



PARASHAT
VA'EIRA

פרשת וארא

Exodus 6:2-9:35

by
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& his kids

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

Great Discoveries in This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 6:2 Elohim Reassures Moses
- 6:6 The Four Steps of Redemption
- 6:12 Moses Expresses Doubts and Qualms About Accepting His Mission
- 6:13 Moses Recommissioned
- 6:30 Moses Expresses Doubts Again
- 7:1 The Redemption Begins
- 7:14 The First Plague: Water Turns to Blood
- 7:26 (8:1) The Second Plague: Frogs Cover the Land
- 8:16 (12) The Third Plague: Lice Throughout the Land of Egypt
- 8:20 (16) The Fourth Plague: Swarm of Insects
- 9:1 The Fifth Plague: Disease Epidemic
- 9:8 The Sixth Plague: Boils
- 9:13 The Seventh Plague: Hail and Lightning

Exploring This Week's Parashah:

1 Let's Meet Moses

The name Moses is mentioned 784 times in the Bible, and 79 times in the Apostolic Scriptures (New Testament) alone. Many consider Moses to have been the most important man in the Bible and that he had the most influence on Israel, other than Yeshua. He was actually a type of Yeshua in that his life pointed the way to Yeshua 1500 years before Yeshua was born.

- ▲ (a) Moses prophesied that someone like him would come in the future who would be a prophet like him. Who was that person. (Read Deuteronomy 18:15-19; John 1:45 and Acts 3:22.)

What are some other similarities between Yeshua and Moses?

- There are similarities between the names Moshe (מֹשֶׁה/mem-shin-hey meaning "drawn from/to draw") and Messiah (מָשִׁיחַ/mem-shin-yud-chet from מָשַׁח/mem-shin-chet meaning "to smear" [i.e., oil]). Though both names are spelled differently in Hebrew, there are enough similarities between the two names to show us that these two men were connected in some special spiritual way.
- Moses was the only man in the Scriptures beside Yeshua who was a prophet (Deuteronomy 34:10), a priest and a king (Deuteronomy 33:5). While there may not be any place that specifically refers to Moses as a priest, he nevertheless was a Levite and acted in a priestly role in that he communicated directly with YHVH and acted as a spiritual link between YHVH and man, even as Yeshua now acts as a high priest between YHVH and man (Hebrews 4:14).
- Both Moses and Yeshua were born under the tragic circumstance of the murder of innocent boys. Pharaoh tried to kill all the baby boys including Moses, and Herod tried to do the same when Yeshua was a child.
- Moses grew up to become the "savior" of Israel in that he led the people out of Egypt. Yeshua, of course, is the greater and spiritual Savior of Israel in that he has delivered us from sin and the spiritual Egypt of the world, the flesh and devil.
- Both Moses and Yeshua spent all or part of their childhood in Egypt (Matthew 2:13-19) and both left Egypt for the Promised Land.
- Moses began his ministry after 40 years in the wilderness; Yeshua began his ministry after spending 40 days fasting in the wilderness.



2 Moses' Life Can Be Divided Into Three Periods

The first period of Moses' life was from his birth to age 40.

▲ (b) The Scriptures say very little about Moses' early life. Most details are found in the first few verses of Exodus chapter 2. (Read Exodus 2:1-14.)

▲ (c) Why did Moses have to flee Egypt and where did he escape to? (See Exodus 2:15.)

The second period of his life was from age 40 to age 80.

▲ (d) How old was Moses when he fled from Egypt? (Note Acts 7:23-29.)

▲ (e) What did Moses do while he was away from Egypt? (Read Exodus 2:21-22 and 3:1.)

▲ (f) How did raising a family and herding a flock of sheep prepare Moses for leading the children of Israel?

While in Midian, Moses received a special ministry calling from YHVH.

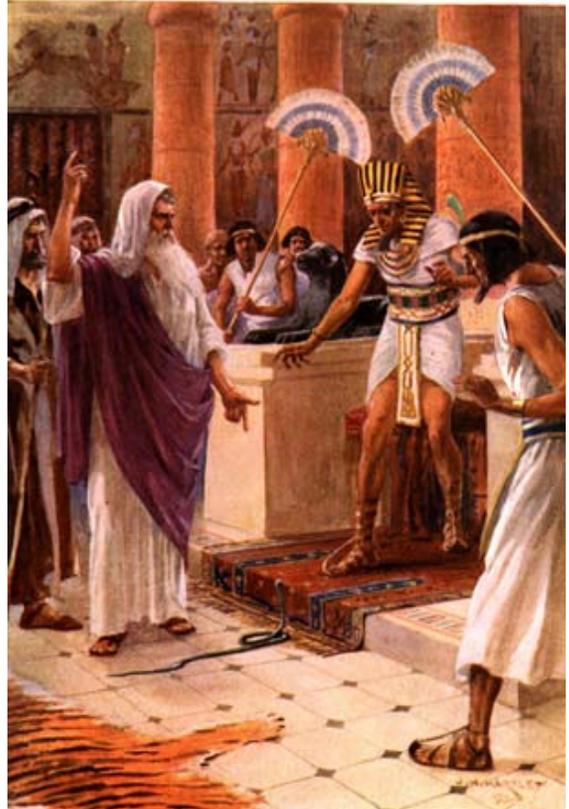


- ▲ (g) How did YHVH get Moses' attention? (Read Exodus 3:2-6.)
- ▲ (h) What did YHVH tell Moses to do? (Read Exodus 3:7-10.)
- ▲ (i) How old was Moses when YHVH called him back to Egypt with a special mission? You can find the answer to this question if you solve the following story problem:

For how long did Moses lead the children of Israel in the wilderness? (Read Exodus 16:35.) If Moses was forty years old when he left Egypt the first time, and we have just learned how long he led the Israelites, then how old was he when the Exodus out of Egypt occurred? And how old was he when he died? (Read Deuteronomy 34:7.)

