

The Story Adult Study Guide

For the Week of September 29, 2019

Chapter 4: “Deliverance”



Key Events: the birth of Moses, God calls Moses, the plagues, the exodus, God provides for the Israelites traveling in the desert

Key Character: Moses (see *The Story* page 488 for character descriptions)

Bible Reference for this Chapter: Exodus 1-7, 10-17

God rescued his people from bondage in Egypt and led his people back to Canaan, just as he promised in his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

NOTE: During the 400 year gap between the story of Joseph and this story, God had been silent among the Israelites. No prophets, no leaders. Moses was 40 years old when he fled Egypt (page 44), and he was 80 at the time of the exodus (pages 52-53. He died at age 120).

1. After seeing Noah’s century-long building project, Abraham’s long wait for a son, Joseph’s years spent in prison, the 400 years of silence from the Lord, and Moses’ 80 years in training, what can we learn about God’s clock? What does scripture say about God’s timing? How can we be mindful of that in our own lives? Why is that so difficult?
2. Explain how the story of the Israelites’ slavery in Egypt is a direct parallel of our slavery to sin?
3. What were some of the reasons that Moses felt inadequate to speak for the Lord? But God provided a way for him to accomplish that. Many Christians likewise feel inadequate to tell others the message of salvation. What can we learn from this story? Matthew 10:20 “For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.”
4. You are Moses on your way back to Egypt. What thoughts are going through your mind?
5. Nine times in this chapter we read the phrase “I am the LORD.” What did God wish to impress on the Israelites with these words? On Pharaoh and the Egyptians?
6. What in Moses’ life helped him to develop such a personal and intimate relationship with God? Exodus 33:11: “The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to

a friend”; Deuteronomy 34:10: “Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face.”

7. Read the Lord’s Passover instructions on page 51. Identify the parallels between the Passover and Jesus’ death on the cross.
8. What two-word command did God tell Moses to say to the Israelites before they crossed the Red Sea? Who will do our bidding? Give other examples in scripture where the Lord “rescued” his children? What must we keep in mind about the daily battles we fight against Satan? Deuteronomy 20:4 “The LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.”
9. What do you think went through the minds of the Egyptians and the Israelites as the plagues were happening? Exodus 8:18,19 “Since the gnats were on people and animals everywhere, the magicians said to Pharaoh, ‘This is the finger of God.’”
10. Moses prayed in all circumstances. He prayed to praise God, to give God a complaint, as a request for God to delay judgment, for preservation and protection, when he was discouraged, for divine action, for God to heal his sister, and for God to go with the people. Can we learn anything from his prayer life? What does it mean to “pray constantly?”
11. You are one of the Israelites leaving Egypt. How do you feel as you look back over the land you are leaving? Remember, Egypt was once a land of prosperity and beauty. Now it had become a land of a broken people with no animals and no vegetation. It once stood as a land of greatness and power and now it was brought to its knees. The Lord had destroyed their homes, their food source, commerce, livestock, their families, their army, and even their entire belief system.

The Plagues Compared

	<u>BLOOD</u>	<u>FROGS</u>	<u>GNATS</u>	<u>FLIES</u>	<u>LIVESTOCK</u>	<u>BOILS</u>	<u>HAIL</u>	<u>LOCUSTS</u>	<u>DARKNESS</u>	<u>DEATH</u>
Magicians can do	•	•								
Advanced warning	•	•		•	•		•	•		•
Israel exempt				•	•	•?	•	•?	•	•
Pharaoh's heart	Pharaoh hardened	Pharaoh hardened	Pharaoh hardened	Pharaoh hardened	Pharaoh hardened	Lord hardened	Pharaoh hardened	Lord hardened	Lord hardened	Pharaoh hardened
Pharaoh asked Moses to pray		•		•			•	•		
Outside use	Staff	A. Hand	A. Staff			Ash	Staff East wind	Hand		
More info			Magicians said this is the finger of God	Go not far to worship	Investigated	Magicians could not attend	Worst in history Only men go to worship	Go but no animals Worst in history		
Time	7 days								3 days	1 night

