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The Story of Baby Moses

Jason and Sonya Staben

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Illustrations by Jason and Sonya Staben © 2013

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The Story of Baby Moses

Many years ago and well before Jesus was born, God's people the Hebrews (also known as Israelites), moved to Egypt during a great famine. Joseph, also a Hebrew, was second in command of Egypt and made sure the Hebrews had enough supplies to last the famine.

You can read this amazing story in Genesis 41-47.

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Exodus 1:6-10

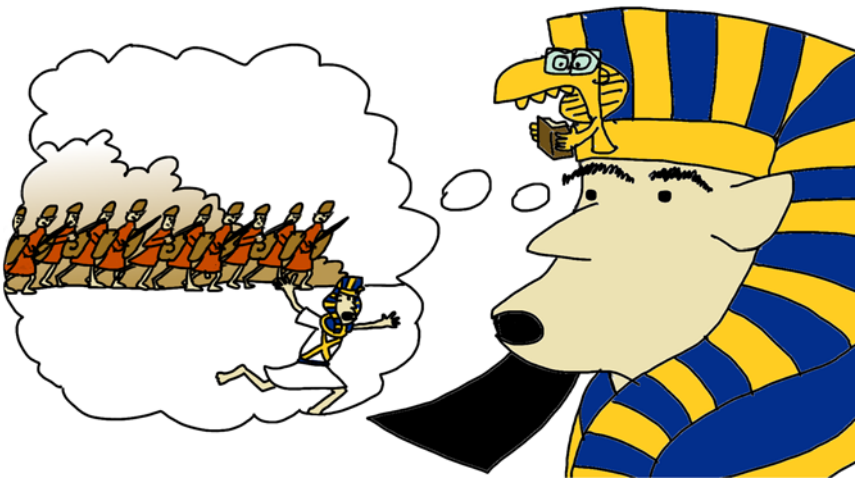
In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died as did that entire generation.

The Israelites, however, had many children, increased greatly, multiplied, and became extremely strong, so that the land was filled with them.

Then a new Pharaoh (King), who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt.

He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and powerful than we are.

Let us deal wisely with them; otherwise they will multiply further, and if a war breaks out, they may join our enemies, fight against us, and leave the country."



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Exodus 1:11-13

So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed slave drivers over them, to oppress them with crushing labour. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centres for the Pharaoh .

But the more the Egyptians oppressed the Israelites, the more they increased in number and the farther they spread through the land.

The Egyptians came to fear the Israelites and they worked the Israelites ruthlessly making their lives bitter with hard labour — digging clay, making bricks, all kinds of field work; and in all this labour they were shown no mercy.

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Exodus 1:15-22

Then the Pharaoh said to the Hebrew midwives, of whom one was named Shiprah and the other Puah, "When you help the Hebrew women give birth," he said to them, "Kill the baby if it is a boy; but if it is a girl, let it live."

But the midwives feared God, and didn't do what the Pharaoh commanded them; they let the boys live.

Then the Pharaoh summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this and let the boys live?" They answered, "The Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they give birth easily, and their babies are born before a midwife gets there."

Therefore God prospered the midwives, and the people continued to multiply and grow very powerful. It happened, because the midwives feared God, that he gave them families of their own.

Then Pharaoh commanded all his people: "You must throw every son born to the Hebrews into the Nile, but let every daughter live."

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Exodus 2:1-4

A man from the household of Levi married a woman who was a descendant of Levi. The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a healthy child, she hid him for three months.

But when she could no longer hide him, she took a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile River. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

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Exodus 2:5-6

Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe in the Nile, while her attendants were walking alongside the river, and she saw the basket among the reeds. She sent one of her attendants to get it for her.

When she opened it, she saw the child — a boy, crying! — and she felt compassion for him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

