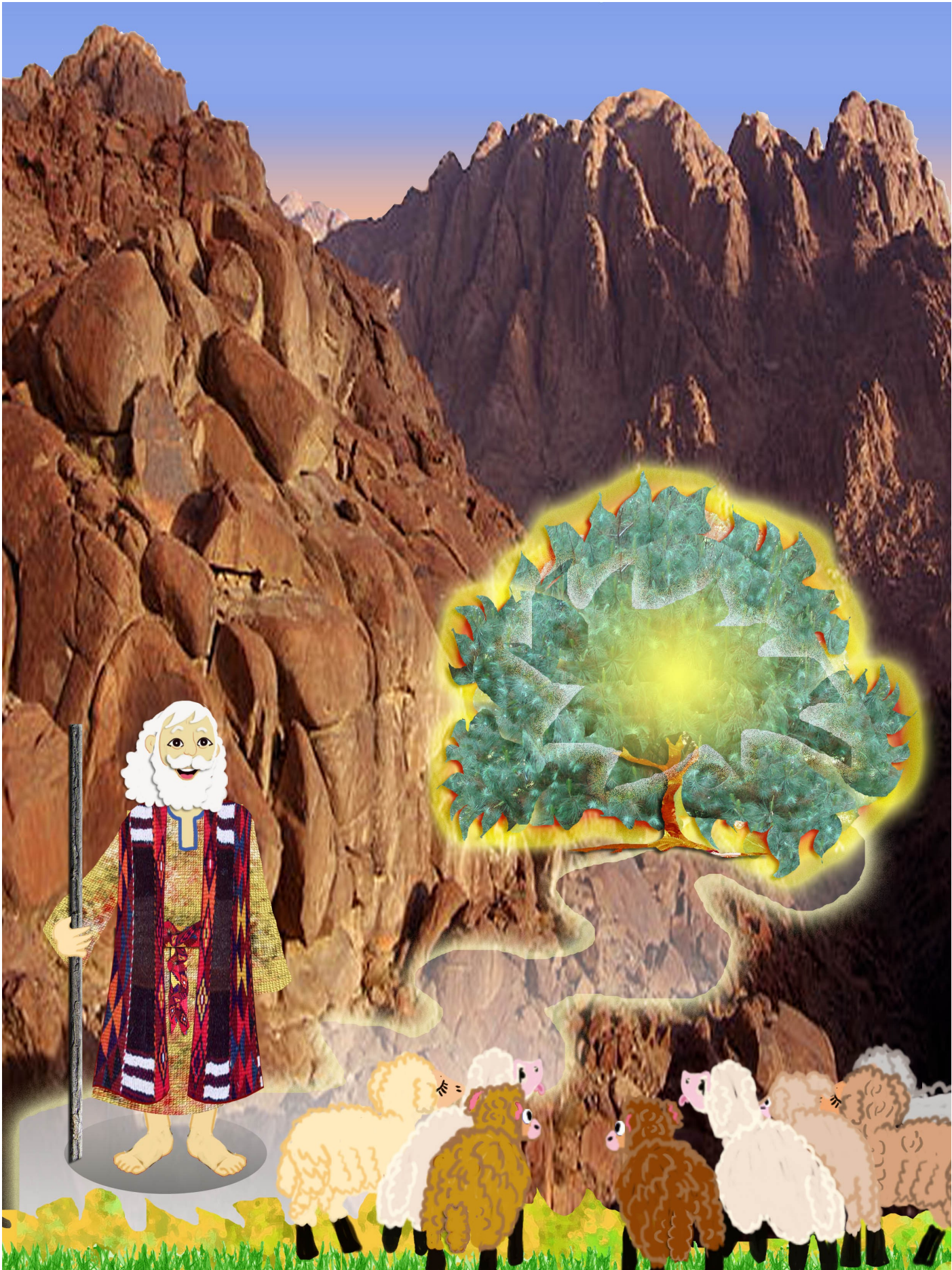
Many people who were from the families of Jacob's sons and their children were living in Egypt. Things were hard for them there. God wanted them to move somewhere else.

One day a baby was sleeping in a little basket-bed-boat, floating near the edge of the river. His older sister was watching over him.

Then Pharaoh's daughter saw the little baby and picked him up. She heard him cry, and loved him. She called him Moses.

Moses' mother cared for him, and the Princess treated him like her own son as well. He grew up as a prince in the palace of Pharaoh.

God was preparing Moses to be the man to do the job of helping the people move out of Egypt many years later.



The Burning Bush

Moses didn't like the unkind way that Pharaoh was treating the Israelites living in Egypt. Pharaoh was unkind and made the people work too hard.

When Moses was a grown man he left Egypt and became a shepherd for many years in a place called Midian.

One day while watching the sheep God appeared to Moses in a bush that was all lit up, like a fire! The bush was burning in a very special way, without getting burned up. God spoke to Moses from that burning bush.

God told Moses to go back to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let all the people leave. God said He would do amazing things to help convince Pharaoh to obey.

Moses' brother Aaron came to see him, and God had the brothers be a team to do this very big job. There were many people to lead out of Egypt, but they had faith that God would be there to help them.



Brave Brothers

When Moses and Aaron talked to the leaders of the Israelites and told them God's plan, they were glad to hear that they would soon be able to leave Egypt!

However, when they boldly told Pharaoh what God had said—that he was to let the people leave Egypt and stop working for him—Pharaoh didn't like that idea.

He tried to make things even more difficult for them all. This was discouraging for the people, but Moses and Aaron kept bravely obeying God's words.

They had faith that it was all going to work out, if they prayed and listened to God and did whatever He told them to do.



Woeful and Wonderful

Pharaoh was in for some difficult times, because he didn't obey what God told him to do—to let the people go.

