

## Moses/Exodus

"Exodus" refers to the departure or escape of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, led by Moses. The term itself means "a going out" or "mass departure", and it is also the name of the second book of the Old Testament, which details this journey and the events surrounding it. The story of Exodus is central to Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions, symbolising liberation, faith, and the journey towards freedom.

### The key calling of Moses

Moses centres on faithfulness to God and the importance of following His laws. Moses teachings emphasise obedience, justice, and trust in God's promises, highlighting the need for a strong relationship with God and mutual care within the community.

### Notable life moments

Baby in the basket-Favour of God, a recurring theme to date

Burning bush-divine commissioning, revelation of Gods identity, symbol of divine presence and protection, a call to Holiness, the Glory of God revealed, the miraculous supernatural power of God, transformation from shepherd to leader.

### 3 key focus of Moses calling

1. **Delivers the Israelites from slavery in Egypt**
2. **Receives the Ten Commandments**
3. **Guides the people towards the Promised Land but did not enter.**

#### 1. Deliverance

The Israelites were in bondage in Egypt because, over time, the population grew and the Egyptian rulers saw them as a threat (**Exodus 1:8-10**). As a result, Pharaoh enslaved them to control and oppressed them, forcing them into harsh labour and restricting their freedoms (**Exodus 1:11-14**). Their need for deliverance arose from this oppression and suffering, prompting them to seek liberation and freedom from slavery (**Exodus 2:23-25**).

What can cause us to become enslaved/in bondage?

How does enslavement and bondage restrict our relationship with God?

Who is our Moses?

## 2. The purpose of the Ten Commandments Exodus 20:2-17

Moses the Lawgiver, The Law of Moses. Mosaic Covenant (Sinaitic Covenant)

To provide a guiding framework for moral and ethical conduct, shaping the relationship between individuals and God, as well as among themselves. These commandments outline fundamental principles—such as respect, honesty, and compassion—that help foster justice, harmony, and faithfulness within the community. By following these laws, people are encouraged to remain faithful to God and uphold values that sustain a righteous, compassionate society.

### Covenant

Sets God's people apart as a Holy Nation, royal priesthood, a chosen people: continued in NT teachings for every believer. 1 Peter 2:9

Blessings for obedience

Future covenant with Jesus

Sealed with Blood.

### Moses Character; strengths and weaknesses

- **Leadership:** Moses guided the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness, showing strong leadership and courage.
- **Faith:** He demonstrated unwavering faith in God, trusting divine guidance even in challenging circumstances.
- **Humility:** Moses was described as the most humble man on earth, putting the needs of his people before his own.
- **Perseverance:** Despite difficulties and opposition, Moses persisted in his mission and remained committed to his calling.
- **Compassion:** He often pleaded with God on behalf of the Israelites, showing deep compassion for his people.
- **Obedience:** Moses followed God's instructions, even when they were difficult or unpopular.
- **Wisdom:** He acted as a mediator and judge, providing wise counsel and resolving disputes among the Israelites.

Moses had several notable weaknesses. He was hesitant and doubted his own abilities, particularly when God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt—Moses expressed concern about his lack of eloquence and slow speech (**Exodus 4:10**: “Moses said to the Lord, ‘O Lord, I am not eloquent... I am slow of speech and of tongue.’”). He also struggled with anger, as seen when he struck the rock at Meribah out of frustration (**Numbers 20:10-12**: “Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff... But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ‘Because you did not trust in me enough... you will not bring this community into the land I give them.’”), which ultimately led to God forbidding him from entering the Promised Land. Additionally, Moses sometimes wavered in faith and patience when faced with the complaints and disobedience of the Israelites (**Numbers 11:11-15**: “Moses said to the Lord, ‘Why have you brought this trouble on your servant?... If this is how you are going to treat me, put me to death right now...’”).

### **Key Strength**

Moses and Aaron were brothers who played pivotal roles in the story of the Exodus (Exodus 6:20). Moses was chosen to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, while Aaron served as his spokesperson and assistant, often communicating Moses' messages to the people and Pharaoh (Exodus 4:14-16; Exodus 7:1-2). Their relationship was marked by cooperation and mutual support, with Aaron also becoming the first high priest of Israel (Exodus 28:1), reinforcing their partnership in both leadership and spiritual guidance.

### **Moses in the New Testament**

Moses is frequently mentioned in the New Testament as a foundational figure of the Jewish faith and an important precursor to the teachings of Jesus. He is cited as the lawgiver, with references to the "Law of Moses" appearing throughout the Gospels, Acts, and the Epistles. Jesus and the apostles often invoked Moses to explain the fulfilment of prophecy and the transition from the old covenant to the new.

For example, during the Transfiguration, Moses appears alongside Elijah to speak with Jesus, symbolising the connection between the law and the prophets. The teachings of Moses are also referenced in discussions about faith, obedience, and the nature of God's promises, making him a significant figure in Christian theology.

### **Moses, the Pastor, Legacy**

The pastoral care message of Moses centered on leading the Israelites from slavery to a relationship with God as His chosen, covenant people, defined by themes of **covenant faithfulness, obedience, and the mediating love of God**. As a shepherd-leader, his message focused on nurturing the people, bringing them into a right relationship with God, and providing both physical and spiritual guidance.

- **Remembering God's Covenant and Faithfulness:** Moses constantly reminded the people of their identity as God's chosen people, urging them to "remember" their history and the covenant established with the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob).
- **Obedience as the Proper Response:** The core message was that, because God delivered them out of bondage, the correct response from an undeserving people was faithful obedience to God's commandments (the Torah).
- **Intercession and Mediating Love:** Moses acted as a mediator between a holy God and a stubborn people, often pleading with God for mercy and forgiveness on their behalf, demonstrating a deep love for them despite their complaints.
- **Equipping and Empowering Others:** To avoid burnout and provide better care, Moses (following Jethro's advice) empowered other leaders to share the burden of judging and caring for the community, a model of decentralized leadership.
- **Focus on God's Glory:** Moses was driven by a desire for God to be glorified, not himself. He taught that the people's safety and success were directly tied to their dependence on God rather than their own strength