

CLASS: SS2
SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES
TOPIC: MOSES AS A LEADER
WEEK: 3
TERM: SECOND



MOSES AS A LEADER

(EXODUS 1;2;3;4:1-17;5:1-5; 22:23; Numbers 13:1-3; 14:1-19)

The Birth and Call of Moses

After the death of Joseph in Egypt, a new Pharaoh who did not know Joseph arose. He was exceedingly afraid of the increase in the population of the Israelites in the land of Egypt. The king therefore devised obnoxious ways of dealing with them. He made the Israelites to serve with rigor and bitterness. As if this was not enough, he instructed the mid wives (**Shiphrah and Puah**) to kill their sons at birth. The midwives feared God and did not hearken to this instruction. Therefore, he commanded his people that every son born to the Israelites should be cast into the river Nile.

It was at this critical period that Moses was born by a couple from the tribe of **Levi**. When Moses was born, the mother tried to hide him for **three months** but when she could no longer hide him, she made a **basket of bulrushes** and daubed it with bitumen pitch before she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds at the river's bank.

Pharaoh's daughter saw the child and adopted him as her baby. She picked the child and unknowingly gave him to the mother (Moses' mother) to nurse for her for a wage. The woman (Moses' mother) finished nursing the baby and handed him over to Pharaoh's daughter who named the baby Moses, for she said, "**I drew him out of the waters**". Moses grew up in the house of Pharaoh, but was conscious of the fact that he was a Hebrew and he hated the wicked treatment of his people by the Egyptians. This made him kill an Egyptian who was fighting with a Hebrew. On another occasion, he saw two Hebrews struggling together and he attempted separating them, but, one of them said, "Who made you a prince and judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" By this statement, Moses knew that his killing of the Egyptian was no longer a secret, and decided to flee to median.

There in the land of the Medians, he found favour with the priest of Midian, Reuel (Jethro). Jethro gave him one of his daughters, Zipporah for a wife. While Moses was keeping the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, he came to Mount Horeb where an angel of the lord appeared to him in the form of a flame of fire in the midst of the bush. God called him out of the bush saying:

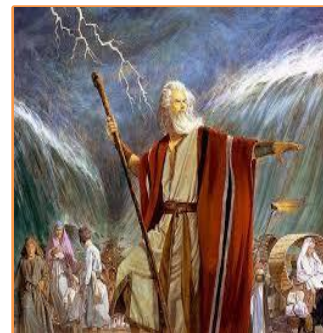
“Moses, Moses! Do not come near, put off your shoes from your feet for the place on which you are standing is a holy ground (Ex 3:45)

This occasion marked the call of Moses to lead the Israelites out of the bondage of Egypt. Moses gave a lot of excuses why He might not be able to lead the Israelites but God assured him that He would be with him and He would perform a lot of signs and wonders that would change Pharaoh's mind to let the Israelite go.

MOSES LED THE ISRAELITES

Moses was reluctant to lead the Israelites out of Egypt because he felt they would not believe that God actually appeared to him. God, therefore, gave him series of signs that he should perform to convince the people. As he complained that he was not eloquent, God gave him Aaron to assist him. Attempt by Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt was met with stiff opposition from Pharaoh because God had determined to harden his (Pharaoh) heart in order to bring untold suffering on the Egyptians. The Lord afflicted the Egyptians with a lot of plagues before Pharaoh reluctantly allowed the Israelites to go. The plagues are:

1. **water turning to blood**
2. **frogs**
3. **lice**
4. **flies**
5. **livestock pestilence**
6. **boils**
7. **hail**
8. **locusts**
9. **darkness**
10. **killing of firstborn children**



As soon as he let them go, he pursued them again to bring them back because God had hardened his heart so that He would achieve victory over him and his host. As the Egyptians drew near, the Israelites were afraid. They accused

Moses that he deliberately wanted them to die in the wilderness, but Moses comforted them when he said:

“fear not, stand firm and see the salvation of the lord which he will work for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again, the Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still”.

That day, God delivered the children of Israel, and destroyed the Egyptians in the Red Sea.

The Israelites rebelled against the Lord severe times: for instances, when the people cajoled Aaron to make them a golden calf, when Moses went up to the maintain to get the Ten Commandment; and when the people nearly stoned Moses because of the evil report brought by the Ten Spies who went to Spy Canaan. In all these Moses still interceded for the people because he was an exceptional leader.

Moses' Leadership Qualities

1. Moses was a very patriotic nationalist that rendered selfless service to his people. Twice, God threatened to wipe the Israelites out, Moses interceded for the people.
2. He was courageous in facing the challenges from Pharaoh.
3. Moses was very obedient and had strong faith in the God he was serving.
4. Moses was a leader with high sense of humility he knew how to manage crises. On several occasions, the Israelite rebelled against him, but he managed the crises efficiently.
5. Moses was never discouraged, despite the entire problem, he encountered both from Pharaoh and the Israelites themselves.
6. Moses was never arrogant to the people, unlike what is obtains today.

ASSIGNMENT

Explain why Moses did not enter the Promised Land.

