"Revival begins when you draw a circle around yourself and make sure everything in that circle is right with God."
Anne Graham Lotz

First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, Georgia USA
Prayer Study #538

MOSES: THE DELIVERER

JOCHEBED

The life of Moses, as all of our lives, begins in the womb of his mother, Jochebed. Jochebed and her husband Amram were from the tribe of Levi. She is the first person in Scripture to have a name compounded with *Jah*, which means *Jehovah*.

To Amram and Jochebed were born three children: Aaron who would become Israel's first high priest and the founder of the Aaronic priesthood; Miriam, the oldest and a gifted poet, musician, and prophetess (Exodus 15:20); and baby Moses, whom Herbert Lockyer says was "one of the greatest national leaders and legislators the world has ever known."

Pharaoh, who did not remember Joseph and his contributions to the Egyptian government and the Middle East, became alarmed because there were so many Hebrews in Goshen in Egypt, and they were multiplying fast. He thus ordered that all Hebrew baby boys be thrown into the crocodile-infested Nile River and thus murdered by the government.

Jochebed was pregnant with Moses at this time. When he was born, she saw that he was a beautiful baby physically but also was "fair to God," meaning that had something "other worldly" about him such as a glow or angelic look. Jochebed was

somehow able to hide him for a while, but when she could no longer do this, she came up with a plan, most likely inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Jochebed wove some reeds together and formed a cradle. She had ten-year-old Miriam stand nearby to watch the cradle. At the usual time Pharaoh's daughter came to the Nile to wash herself. Her maids saw the floating cradle and brought the baby to her. She had compassion on the beautiful child. Miriam, who was close by, suggested to the Pharaoh's daughter that she (Miriam) find a Hebrew woman to nurse the child for the Pharaoh's daughter, to which the princess readily agreed. Jochebed's baby was not only saved, but Jochebed was paid to look after him for the Pharaoh's daughter.

Thus, Moses was given every advantage and raised as the Egypt princess' son, although when he got older, he refused to be called *the son of Pharaoh's daughter*. The Egyptian princess names the boy *Moses*, which means "draw out of the water" (Exodus 2:10).

I believe we will see a *Jocebed anointing* in our day which will bring to birth the will and purposes of God and protect what is birthed. Every time there is a mass killing of babies, we can be sure that satan is frighted and knows that great deliverers are coming forth from the womb, and these deliverers will cause great destruction to the kingdom of darkness.

THE FRIEND OF GOD

I believe there is no greater man in the Old Testament than Moses. In this study we are only going to look at some of the high and low points of his life. He was a historian, leader, law

giver, and patriot, among other accomplishments. However, the greatest title that he holds is "the friend of God." Exodus 33:11a: *And the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.*

Moses lived to be 120 years old. Historians and Bible scholars divide his life in three sections:

1. The first forty years-from his birth to his flight into Midian: As Pharaoh's son, Moses learned to be SOMEBODY. This period in Moses' life ended when he, seeing one of his Hebrew kinsman being abuse by an Egyptian, killed the Egyptian. The next day he fled when he learned his deed had been discovered.
2. The second forty years-from the flight from Egypt to the Exodus: In the desert places he learned how to become a NOBODY. It was here that he married Jethro's (also called Reuel) daughter, attended the flocks of his father-in-law (Exodus 2:28, 3:1) and saw the burning bush (Exodus 3:2-10). It was here that he got the call from God to go back to Egypt and to deliver His people.
3. The final forty years-from the Exodus to his death: He learned, as leader of God's people, that God was EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY, the One he could speak to face to face as a man speaks to his friends. During these years, Moses led the people out of slavery from Egypt and wandered in the wilderness with them for 40 years. Thus, Moses foreshadows the greater work of deliverance from sin and death that Christ did for Christian believers (1st Corinthians 10, Matthew 2:15, Hosea 11:1).

THE FINAL FORTY

Moses returns to Egypt, but the Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he would not let the people go. God put a series of plagues on the Egyptians to force them to let the Israelites go. Some of these plagues type the catastrophic judgments that will come in the last days:

1st Plague: Nile turned to blood (Exodus 7:14-24 compare with Revelation 8:8 and 16:4)

5th Plague: Disease or pestilence (Exodus 9:17 compare with Revelation 6:8)

6th Plague: Boils (Exodus 9:8-12 compare with Revelation 16:2,11)

7th Plague: Hail (Exodus 9:13-35 compare with Revelation 8:7, 16:21)

9th Plague: Darkness (Exodus 10:21-29 compare with Revelation 8:12, 16:10)

10th Plague: Death (Exodus 11:1-12 compare with Revelation 6:8, 9:15)

