



Moses, the man, the legend, the “Prince of Egypt,” can appear as a larger-than-life, invincible superhero, but he was every bit as human as you. In fact, one of the things that is endearing about Moses is his humanity. At one point early in his story, he threatens to quit and asks God to kill him on the spot!

Where am I supposed to get meat for all these people? They keep whining to me, saying, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ I can’t carry all these people by myself! The load is far too heavy! If this is how you intend to treat me, just go ahead and kill me. Do me a favor and spare me this misery!”
Numbers 11:13–15 (NLT)

The story of Moses is one of a very human man, who by the grace of God, moves from fear to faith.

I. Where was Moses born?

For years many scholars have suggested that Moses was born in the Land of Goshen, which is the Nile River delta region. However, the capitol of Egypt was in Thebes (present day Luxor). It is likely that due to the events surrounding his birth, he was born in Thebes.

II. When was Moses born?

The most appropriate answer is within a 300 year period spanning 1526 to 1230 B.C.

The events that led to Moses’ birth
began with a guy named Joseph.

Eventually, Joseph, all his brothers, and that entire generation died. But the descendants of Israel had many children. They became so numerous and strong that the land was filled with them. Then a new king, who knew nothing about Joseph, began to rule in Egypt.
Exodus 1:6–8 (GW)

- This Joseph is one of the 12 sons of Jacob. He is the Joseph associated with the “coat of many colors.”
- His brothers sold him into slavery, where he was bought by a man named Potiphar who worked for the Pharaoh in Egypt.
- Joseph eventually became the Pharaoh’s right-hand man.
- Due to a famine in Israel, Joseph invited his father, 11 brothers and their wives and children to Egypt. This is how the Israelites ended up in Egypt in the first place.

Pharaoh said to his people, “There are too many Israelites, and they are stronger than we are. We have to outsmart them, or they’ll increase in number. Then, if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and leave the country.” So the Egyptians put slave drivers in charge of them in order to oppress them through forced labor.
Exodus 1:9–11 (GW)

- The Hebrews lived in Egypt peacefully for generations, but the new Pharaoh saw them as a potential threat, so he enslaved them.

But the more the Egyptians mistreated and oppressed them, the more the Israelis seemed to multiply! The Egyptians became alarmed and made the Hebrew slavery more bitter still, forcing them to toil long and hard in the fields and to carry heavy loads of mortar and brick.

Exodus 1:12–13 (LB)

- The previous Pharaoh built a relationship with Joseph and the Hebrews on trust, friendship and respect.
- The new Pharaoh was consumed with fear, and fear can make us human beings do abominable things.
- But, Pharaoh's plan backfired and the number of Hebrews actually grew larger.

Then the king of Egypt told the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, "When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth, look at the child when you deliver it. If it's a boy, kill it, but if it's a girl, let it live."

Exodus 1:15–16 (GW)

- Pharaoh enlists the help of Hebrew midwives to carry out his evil scheme.
- The midwives secretly refuse to cooperate, motivated by their sense of responsibility to God.

This is the first recorded act of civil disobedience in the Bible.

Can you imagine the courage it took for these women to defy the Pharaoh?

About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months. But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. The baby's sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him. Soon Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river . . . When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her . . . The princess named him Moses, for she explained, "I lifted him out of the water."

Exodus 2:1–5, 10 (NLT)

Can you imagine the anxiety Moses' parents must have felt knowing that their son was born with a death sentence hanging over him?

- When Moses could no longer be safely hidden, his mother placed him in a waterproof basket and put the basket among the reeds in the Nile River.
- God sent Pharaoh's daughter, who seeing the baby, was filled with compassion and was willing to defy her father.

The story surrounding the birth of Moses is all about:

- A cruel king with a murderous plan.
- An oppressed and enslaved people crying out to God for deliverance.
- Four courageous women willing to be used by God to do the right, moral and godly thing.

The way God most often works in the world to answer
the prayers and cries of hurting people is by using
_____!

Think about it: We typically pray for God to miraculously intervene directly in our lives or the lives of others, but most often God uses people.

When people like you are open to the work of the Holy Spirit and are willing to pay attention to the prompting and nudging of the Spirit, you will discover that God is using you to answer the prayers of others.

“God uses ordinary people,
in seemingly ordinary ways,
to do extraordinary things!”
—Adam Hamilton

My prayer for you is that you will be open to the movement of the Spirit of God so that God will use you to accomplish His divine purpose in the world.

Major sources for today’s teaching: *Moses* by Adam Hamilton, and *The Communicator’s Commentary* by Maxie Dunnam.