

Moses: Prince, Prophet and Pilgrim

Narrator: Bible scholars believe that Moses was born about 1520 B. C. This was when Egypt basically ruled the known world. It was a period of splendor and building activity evidenced by the vast temple of Karnak.

The Lord had told Abraham:

Genesis 15:13-14 (First Quoter)

"Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions."

Narrator: It was Abraham's grandson Jacob, with seventy of his descendants who went down to Egypt. Now 400 years had passed and the Lord was about to fulfill this promise made to Abraham centuries before. Now the Pharaoh was viewing the growing population of Hebrews with grave concern. Seeing their multiplying numbers as a growing threat, he appointed cruel slave masters to ruthlessly force them into ever increasing hardships. Then he ordered every boy born to a Hebrew woman be thrown into the Nile allowing only the girls to live. This is the world that greeted baby Moses at his birth.

Exodus 2:1-10 (Second Quoter)

Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put in among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him, "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

"Yes, go." she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to here, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

Narrator: We are told twice in the New Testament that even when he was a baby, Moses was recognized as being "no ordinary child". Because he was given to his mother to raise for a period of time he was aware of his "roots" and his siblings, Aaron and Miriam. We don't know how old he was when taken to live in the royal palace to be reared as a prince in the most powerful country in the world. We are told that he was "educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action." When he was forty years old he went to visit his "own people" and his life took a dramatic turn. He was transformed from an honored Prince living in a luxurious palace to a hunted fugitive fleeing for his life with only the clothes on his back.

Exodus 2:11-20 (Third Quoter)

One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?"

The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian? Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known."

When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock. Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

When the girls returned to Jethro their father, he asked them, "Why have you returned so early today?"

They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock."

"And where is he?" he asked his daughters. "Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat."

Narrator: So Moses went to dinner and ended up staying for 40 years. He married one of Jethro's daughters and as he spent days and years tending his father-in-law's sheep he learned much about the lay of the land and how to cope with the austere desert environment. Little did he know that one day he would shepherd a great multitude of people in that same desert. The truth was, God was preparing Moses for another sudden change in his life. Back in Egypt we are told the Israelites "groaned in their slavery" and were crying to the Lord for help.

Exodus 3:1-10 (Fourth Quoter)

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush did not burn up."

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out

because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

Narrator: When Moses and his brother Aaron presented their case to the great Pharaoh of Egypt, Pharaoh not only blatantly refused to free his Hebrew slaves, he increased his cruelty and oppression over them. In order to force their release God enabled Moses and Aaron to bring terrible plagues on the Egyptians. Time and again Pharaoh promised to let them go but when the effects of the plague subsided, he hardened his heart, and refused to release them.

Psalm 105:24 - 36 (Fifth Quoter)

The Lord made his people very fruitful; He made them too numerous for their foes,
whose hearts He turned to hate His people, to conspire against His servants.
He sent Moses His servant, and Aaron, whom he had chosen.
They performed his miraculous signs among them, His wonders in the land of Ham.
He sent darkness and made the land dark - for had they not rebelled against His words?
He turned their waters into blood, causing their fish to die.
Their land teemed with frogs, which went up into the bedrooms of their rulers.
He spoke, and there came swarms of flies, and gnats throughout their country.
He turned their rain into hail, with lightening through their land;
He struck down their vines and fig trees and shattered the trees of their country.
He spoke and the locusts came, grasshoppers without number,
they ate up every green thing in their land, ate up the produce of their soil.
Then He struck down all the firstborn in their land, the firstfruits of all their manhood.

Narrator: Although the firstborn of the Egyptians, both man and beast was slain in this last plague, God was careful to protect His children. It was at this time He gave careful instructions to the Hebrews of how to observe the Passover Feast. Observance of this feast, as an act of obedience and faith, not only protected them from the angel of death that swept over the land during the night, but for centuries to come it would be a symbol and reminder of God's saving and delivering power.

Exodus 12:21-32 (Sixth Quoter)

. . . Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframes. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over the doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as He promised, observe the ceremony. And when your children ask you, "What does this ceremony mean to you?" then you will tell them, "It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians." Then the people bowed down and worshipped. The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "UP! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go . . . **(Omit - and also bless me.)**

Narrator: The sacrifice of the Passover lamb offered in place of the oldest son, was a beautiful picture of the One who would be sacrificed on a cross some 1500 years later. God Himself would give **His** Firstborn Son as a sacrifice for sin, for the sins of Israel, for your sins and mine and for the sins of the whole world. The first born of the Israelites in Egypt was spared from physical death when, by faith, they sprinkled the blood of a sacrificial lamb on the doorposts. Today people are saved from eternal death by faith in the sacrificial death and shed blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

After celebrating the Passover, the Israelites took off in the desert. When a census was taken, we are told that the number of men "20 years and older, who (were) able to serve in the army" was 603,550. Adding to these the Levites, the elderly, the disabled, the women and the children, scholars estimate that there were somewhere between two and three million people altogether. When you consider this multitude with their possessions, camping gear, supplies and articles for war along with "large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds", we get a little picture of the great procession leaving Egypt under Moses' direction. But God Himself led the way. So that His presence would always be obvious, His pillar of cloud led the way and sheltered them by day. His pillar of fire lit their way and warmed them by night.