(The other plagues in Egypt were frogs, lice, flies, and Locusts)

Thus, Moses becomes a type of Christ. Of course, this is not to imply that he was anywhere near the level of Christ, but only that

his life, in spite of his sin, was a forerunner of the real thing. Lockyer tells us there are many similarities between the two:

1. Both were rescued from death in infancy (Exodus 2:2-10 and Matthew 2:14-15).
2. Both were tempted but refused to give in to the enemy (Exodus 7:11 and Matthew 4:1).
3. Both knew what it was to fast for forty days and to be in solitude (Exodus 34:28 and Matthew 4:2).
4. Both had power to control the sea (Exodus 14:21 and Matthew 8:26).
5. Both fed a multitude (Exodus 16:26 and Matthew 14:20-21).
6. Both had a radiant face (Exodus 34:35 and Matthew 17:2).
7. Both endured murmurings (Exodus 15:24 and Mark 7:2).
8. Both were discredited at home (Numbers 12:1 and John 7:5).
9. Both were mighty intercessors (Exodus 32:32 and John 17).
10. Both spoke as the oracles of God (Deuteronomy 18:18 and John 7:46).
11. Both had seventy helpers (Numbers 11:16-17 and Luke 10:1).
12. Both established memorials (Exodus 12:14 and Luke 22:19).
13. Both reappeared after death (Matthew 17:3-Acts 1:3).

Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament. This is referred to by the Jews as *The Torah* or *The Pentateuch*. Jesus Himself spoke of these books and said, ***"Moses wrote of Me."***

When he was 120 years old, he still had good vision and good health. God called him to walk alone up Mount Nebo where he

was kissed to sleep by the angels and buried by God-the only man in the Bible to have God as his undertaker (Deuteronomy 34:6).

MOSES AS A PROPHET

In the Bible we read of *Moses and the prophets*. Less often he is referred to as a prophet, but in actuality, he was the greatest of the prophets in the Pentateuch. Being a prophet and being a leader were not offices that Moses desired to walk in. In fact, he made excuses and drug his feet all the way. His attitude was not just negative. He was so aware of his own weaknesses and possibly was a stutterer. Yet Stephen in the New Testament calls him "*powerful in his words and deeds*" (Acts 7:22).

Moses was unlike any other prophet in that the Lord communicated with him in a very intimate way. In fact, he had the most intimate relationship with God that any other man, besides Adam, had experienced in the Old Testament. Yet he was not perfect and was not even able to enter the promised land, because he struck the rock in anger toward the people. He was a felon, a murderer with a warrant out for his arrest. Yet God chose to use him, in spite of his weaknesses and sins. A writer has written, "The imperfections and flaws of His [Jesus'] prototypes, only serve to underscore the need for One far greater than they, and this One could be no mere man but must be the Son of God Himself."

Deuteronomy 34:10-12 summarizes Moses' status as a prophet: *But since then* [Moses' death] *there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. In all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the*

land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants and in all his land, and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

MOSES STRIKES THE ROCK

In Exodus 17:6 God commands Moses to strike a rock and promises to make water flow in the desert for the people to drink. *"Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.* Water flowed and the people drank, but Moses called the name of the place Meribah, which means strife, because the people complained and did not trust God and were ready to stone Moses for bringing them out of Egypt. Striking the rock is symbolic of the Father striking the Son, who is the Rock, so that the people could drink the water, the Holy Spirit, and be saved from their sin.

Later in Numbers 20:8-12 the people again had no water and complained against Moses and Aaron (Miriam had died Kadesh), saying that they had made them come out of Egypt to die. The Lord spoke to Moses, saying in Numbers 20:8: *"Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals."*

Moses, however, was angry with the people, and responded to them, "*Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?*" (Numbers 20:9b). Instead of obeying God, he took it upon himself to strike the rock instead of speaking to it:

Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

Why was the punishment so harsh for what seems like a small infraction? Was there something greater or more symbolic going on here? Moses' sin involved more than his striking the rock in anger towards the people, instead of speaking to it. The editors of the New King James Bible say, "Striking the rock made it appear that the power to produce water was Moses' own. But God alone is all- powerful. He alone can save. He not even a Moses, is our hope." Scofield sees even more in Moses' actions. He gives 7 reasons why Moses' actions were so wrong:

a. Moses took credit for what God had done ("*must we*" in Numbers 20:10.
b. Moses disobeyed in not speaking to the rock (Numbers 20:11)
c. Moses lost his temper striking the rock twice instead of speaking to it (Numbers 20:11).
d. Moses used a harsh term in addressing God's people ("*rebels*" in Numbers 20:10-Psalms 106:32 & 33 speak of this incident).
e. Moses was provoked with the people about their need and resented them ("*must we*" in Numbers 20:10).
f. Moses was guilty of unbelief because he did not trust the power of God ("*believed me not*" in Numbers 20:12).

g. Moses failed to glorify God before His people ("*to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel*" in Numbers 20:12.
h. Finally, Moses rebelled against God's Word ("*because you rebelled against My word at the water of Meribah*" in Numbers 20:24).

