

# GOOD NEWS For Our Youth

A CHRISTIAN NEWSLETTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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## INTRODUCTION ... The Vision

The Holy Bible is a great book. It contains the greatest stories ever told and it contains the greatest truth we can ever learn. It's a book that can give us the greatest hope we will ever need. The Holy Bible is a book that contains stories of the greatest love we can ever desire. Reading the Bible will help us learn to live in a way that will make our Father God very happy with us. Let us search the Bible and learn. The goal of this newsletter is to bring out some of the truth of the "Good Book" to young people in a simple and interesting way. God has given this task to me and I will continually seek Him to accomplish it through "Good News". L/S/E/S J. Orokunle

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## From the Book of Exodus

It is written in both Jewish and Christian records that Moses was the author of the Pentateuch (also called the Torah), which is the first five books of the Bible including Exodus. The Book of Exodus has some of the most exciting material found in the Old Testament.

The Book of Exodus begins right after the death of Joseph. Because of Joseph, Jacob and all of his family had come to settle in Egypt, which is the land of Goshen where they were eventually enslaved. God used Moses to deliver these people because he had promised Abraham (Genesis 12) that they would be His people and He would always take care of them. God also used Moses to bring the laws to His people once they were out of bondage. Among these laws, are the Ten Commandments which have not lost their importance to God's children over thousands of years.

Today, we worship and gather to praise God in church buildings. We sing and pray for God's spirit to dwell with us in the sanctuaries we create for Him. During Moses' time, God commanded him to build the Holy Tent and he gave him specific instructions on how to build it and how to worship Him. This tent was sometimes called the Tabernacle. It was a holy place where the glory of the presence of God was seen as a cloud that covered the tent. *Exodus 40:35*

In the Book of Exodus, God demonstrates how truly awesome and miraculous He is. Moses wrote this book so Israel would always remember to follow God. This is also a message for all of us. God says that we are His people and He will always be there to free us, to fight our battles, and to direct our lives.

## The Story of Moses

**Exodus: 1-14**

Moses was one of the greatest heroes in the Old Testament. Through Moses, God brought the Israelites out of 400 years of slavery to become a nation. Also, Moses was given laws from God called the Ten Commandments.

Moses was born during a very hard time in Israel's history. After the death of Joseph and his generation, the new Pharaoh feared the mighty nation of Israelites. He wanted to keep the population down by killing all of the male children at birth. When that didn't work, Pharaoh commanded that all newborn males be thrown into the Nile River. In a great act of faith, Moses was put into a basket by his mother. This basket floated downstream and was found by Pharaoh's daughter. Within the Egyptian kingdom, she raised Moses, who was a Hebrew child as her own child.

When Moses had become a grown man, one day he went out to look at the Hebrew people, who were actually his brethren. He saw how the Egyptians burdened them with work and beat them without mercy. Because of this, Moses became so angry one day he killed an

## THE STORY OF MOSES CONTINUED

Egyptian for beating a Hebrew. Pharaoh was going to kill Moses for this act against an Egyptian so Moses decided to run away.

Moses stayed in the desert town of Midian where he was married and lived as a shepherd. While Moses was taking care of the sheep one day, God spoke to him miraculously from a burning bush. God told him to go to the ruler of Egypt and demand that he set the Israelites free. Moses didn't think he was capable and asked God to send someone else. God told Moses that He would be with him. Moses complained about not being able to speak well. The Lord became angry with Moses but told him that his brother Aaron was coming to meet him. (*Exodus 4:11-12*) The Lord said that Moses should tell Aaron what to say so he could speak for Moses.

*We know that after God sent the ten plagues to the Egyptians, the Pharaoh finally let the people go. Moses led his people through the wilderness toward the land that God had promised them. The book of Exodus also continues the story with: Crossing the Red Sea, Manna from Heaven, Ten Commandments, etc.*

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## **MANNA FROM HEAVEN**

Not very long after Moses had freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, they started their complaints. These were a people who had witnessed the great miracles of God. They knew they were special to God and still they began to complain. (*Exodus 16:3: And the children of Israel said unto them. Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full: for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill the whole assembly with hunger.*) These people had forgotten how they suffered under slavery in Egypt. Now their only thought was about what they would eat. They complained that they were delivered so they could starve in the wilderness.

Once again, God performed a miracle for his people. (*Exodus 16:4: Then said the Lord unto Moses. Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.*) God saved the Israelites from starvation. Once again, He demonstrated His power over all of creation. Every morning at dawn a bread-like food appeared on the ground. It was white and

## WILL GOD PART A SEA FOR US?

A few months after Moses and the Israelites left Egypt, they found themselves in a serious predicament. The Red Sea was ahead of them and the Egyptian Army was behind them. God spoke to Moses and told him to lift his staff and stretch his hand out over the sea. God sent a mighty wind that blew for hours until the water slowly divided. The Israelites were able to cross over on dry land. As we know, the Egyptians tried to follow and they were drowned as the water closed in on them.

When we trust God and look to him for help in our times of trouble, he will save us. When the enemy is at our back and we don't know which way to go . . . when difficulties in our lives stop us from progressing . . . God is ready to make a way for us! He is always there waiting for us to look to him. We must have faith and patience to wait on Him. He is ready to help us while we just stand firm in the same way Moses did at the Red Sea. (*Exodus 14:13*)

*Psalm 46:10: Be still, and know that I am God... "There were so many times when the Israelites doubted God and lost faith, but he was always with them. Later, when Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, God parted the waters of the Jordan for them the same way he had parted the Red Sea. "*

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tasted like wafers made with honey. The Israelites called it manna, which means: "what is it". (*Exodus 16:4-36 tells the rules that governed the gathering of the Manna and how the Israelites at first lacked faith and were disobedient.*) We should never forget who God is and what He means to us. He is the father that never sleeps or rests from watching over us. He knows our needs and the desires of our hearts. He provides for us even when we don't deserve anything. When we trust Him and stay within His will, we receive what He desires for us. Sometimes we must learn to be happy with one situation before we can move to another. We must believe that God knows what is best for us.

(*In Deuteronomy 18:15 Moses prophesied saying: "The Lord your God will give you a prophet like me, who is one of your own people. Listen to him."*) This is about Jesus. He is often talked about in a way that resembles Moses. It is said that Jesus is the church's Moses who is bringing His people through the wilderness land we now live in. Hebrews 3:1-6 especially compares Jesus and Moses. Although they are compared, this scripture reminds us that Jesus is greater than Moses. We thank God that He continues to provide a way out for His people. We thank God for our savior, Jesus Christ who leads and guides us in a time such as this.