The third period of Moses' life occurred when he led the children of Israel out of Egypt. Many notable things happened to Moses and the children of Israel during this time that have continued to influence YHVH's people until this very day.

- ▲ (j) For example, what famous thing happened at Mount Sinai? What did YHVH give to his people there that still affects us now?
- ▲ (k) What building did YHVH command Moses and the Children of Israel to construct? Why was this building so important and what big spiritual picture does this building teach YHVH's people about? (If you have a hard time answering these questions, that's okay. We will be learning the answers to them in future *Torah Explorers*.)



3 What Kind of Man Was Moses?

By the time the Apostolic Scriptures had been written, Moses had been dead for about 1500 years. Let's explore how the early Messianic believers viewed Moses.

- ▲ (l) Did Yeshua still consider Moses to be a spiritual leader whose teaching should be followed? (See Matthew 8:4; 19:8; Mark 7:10; 10:3; Luke 5:14; 16:29, 31; 24:27.)
- ▲ (m) What else can we learn about Moses from the Apostolic Scriptures? Was Moses an ordinary child or a special one, even good looking? (Look at Acts 7:20.) What do we know about his education? (Read Acts 7:22.) Was he a weakling and a wimpy man? (Read Acts 7:24-28.)

We have examined some physical descriptions of Moses, but what kind of a man was he spiritually? What kind of heart did he have? What was his relationship like with YHVH? A person may be handsome, well-educated and strong, but these things don't tell us much about a person's heart and character.

- ▲ (n) Does YHVH judge a man by his outward appearance, or by what he is like on the inside? (Read 1 Samuel 16:7.) How does YHVH want us to judge or form opinions about people: based on how they look, talk, and dress or based on what is in their heart? (See John 7:24; Luke 16:15; 2 Corinthians 10:7; 2 Corinthians 5:12.)
- ▲ (o) What kind of man was Moses spiritually—on the inside, in his heart? Did he follow YHVH's instructions? (Read Hebrews 11:25.)

- ▲ (p) Did Moses choose to follow the world, and to pursue riches, power and fame or to seek and follow YHVH? (See Hebrews 11:24.)

Think about it for a moment. If Moses had chosen to continue living in Pharaoh's palace, he might have become king over Egypt. Even if he had not become king, he still would have had untold wealth, fame and power in Egypt during his lifetime. But who would have remembered him after he died? His only claim to fame might have been as a mummy in a museum! How many Pharaoh's do you know the name of? If Moses had become a Pharaoh, how many people would know his name today? Yet how many billions of people over thousands of years have known the name of Moses because he chose to obey YHVH and they have read about him in the Bible?



Moses chose between this (above) or this (below) as to how he'd be remembered in the future.

- ▲ (q) What did Yeshua say about people like Moses who put YHVH first in their lives? (Read Matthew 6:31-33 and compare it with John 12:43.)
- ▲ (r) Read Hebrews 11:25. What does it say that Moses "chose" to do? Have you ever chosen to do the right thing, even though it was not the popular things to do, even though it was not the fun thing to do, but because it was the right thing to do? Afterwards, were you proud of yourself that you did the right thing, even though a part of you really wanted to do what felt good to your flesh man at the time, and even though "everybody else" was going the other way? Moses did this. He chose a life of suffering in the wilderness over a life of luxury and power in Egypt. Wow! Imagine if you were Moses and had to make that same choice. Be honest with yourself. What choice would you make?



We have to make choices everyday whether to obey our parents or disobey them and do what we want to do, to do our chores around the house or play instead, to do our schoolwork or play video games or watch a video or tv instead, and to go along with the crowd and do what is fun and popular even though it may not be the right thing to do.

We have to make choices every day whether to walk the path of YHVH, the path of righteousness that is narrow and has few people on it, or to go on the wide and popular path that the majority are on, but that leads away from YHVH.

- ▲ (s) Why did Moses choose to obey YHVH instead of staying in Egypt? (Read Hebrews 11:26.) In this verse, we find the word "reward." What reward is it talking about? There are earthly rewards and heavenly ones. Yeshua talked about the difference between the two. (Look at Matthew 6:20; also see Hebrews 2:2.)

▲ (†) In Hebrews 11:27-28, we read that after forsaking Egypt and choosing to follow YHVH, Moses "endured" trials and hardships, but that he had faith in or believed the Word and the promises of YHVH. What does it mean to endure or to be steadfast? Is following the narrow path of YHVH easy? We sometimes get attacked by others for doing what is right, but we have to continue to do right no matter what. Moses was the kind of person who placed his eyes on YHVH and believed in his Word, no matter what. What is YHVH's reward for people like this? (See Mark 13:13; 1Peter 2:19-23.) The Bible calls people who endure hardships "overcomers." Who is there to help us to overcome the world, the flesh and devil? (Read 1John 4:4.) What are the glorious rewards that YHVH promises to all those who overcome? (Note Revelation 2:11,17,26, 3:5,12,21; 21:7.) After you have read the promised rewards of those who overcome, wouldn't you rather be like Moses and be one who endures and overcomes the pulls and temptations of the world, the flesh and devil?