But the army of the greatest nation on earth was soon in hot pursuit.

Exodus 14:5-28 (Seventh Quoter)

(Note: This is a long passage for one person and you may wish to break it after the fifth paragraph for a second person complete the passage.)

When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!"

So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. The Egyptians - all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops - pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up and there were the Egyptians marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt. Didn't we say to you in Egypt, "Leave us alone let us serve the Egyptians? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

Moses answered the people "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for

you; you need only to be still."

Then the Lord said, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

Then the angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it and the Lord swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen - the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

Narrator: Although it is estimated that a direct, well travelled route from Egypt to Canaan would have taken about two weeks, the Sinaiatic detour taken by the Israelites added military advantage and gave time to organize. In approximately three months they arrived at Mount Sinai where they camped for about a year.

Here Moses spoke with God face to face and on two occasions spent 40 days in His presence. During these times he meticulously recorded detailed instructions from the Lord regarding laws that would govern every aspect of their life and worship.

God himself wrote *Ten Commands* on tablets of stone and personally presented them to Moses. There could thus be no question about their authenticity, no possibility for human error in communication. These commands were and are God's measure of perfection. These were the basis for Hebrew law and the blueprint of God's standard for a righteous life.

Moses left the mountain top with his precious treasure securely in hand. But when he reached the camp he found a rebellious people jubilantly worshipping a golden calf, the main god of the Egyptians. And he heard their wild talk about returning to Egypt and the slavery from which they had come. In a fit of righteous anger Moses hurled the precious tablets to the ground, smashing them to pieces.

But God in His mercy had Moses hew out another set of stone tablets. On them He again wrote out His commands so that a record of His laws could be established, not only for the Israelites, but for all mankind and all generations that would follow.

Moses broke the stone tablets, but the commands of God written on them have been broken by every person born to this earth. As God replaced the broken tablets for Moses, He replaced mankind's broken commands with a New Covenant. Jesus satisfied every aspect of God's laws for righteousness on man's behalf. Jesus took man's broken laws on Himself and made it possible for mankind to be covered with the righteousness of God. Jesus, who knew no sin, was made sin for us so that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

The stone tablets were stored in a very special chest that was called the *Arc of the Covenant*. As the Jews today plan the construction of the third temple, there is much speculation about where this chest might be located. The *Arc of the Covenant* contains stone tablets inscribed with immutable commands written by the very hand of God. Think of what it would mean if it is ever found.

Exodus 20:1-19 (Eighth Quoter)

And God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself any idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them, for I the Lord your GOD, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.

Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but He rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house, you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself

and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."

Narrator: But the Israelites were a fickle bunch. Even though the Lord had demonstrated His mighty power on their behalf, time and again, they refused to trust Him for their needs. They murmured continually against their circumstances, against God's effort to bless them and against Moses.

It is estimated that an 11 day march would have taken them from Mt. Sinai to Kadesh Barnea, just 50 miles from the southern gate to Canaan. Every mile must have been a struggle for Moses as he battled endlessly with this great multitude who constantly grumbled against him and rebelled against his leadership. What a great relief it must have been for him when the end was finally in sight. How he must have savored the day when he would be free from the rebellious horde for whom he had been responsible. How he must have relished the thought of being able to relax and just live a "normal" life.

But that was not to be. Twelve spies were sent out to explore the land. What they saw boggled their minds. Yes, the wealth of the land and the possibilities were awesome, but 10 of the 12 spies were terrified by the strength and fortifications of its inhabitants. These 10 painted such a grim picture that no one would listen to Joshua and Caleb's minority report. What followed was a dismal scene.

Numbers 14:1-10 (Ninth Quoter)

That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in the desert. Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt? And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes and said to the entire Israelite assembly. "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, He will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

But the whole assembly talked about stoning them.

Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the Tent of Meetings to the Israelites.

Numbers 14:26-35 (Tenth Quoter)

(And) the Lord said to Moses and Aaron: "How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. So tell them, 'As surely as I live,' declares the Lord, 'I will do to you the very things I heard you say: in this desert your bodies will fall - every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

"As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected. But you - your bodies will fall in this desert. Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lie in the desert. For

forty years - one year for each of the forty days you explored the land - you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me. They will meet their end in this desert; here they will die."