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ANSWERS

1. Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD." 2 Peter 3:8 says: "Do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." Psalm 90:4 says: "A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night." This is a difficult concept for people to understand because we live in a world governed by time. We have schedules to meet, the sun rises and sets, seasons come and go, we carry timepieces with us, and our lives follow patterns as we progress from birthday to birthday. In heaven, we will be free of all time constraints. This we cannot even begin to comprehend.
2. Romans 6:6 says, "We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin."
 1. The Jews were in bondage to Egypt; people were in bondage to sin.
 2. The Jews existed under an abusive ruler who exploited them to their own hurt and destruction; people were under Satan who exploited them to their own hurt and destruction.
 3. The Jews were totally powerless to deliver themselves from their slavery; people are totally powerless to deliver themselves from slavery under sin.
 4. For the Jews, God provided a leader (Moses); for people in sin, God provides a leader (Jesus).
 5. To the Jews, God proved deliverance was His work through Moses' signs; to those in sin, God proved deliverance was His work through Jesus' signs.
 6. For the Jews, deliverance was totally God's work--all they did was obediently follow; for sinners, deliverance is totally God's work--all we do is believe.
 7. The exodus was the undeniable proof of God's love for Israel. The cross is the undeniable proof of God's love for all sinners.
3. Different personalities react differently regarding speaking to strangers or even friends. For some striking up a conversation is easy, while others struggle with what to say. Moses was the latter. He felt he did not have what it takes to stand before Pharaoh and deliver God's message. Three things we should always bear in mind. First, God commands us to Go and Tell. That is part of being a Christian. Second, God promises that we are not alone in our thoughts and speech. He will provide what it takes to share the gospel message. Third, we are not the ones who make the message successful, but the Holy Spirit working in their hearts. Remember Exodus 4:12 which the Lord told Moses, "I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."
4. Answers will vary.
5. Regarding the Israelites, God wished to reestablish that he was still their sovereign God. Over several hundred years of slavery the people had lost hope that a rescuer would come. By reminding the people that he was their Lord, the father of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, he was proving his legitimacy. In regard to Pharaoh, the Lord was about to show the Egyptians that their gods were powerless. Exodus 12:12 says, I will strike the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both men and beast; and **on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments.**" Each plague was aimed at several of the 1500 Egyptian gods. To Pharaoh, the true

God was a foreign god. He said, "Who is the Lord that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go." Before long he would know very well who the true God was!

6. Moses and God were friends! Why? First, friends think alike. Moses knew the upper story and God's plans for his people. Although he sometimes disagreed with God's ways, Moses knew God's motives. Second, friends are loyal and dependable. Leading two million people for forty years is no small task. Yet God knew he could depend on Moses as his chosen one, and Moses knew he could depend on God to hear his prayers and to come to his aid. Third, friends confide in one another. Already at the burning bush the Lord shared with Moses his detailed plans for the people's exit from Egypt. Likewise Moses was not ashamed to tell God his inmost thoughts and share his personal problems. What a blessing it is to have God call us his friends as well. Jesus said, "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."
7. Parallels: both required lambs without defect – the animal and Jesus the Lamb of God; both required the shedding of blood to redeem/deliver people from death; both involved a sacrificial death offered as a substitute, one life laid down for others; both were outpourings of God's grace to sinful, undeserving people; both involve faith in God's promises of life and salvation; the Lord's Supper was instituted during Jesus' and his disciples' celebration of the Passover the night Jesus was betrayed.
8. God instructed the people "The Lord will fight for you. You need only to BE STILL!" Psalm 46:10 says "Be still, and know that I am God." How difficult it is for us to "Let go. Let God." as the poster says. God wants us to give our battles to him. And he promises to fight for us. We need only to be still.
9. Answers will vary.
10. Moses life was one of constant prayer. He spoke to God as part of his daily conversation. To pray constantly does not mean we must walk around with heads bowed, bumping into lamp posts. To the Christian prayer is similar to one's heartbeat. It continues whether or not we are conscious of it. For one to be a Christian, there needs to be an attitude of God-consciousness at all times. Day and night the Christian is aware that God is with him or her and he is engaged in their every thought and action. While not physically engaged in prayer, there is always a realization of dependence upon God and assurance that he is there to help. And so we pray without ceasing.