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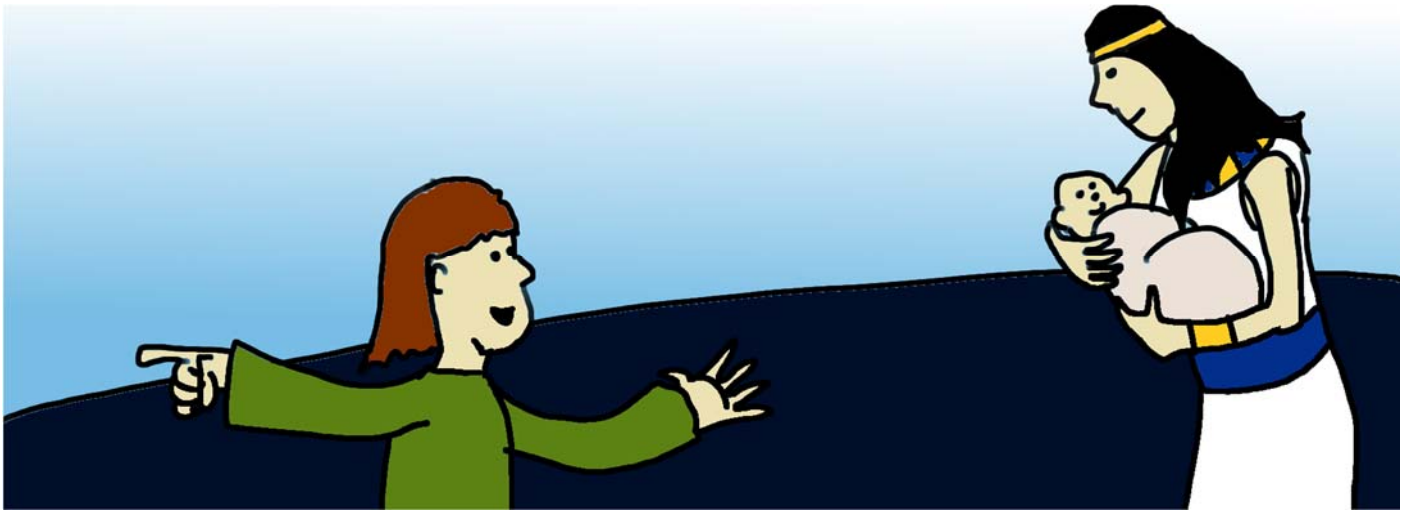


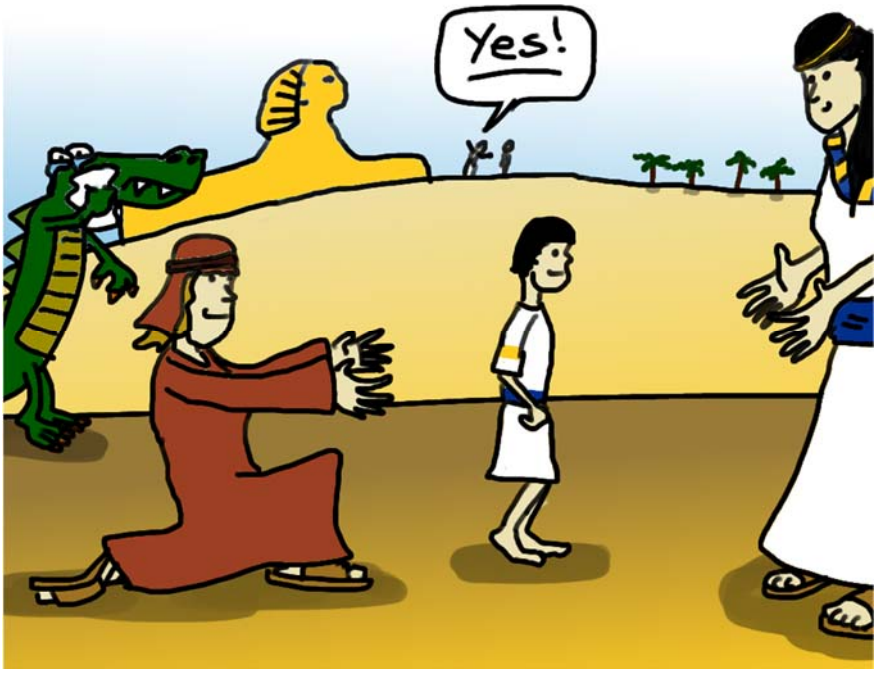
Exodus 2:7-10

Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Should I go and call a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?"

"Go." Pharaoh's daughter replied. So the girl went and called the baby's mother.

Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse him for me, and I will pay your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

When the child grew older she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "Because I drew him from the water."



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When Moses was older and after many years in exile, he returned to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt.

You can read this amazing story in Exodus 3 - 15

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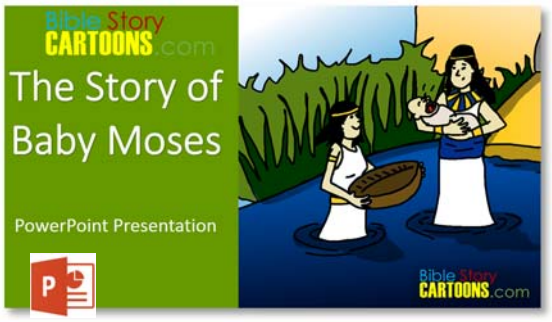

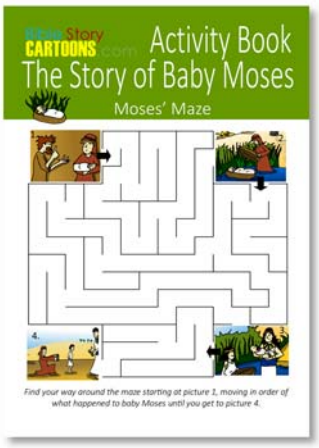

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