

# The Passover Story

## Chapter Three- Moses Grows Up

Once it happened that Moses was playing on King Pharaoh's lap. He saw the shining crown, studded with jewels, and reached for it and took it off.

Pharaoh, who was superstitious like all his fellow Egyptians and was also always afraid of losing his throne, asked his astrologers and advisors the meaning of young Moses' action.

Most of Pharaoh's advisors interpreted Moses' removal of King Pharaoh's crown as a threat to Pharaoh's kingship and suggested that Moses be put to death before he could do any harm. One of the king's advisors, however, suggested that they should first test the boy to see whether his action was motivated by intelligence, or whether he was just reaching for sparkly objects as any other child would.

Pharaoh agreed to this plan, and two bowls were set before young Moses. One contained gold and jewels, and the other held glowing fire coals. Moses reached out for the gold, but an angel directed his hand to the coals.

Moses snatched a glowing coal and put it to his lips.

He burned his tongue, but his life was saved. After that fateful test, Moses suffered from a slight speech defect, and he spoke with a stutter.

Moses grew up in the palace, away from the Jewish people and their suffering and slavery. As a young man, though, he left the palace and discovered the hardship that his people were going through.

One day, he saw an Egyptian officer beating an Israelite to death, and to save the Israelite, he killed the officer. The next day, he saw two Jews fighting; when he scolded them, they got upset and reported what he'd done to the Egyptian officer. When Pharaoh heard about Moses' deed, he ordered that Moses be killed, and Moses was forced to flee to a land called Midian.

The priest of Midian, named Jethro, had once been one of King Pharaoh's foremost advisors, but because of his friendly attitude towards the Jews, he'd had to leave Pharaoh's court.

Jethro had then settled in Midian, and there, he became the highest priest of the land. Being a very smart man, Jethro soon realized the silliness of idol-worship,

and he gave up his priesthood. The people of Midian were not pleased about this and they started to treat him and his family unkindly.

Often, the Midianites would drive Jethro's daughters away from the town's well when they came to water the sheep of their father, and Jethro's daughters had to wait until all the other shepherds were gone before they were able to get water from the well.

On the day Moses arrived in Midian, he saw the rough shepherds chase the daughters of Jethro away from the well. Moses stood up for the girls, and he helped them water their sheep. On that day they returned home much earlier than usual, and Jethro was surprised to see them back so soon. His daughters told him about the unexpected help. Jethro immediately invited Moses to his house, and soon after, Moshe married his oldest daughter Zipporah.

Zipporah and Moses had two sons. Moses called the first one Gershom ("a stranger there") because he was a stranger in the land of Midian. He called his second he called Eliezer, which means "G-d is my helper," in gratitude for G-d's protection.

**Additional resource:** Click [here](#) to watch an entertaining video about Passover. Click [here](#) for Passover coloring pages.