Narrator: What a blow it must have been for Moses as the horror of the moment settled into grim reality: He was going to be saddled with **another 40 years** of grappling with this throng of rebellious malcontents. And the older generation knew that for the remainder of their earthly days they would have nothing to look forward to but a bleak future in an austere desert environment. If they were difficult to deal with before, think of what it must have been like for Moses to try to shepherd them now.

At the end of 40 years which must have seemed like an eternity to Moses, the Lord kept His promise and the second generation arrived at the Promised Land. This younger generation was now very different from their fathers who were ingrained in the mindset of Egyptian slavery. Those who were now to enter into the land of promise had been hardened by many years of desert living in a climate of utter dependence on God for survival.

But for Moses, even after his long, grueling journey, he was not to enter in. Moses was described in Numbers 12:3, as being the meekest man on the face of the earth. But even meek Moses on one occasion blew his cool. When commanded by God to strike a rock to supply water for his thirsty brood, he smacked it twice in anger failing to give God the glory for the miracle of water that gushed forth. For this he was severely rebuked. And because of this he would not enter Canaan or rest there from his labors. Moses' earthly struggles were over. God had a more permanent rest in mind for His faithful servant.

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 (Eleventh Quoter)

Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land - from Gilead to Dan, (Omit: "all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean, the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms as far as Zoar.") The Lord said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it."

And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses.

Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt - to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Narrator: In Psalm 90 Moses gives us a glimpse of his utter dependence on the eternal God of Israel for survival and beautiful relationship they enjoyed, but he does not downplay the impact of the struggles he experienced as God's pilgrim in the wilderness of life.

Psalm 90:1-17 (Twelfth Quoter)

Lord, You have been our dwelling place through all generations.
Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."
For a thousand years in Your sight
are like a day that has gone by or like a watch in the night.
You sweep men away in the sleep of death;
they are like the new grass of the morning - through the morning it springs up new,
by evening it is dry and withered.

We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation.
You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan.
The length of our days is seventy years - or eighty, if we have the strength,
yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass and we fly away.

Who knows the power of your anger? For Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due You.
Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Relent, O Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.
Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble.
May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us -
yes, establish the work of our hands.

Narrator: It is interesting that God buried Moses on Mount Nebo, which seems to be the same area from which Elijah was taken in a whirlwind to heaven. If Elijah crossed the Jordan at Jericho which Scripture seems to indicate, he would have been very close to Mount Nebo and could possibly have been taken to glory from the same mountain as Moses. This association takes on new significance when we consider that it was Moses and Elijah who returned to converse with Jesus on the Mountain of Transfiguration.

Luke 9:28-36 (Thirteenth Quoter)

(Omit: "About 8 days after . . .")

. . . Jesus took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As He was praying the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about His departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. And His companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to Him, Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.? (He did not know what he was

saying.)

While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen, listen to him." When the voice had spoken they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

Narrator: Of all the great characters that we read about in the Old Testament, who was it that appeared with our Lord? It wasn't David, a man after God's own heart; it wasn't Abraham, the friend of God; it wasn't Ezekiel or Daniel, or one of the other great prophets. It was Moses who was with Elijah on that memorable occasion. **Moses, the servant of God the one who had supervised the establishment of the passover feast** was one of the two people from Old Testament times with whom Jesus spoke about the great redemption that would be accomplished by His death on the cross.

Jesus, the Lamb of God, would be the sacrificial lamb offered in the ultimate fulfillment of the Passover Feast first celebrated with Moses in Egypt. Through Jesus, forgiveness for sin and salvation from eternal punishment would be available to all mankind.

Narrator: Moses was indeed a remarkable man. He is described in Scripture as the *servant of God, the meekest man on the face of the earth and the only prophet with whom God spoke face to face*. He was a great man of faith. Armed only with the promises of God, he took a disorganized multitude of disgruntled slaves from the depths of heathenism, struggled with them for over forty years in one of the world's harshest environments and deposited their second generation on Canaan's shores, a disciplined, God fearing nation, ready to claim God's land of promise.

Hebrews 11:23-27 (First Quoter)

By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible.

Narrator: As the events of this world unfold before our eyes, and the clouds of contempt, even possible persecution, start to gather around God's people, in this country, may we also in bold faith look steadfastly to Him who is invisible. In these few years we are given to represent our Lord as pilgrims in a foreign land, may we learn from Moses to gladly choose the scorn of this world over its passing approval. May we regard disgrace for the sake of Christ a greater treasure than anything this world can offer. And no matter how difficult the trials we are asked to bear, may we, as Moses, keep our eyes focused on that day when we will see our Savior face to face as we covet those precious words, "Well done you good and faithful servant."

Prayer

In conclusion, have someone (other than the narrator) present a short, pithy challenge emphasizing the joy and blessing of memorizing Scripture. Be sure to counter the "Oh, I could never do that!" syndrome, by

stressing that the participants are not just a gifted few, but only people like them who committed to memorizing God's holy Word for themselves.