It was very shortly after this that Moses' brother Aaron died and Aaron's son Eleazar became the high priest.

FACE TO FACE: THE DILEMMA OF EXODUS 33:20 AND 33:11 (TAKE FROM ENCYCLOPEDIA OF BIBLE DIFFICULTIES)

EXODUS 33:20a (God shows Moses His glory): *But He* [God] *said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me and live."*

EXODUS 33:11: *So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.*

The Bible draws a clear distinction between gazing on God in all His unveiled glory and beholding a representation or reflection of Him in a personal encounter with Him. John 1:18 says, *"No man has seen God at any time* [that is, in His full glory as Creator and Sovereign God of all the universe.]. We can behold the face of God by faith as we look to Christ, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

Gleason L. Archer in *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* says that in Old Testament times, God showed His face through an angel (as at the interview with Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3:2-6, or else through His glory cloud, which led the people through the wilderness after the Exodus.

Thus, we can say that Yahweh met with Moses and talked to him in some glorious representation that fell short of a full

unveiling of His face, sort of like a speaker on television speaks face to face with his viewing public.

In Exodus 33:18 (*And he said, "Please, show me Your glory.")* Moses was asking to see the very face of God. God warned him that at such a vision he would instantly die. 1st Timothy 6:16: (*...who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen*) speaks of God as being an *unapproachable light*.

The Lord God, to show Moses that he, Moses, had special favor with Himself, did reveal His back side to Moses, without showing His face. Yaweh passed in front of Moses showing only His back side (Exodus 34:6-7).

FACTS ABOUT MOSES YOU MAY NOT KNOW
(Based partially on Lori Hatcher's writings)

1. Moses was the first abandoned child mentioned in the Bible (Exodus 2:3).
2. Moses' name most likely comes from an Egyptian name *Mes* meaning "son," but also could mean "deliver" in Hebrew.
3. Pharaoh's daughter paid Moses' mother to nurse him after she rescued him from the Nile River (Exodus 2:8-9).
4. Moses was the baby of the family (When he was born, Miriam was 10 and Aaron was 6.
5. Moses was a murderer (Exodus 2:12).
6. Moses worked as a shepherd while "on the lam."

7. During the burning bush episode, Moses gave God five lame excuses for why he couldn't be Israel's deliverer (Exodus 3 and 4).
8. Moses probably stuttered (Exodus 4:10 NLT)
9. When Moses insisted he couldn't be Israel's spokesperson, God agreed to allow his older brother, Aaron, to speak for him.
10. Not your typical octogenarian, Moses was 80 years old when he led the children of Israel out of Egypt.
11. Moses was the original snake handler (Exodus 4:3).
12. Moses had leprosy briefly (Exodus 4:6-7).
13. Concerned, I'm sure, for his family's safety and aware of his inability to care for them well while orchestrating the biggest exodus in human history, Moses sent his wife and sons back to his father-in-law's house (Exodus 18:7).
14. Moses was a songwriter (Deuteronomy 32:1-43)
15. Moses did not write the Ten Commandments. God did (Exodus 24:12).
16. The reason Miriam and Aaron temporarily rebelled against Moses was racial. He had married a Cushite or Ethiopian, Zipporah. She most probably was a black woman, but the real issue was she was a Gentile, and the Jewish people despised Gentiles. God was angry with Miriam and Aaron and put leprosy on Miriam for a week as punishment. Moses did not try to defend himself and let God handle the situation. Moses and Zipporah had two sons.
17. Moses saw God (Exodus 24:9-11).
18. Moses was extraordinarily humble (Numbers 12:3).

19. Moses lived to be 120 Years old.
20. Moses knew in advance the day of his death (Deuteronomy 31:14).
21. God buried Moses on the mountain, and his grave was never found (Deuteronomy 34:5-6).

GOD BURIES MOSES

DEUTERONOMY 34:4-6 tells us that Moses was buried by God in the valley of Peor. The author of Hebrews tells us that he was a prefigure of Christ. Hebrews 3:1-6 reads, "*Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, who was faithful to Him* [the Father] *who appointed Him* [Jesus, the Son], *just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses-as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.). Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.*" Joshua, Moses' trusted assistant, became the new leader of the Israelites and was able to cross them over into the promised land.