



Lesson 40

Moses Returns to Egypt

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text: Exodus 4:20-31• Setting: approx. 1445 B.C. in Egypt• Characters: God, Moses, Zipporah, and Aaron• Plot: Moses journeys back to Egypt and | <p>nearly dies on the way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key word(s): “my _____” (vv 22, 23)• Climax: <i>Exodus 4:24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him.</i> |
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Marching Orders

1. (vv 20-23) Moses had received his commission from God as the deliverer of Israel and was given specific instructions:
 - a. He was to work _____ as God had instructed.
 - b. He was to be prepared for Pharaoh to be _____.
 - c. He was to inform Pharaoh that Israel belonged to God as a _____ to a father, and that failure to set the Hebrews free would be punished with the death of Pharaoh’s firstborn son.

Application → When God told Moses to tell Pharaoh that Israel was God’s firstborn, it was more than a term of endearment – Pharaoh was being warned that he was abusing as a slave the nation that God honored as his elect, _____ people. **“Let my son go.”**

Marital Strife

2. (vv 24-31) En route to Egypt, Moses and his family stop at an inn. What follows is an obscure story. The passage mentions that, while staying at the inn, God sought to kill Moses (perhaps with a sudden and severe illness). Why would God seek to kill the man he had just called to lead Israel? Notice:
 - a. Moses evidently had been disobedient about the sign of the _____: he had failed to circumcise his son. We know this is the case because Zipporah performed the ceremony for him.
 - b. Whether Moses refused to obey in this matter, or Zipporah refused to allow it, the issue of obedience was addressed. Zipporah expressed her anger about the failure to circumcise their son and her having to do it herself by calling Moses a “_____ husband.”

Application → The incident at the inn showed weakness in Moses’ leadership: either he was unwilling to obey, or he was unable (initially) to lead his wife to obey in the matter. When God sought to kill Moses, it seems unreasonably harsh. But God was not being capriciously angry – he was purifying his servant of weakness and _____. Matthew Henry remarks that this sin, “was probably the effect of his being unequally yoked with a Midianite, who was too indulgent of her child, while Moses was too indulgent of her. Note,

- (1) We have need to watch carefully over our own hearts, lest fondness for any relation prevail above our love to God, and take us off from our duty to him. It is charged upon Eli that he _____ his sons more than God (1 Sa. 2:29); and see Mt. 10:37.

(2) Even good men are apt to cool in their zeal for God and duty when they have long been deprived of the society of the _____: solitude has its advantages, but they seldom counterbalance the loss of Christian communion.”¹

Meeting the Family

3. (v 27) While Moses journeyed back to Egypt, Aaron was told by God to go meet his long-lost brother in the wilderness.
- a. They met in “the mount of _____” (called Mt. Horeb or Mt. Sinai) where the LORD first met with Moses at the burning bush.
 - b. Their reunion was as heartwarming as it was unusual. Moses relayed to Aaron all that God had told him.

Application → Not only was Aaron a mouthpiece for Moses, but he was also a _____. Serving the LORD is difficult, serving by oneself is even more so. We should thank God for the friends and companions the LORD gives us for our spiritual journey.

4. (v 28-30) Later in Goshen, Aaron gathered all the elders of Israel.
- a. Aaron spoke to the elders on behalf of Moses and told them all that God had said.
 - b. Then, the people witnessed the miracles that God had told Moses to show as divine proof of his mission. The people believed and worshiped, bowing their heads in _____ to God.

Application → How faithful God is to his _____! He promised Moses that he would send Aaron, and he did; he promised Moses that he would do wonders, and he did; he promised the Hebrews that he would deliver them, and he did.

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “son” • 1. a) miracles; b) uncooperative; c) son → free-born • 2. a) covenant; b) bloody → disobedience; honoured; faithful • 3. a) God → companion • 4. b) gratitude → promises

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

¹ Henry, Matthew. Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.