



The Exodus

Moses: Welcome! Please, join us! I'm making a campfire. The nights are cold in the desert and it'll keep us warm. It's also a good place for a story. A story about my life and the life of my people...

Many years ago, I and my people, the Israelites, lived in Egypt. But my people were forced by the Egyptians to live as slaves and were ruled over by a cruel king - the Pharaoh.

The Pharaoh feared the Israelites might one day rise up against him, so he ordered that all the first-born sons of the Israelites be taken away.

As I was my parents first child, they feared I would be taken away too. So my mother placed me in a basket to float away on a river in the hope that I would escape this terrible fate.

As luck would have it, I was found by the Pharaoh's daughter, who raised me as her own son and named me...Moses.

I grew up as an Egyptian, but I hated to see my people, the Israelites, treated so badly.

One day I saw an Egyptian beating Israelite men. I was angry and I felt I had to stop him. We fought...and the man died.

I had no choice but to flee - so I ran away from Egypt...and found work far away as a shepherd. I thought I would never return, until one day I saw something amazing...a burning bush... and from it came the voice of God.

God: Moses, you must free your people and lead them to a new land, where they can live in peace.

Moses: I returned to Egypt and spoke to the Pharaoh, demanding the release of the Israelites. But the Pharaoh refused.

So God sent ten plagues! There were thunderstorms of hail and fire, locusts ate all the crops, and the sky fell dark for three days!

The last plague was the worst of all. On one night, the first-born son of every family in the land would die. But to spare the Israelites, God told us to paint a mark on our doors and that way our children would be safe.

After this final, terrible plague, the Pharaoh agreed to let us go...or so we thought. At the last minute, the Pharaoh changed his mind and gave chase with his army.

We fled, until we reached the shores of a great sea. It appeared we were trapped with no hope of escape.



But I had faith that God would help us, and so I held out my hand, and commanded the waves to part so we could cross safely.

But when the Pharaoh's soldiers followed, the waves closed in again...

God had saved us from a life of slavery and we were finally free!

We travelled in the desert for some time until we reached a mountain - Mount Sinai - where we set up our tents.

Clouds gathered, and there was the sound of thunder, and I heard the voice of God calling to me to come to the top of the mountain.

God: Moses, I am giving you and your people commandments! Rules for you to live by so that you can be good to one another and live in peace. You must promise to follow these commandments and, in return, I will protect you and lead you to a new land.

Moses: I returned to my people carrying the commandments which were written on two stone tablets. These laws have helped us to live good lives under the guidance of God.

Now we are on a journey to find our new home. It has been long and hard, but with God's protection and guidance I know we will find our promised land.