When Pharaoh said "no" to God, and told Moses and Aaron—God's messengers—that the Israelites could not leave, then the river water was no longer nice and fresh, for several days.

When Pharaoh continued to disobey, more and more troubles came to their land, to the Egyptian people, to the farms, and to their homes.

Finally after many difficult times, Pharaoh at last agreed and decided to obey God's command. The Israelites were free to leave and follow where God wanted them to go.

It was a very big move, and they got going right away, bringing all their animals and belongings.



A Path to Praise About!

During the first part of the journey with Moses, the travelling team of Israelites needed a very big miracle! In front of them was the Red Sea, and they needed to cross it. Pharaoh wasn't so happy that they weren't coming back and decided to get them to return.

When the people wondered what they were going to do, as there was no pathway to keep on travelling, Moses told them God would take care of the situation. Moses held his hands and rod out over the sea, and God sent a very big, strong wind!

The wind from God blew and blew on the sea, blowing away the water! Then instead of only water, there was a long dry pathway with walls of water on either side of it, all the way to the other side of the sea. The people were able to cross to the other side!

When everyone was safely across, the waters returned again, covering up the pathway that God made. The Israelites were so glad for the miracle that God had done. They praised God and sang songs to Him!



Wilderness, Water and Wells

Moses and his team of travellers needed water, and were glad to finally find some. However, the water tasted bad!

The people started to grumble. But is that what will help to bring the solution? No! The first thing to do is what Moses chose to do—he prayed and asked God about it.

God said to throw a special tree into the water. When he obeyed what God said, then all of a sudden the water tasted good! Everyone was very happy, and could drink and wash, and their animals could drink the water too.

Moses told everyone the lesson of that miracle. If they wanted to have good health and have what they needed, it was important to obey whatever God told them to do.

The next place they travelled to was very nice. It had 12 wells of water, and lots of trees for shade.



Amazing Food

The travelling team of Israelites needed food. When Moses prayed, God said He would send down food from Heaven.

The next morning when they woke up it was amazing to see that there was a special kind of bread all over the ground. The people gathered it up and ate it. It tasted very nice! They called it "manna."

Every morning there it was again. For many years this special miracle food from God was there for them to collect, no matter where they travelled to, or what kind of weather it was. They didn't need to plant and harvest crops, just collect this manna off the ground.

On one day every week they were able to collect twice as much, so they could rest the next day and have food to eat without having to work to gather it. Wasn't God kind and thoughtful?



Water Out of a Rock

The Israelites needed water while they were travelling in the wilderness. It was difficult to be thirsty and not have water.

Instead of praying for what they needed, the people started to complain to Moses and get upset. Moses prayed and asked God what to do. God said He'd bring water out of a rock!

Moses hit the rock like God told him to do, and water came pouring out! All the people and animals had water to drink.

Another time the people learned to be more cheerful, and they sang a song, while some princes did what God said to do that time—to use their sticks to dig in the ground, and God made a spring of water there for them.



A Blazing Mountain, a Blasting Trumpet, And Tablets of Stone

God wanted to show the people that He was real and was right there with them. God let a special display of light and power come on to a mountain for the people to see. It was amazing!

The mountain was fiery, and the sound of thunder and trumpets could be heard. They knew God was right there. Moses was called to go up on the mountain to talk with God.

There he received instructions and rules to help the people know more clearly what to do, so they could follow God's way. Moses told the people everything God had said.

Later, while Moses was again with God on the mountain, God wrote on tablets of stone some of the rules, for people to easily remember and follow. There were many things God said, and lots of instructions were also written down on scrolls to be read and remembered.



The Mercy and Light of God

God had given instructions to the people of Israel, but they didn't follow them well. Moses was very upset, and God was displeased too.

The people were sorry for their wrong doings, and God forgave those who wanted to make the right choices and follow Him.

Moses needed more time alone with God to receive more instructions, as the first set of stone tablets had been broken, because of the people's disobedience and Moses' anger.

God was so kind and merciful to give everyone a second chance. He talked with Moses as a friend and Moses listened to all that God said. A new set of stone "Ten Commandments" was made.

When Moses came down from the mountain after this special time with the Lord his face was very bright and was shining! Everyone knew that he had spent time talking to God!



The Cloud of the Lord

God had a very special way to lead the Israelites on their journey. He sent a big, bright and amazing cloud to show them when and where to travel.

When God moved the cloud pillar, the people packed up and moved also. They would camp at the new place for as long as God kept the cloud there. At night the cloud was bright and fiery, and could be seen in the dark night.

God also instructed them in how to build a special tent, or tabernacle for prayer. Skilled and wise people helped to make it, and they did it just the way God told Moses that it should be made.

God also instructed Moses and his helpers on how to build a special box called, "The Ark of the Covenant". It was made very nicely and would hold some special things—like the tablets of stone and a sample of the manna.

At last, after learning many new things and travelling for many years, the big team of Israelites were ready to move in to the new land, full of faith and willing to do whatever God told them to do.



Aaron's Almonds and Moses' Song

Moses and Aaron were God's specially chosen leaders to help the Israelites know God's instructions, to pray for them, to talk with them, to help them, and to bring them to the new land that God was leading them to.

Through them God did many miracles to show the people that He was there with them. One time God made Aaron's old rod grow new blossoms and leaves, as well as almonds! God could do anything!

Before Moses went to be with God in Heaven, He told Moses to write a new song to help the Israelites remember to do things in God's way. Moses wrote it down and taught the people how to sing it!

Joshua was a faithful helper to Moses for many years. He wanted to listen to God and do whatever He said to do. When Moses and Aaron had both gone to be with God, to receive their rewards for doing a good job, God made Joshua the new leader to help lead all the Israelites into the new land that God had promised they could live in.