

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

Moses, presuming the children of Israel knew who he was and his mission, took it upon himself to force the will of God by killing an Egyptian and hiding the body in the sand. The next day, as he returned to check on his “brethren,” he saw two arguing and tried to mediate between the quarreling Jews. The offending Jew sarcastically asked Moses who made him the prince and judge over Israel and if he would kill him like the Egyptian. Seeing that others knew of the murder, Moses went into the desert of Midian.

Prov. 26:17 He that passeth by, *and* meddleth with strife *belonging* not to him, *is like* one that taketh a dog by the ears.

At forty years of age, Moses was in the prime of life, a prince in the powerful country of Egypt, highly respected as a military leader, intelligent, handsome, and privileged to be called of God to deliver the Israelites from bondage. His overconfidence in readiness to begin the Exodus was perhaps what motivated him to visit the Israelites and observe their plight. Untimely circumstances cost Moses and the children of Israel another forty years before engaging in God's perfect will for the Exodus.

After Moses fled Egypt, he spent forty more years in the Midian desert, not leading any Exodus with the exception of getting Egypt out of his system. Through the time in the desert, God was preparing Moses to be meek, not to be self-delusional of his own abilities.

Num. 12:3 (Now the man Moses *was* very meek, above all the men which *were* upon the face of the earth.)

- ❖ Moses left Egypt for the desert to spend another 40 years learning to listen to God.

## I. LEAVING FOR THE DESERT

Ex. 2:15 Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.

# Moses Moves to Midian



High resolution paid maps include detailed captions [headwatersresources.org](http://headwatersresources.org)  
© 2014 by Joe Anderson, licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)



- ❖ Moses went from the palace of Pharaoh to the desolate dust of the desert.
- ❖ The disillusionment of Moses led to discouragement and devastation.
- ❖ Perhaps Moses “sat down by a well” just to sort out his thoughts.

## II. LEARNING IN THE DESERT

- ❖ Moses “dwelt in the land of Midian” and got acquainted with a priest and his daughters.
- ❖ Moses was confronted with a situation that needed his intervention.



Ex. 2:16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew *water*, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

17 And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

18 And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, *How is it that ye are come so soon to day?*

19 And they said, **An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds**, and also drew *water* enough for us, and watered the flock.

20 And he said unto his daughters, *And where is he? why is it that ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread.*

- ❖ Moses confronted the shepherds and was a deliverer to the seven daughters.
- ❖ The priest in Midian was Reuel. He was known by a few other names.

**Original Word:** רְעוּיָל **Transliteration:** Reuel

**Definition:** "friend of God", Moses' father-in-law, also an Edomite, a Gadite, and a Benjamite

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/7467.htm>

Judges 4:11 Now Heber the Kenite, *which was* of the children of **Hobab the father in law of Moses**, had severed himself from the Kenites, and pitched his tent unto the plain of Zaanaim, which *is* by Kedesh.

Hobab = “beloved, cherished”

Num. 10:29 And Moses said unto **Hobab**, the son of Raguel the Midianite, **Moses' father in law**, We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the LORD hath spoken good concerning Israel.

Ex. 3:1 Now **Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian**: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Horeb.

**Original Word:** יֶתְרוֹ **Transliteration:** Yithro

**Definition:** Moses' father-in-law – "his abundance" or "preeminence" and possibly a title.

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/3503.htm>

- ❖ Reuel was very observant about the time factor involved in watering the flocks.
- ❖ Reuel was instrumental in affecting the life of Moses – taking him in and giving him Zipporah.

- ❖ Moses learned how to wait upon the Lord and trust His leadership – Prov. 3:5-6.
- ❖ Moses learned how to be a husband and father.
- ❖ Moses learned how to live in a desert environment.

### III. LIVING IN THE DESERT

Ex. 2:21 And **Moses was content to dwell with the man:** and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter.  
22 And she bare *him* a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land.

- ❖ From Pharaoh's court, Moses became humble enough to be "content to dwell with the man."
- ❖ Through the next 40 years, Moses took a wife, had two sons, and established a home.

**Original Word:** צִפּוֹרָה **Transliteration:** Tsipporah

**Definition:** "bird", Moses' wife

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/6855.htm>

- ❖ Moses' first son's name reflected the situation – Gershom, “I have been a stranger in a strange land.”

**Original Word:** גֶּרְשׁוֹם Transliteration: Gereshom

**Definition:** three Israelites, foreigner

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/1647.htm>

- ❖ The second son was Eliezer, whose name was a testimony of God's help.

Ex. 18:4 And the name of the other *was* Eliezer; for **the God of my father, said he, was mine help**, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh:

**Original Word:** אֱלִיעֶזֶר  
**Transliteration:** Eliezer  
**Definition:** "God is help", the name of several Israelites, also of a Damascene

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/461.htm>

- ❖ For forty years, Moses lived in the Midian desert and learned to listen to God's voice.



## IV. LISTENING IN THE DESERT

Ex. 2:23 And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto *them*.

- ❖ The word “desert” is connected etymologically to “speaking.”

**Original Word:** מִדְּבָר Transliteration: midbar

**Definition:** mouth, desert

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/4057.htm>

**Original Word:** דָּבַר Transliteration: dabar

**Definition:** to speak

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/1696.htm>

- ❖ Though the narrative has been silent about many things, God was preparing Moses throughout those forty years on how to survive in the wilderness. More importantly, Moses was learning how to walk by faith to overcome the discouragement of rejection.

## Summary

After about 40 years, the scene shifts back to Egypt.

### 2:23

23a “And it came to pass in process of time...”

23b the king of Egypt died

23c the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and

23d they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

(v. 24)

v. 24a And God heard their groaning, and

v. 24b God remembered his covenant with Abraham,  
with Isaac, and with Jacob.

(v. 25) And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God  
had respect unto *them*.

- ❖ In Egypt, a type of the world, Moses was rejected as their Messiah.
- ❖ Jesus “...came unto his own, and his own received him not.” (Jn. 1:11)
- ❖ Jesus, like Moses, in rejection, takes a Gentile bride and feeds a foreign flock until His enemies are made His footstool.

Psa. 110:1 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

❖ Moses, like Jesus, was a stranger in the land, hence the naming of Gershom.

Mt. 25:35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: **I was a stranger**, and ye took me in:

Psa. 39:12 Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for **I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner**, as all my fathers *were*.

❖ Moses returned to Egypt and the second time revealed himself as their deliverer.

❖ Jesus is returning to earth the second time to reveal Himself as the conquering deliverer.

## Conclusion

Acts 1:10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**

1 Thess. 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and **so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.