

# THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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# Moses

## **Introduction**

Moses was God’s man of the hour. The Lord made His choice of Moses manifest to both Jews and heathens by performing signs through him (see Ex. 4:29; 7:6-9; 17:8-12). Jehovah found something special in Moses early on in his life (see Ex. 2:2; Acts 7:20). Moses was somewhat aware of God’s special interest in him early on (see Acts 7:25). Through time Moses developed a wonderful relationship with God. When Moses died, the scriptures tell us that “*there hath not arisen a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom Jehovah knew face to face*” (Deut. 34:10). Some fourteen hundred years after Moses’ death he was found, in spirit form, appearing before Jesus, Peter, James, and John at the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1ff). Moses was given the divine tasks of delivering the people from Egyptian bondage, delivering God’s law to them, and bringing them to the land of promise. Through these three events we learn much about one of the most respected men in the word of God (see Jn. 9:28-29; Acts 6:11; Jude 1:9).

## **The Early Days of Moses**

**Moses’ life can be divined into three forty year sections.** His first forty years were lived out in Egypt (Acts 7:22-23). Moses was born in Egypt to Amram of the tribe of Levi and Jochebed his wife (Ex. 2:1ff; 6:20). The Hebrews had been multiplying at an alarming rate in Egypt (Ex. 1:12). Pharaoh of Egypt consequently passes an edict to murder all male Hebrew babies to avert the population explosion (Ex. 1:22). Jochebed prepares an ark for baby Moses and places him within hoping that God would save the child. By the providence of God the daughter of Pharaoh finds Moses and raises him as her own child in Egypt. Forty years would pass in Moses’ life as he was trained in the ways of Egypt (Acts 7:22). Parallel to his Egyptian training Moses was being taught the law of Jehovah God as

## Local News:

**Welcome to all our visitors:**

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

**Herb Sims** had to go to the hospital this past Wednesday. He was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. Herb will be taking medication to remedy the problem and seems to be doing well at this time.

### **Adult Bible Studies:**

Sunday mornings we are studying the book of James and Wednesday we are studying The Song of Solomon.

**Continue to pray for our shut-ins:**

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Calvin York**  
692-0489 (Home).

**Bessie Murphy**  
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

well (Acts 7:23). Through time Moses developed faith and conviction in the ways of the Lord. He left Egypt, at the age of forty, due to his faith (see Heb. 11:24-27).

### **The Middle Period of Moses' Life**

The second period of Moses' life extends from his fortieth year to the eightieth (Ex. 7:6-9; Acts 7:23, 29). Moses fled Egypt and comes to Midian where he meets and marries a Midianite woman named Zipporah (Ex. 2:20-22). Moses spends forty years in Midian and has a son named Gershom. Eventually, the Lord calls unto Moses from a burning bush and briefs him on his mission in Egypt. He is to go to Egypt and deliver the Hebrews out of their bondage (Ex. 3:1-10). Moses reveals a lack of confidence and fear on several occasions during his conversation with the Lord. Moses said, "*Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?*" (Ex. 3:11). Moses was afraid that **no one would believe him** (Ex. 4:1) and that **no one would listen** to him because he was **not eloquent** with words (Ex. 4:10). Moses concludes that God should send someone else (Ex. 4:13). At this point the Lord's patience with Moses runs out and he commands Moses to do His will (Ex. 4:14ff). God saw something in Moses that Moses did not see in his own self. Here was a man who lacked confidence, conviction, faith, and fear. Moses was not the man that we read about in the book of Deuteronomy at this point. Like all of us, it took time (I Cor. 3:1-3), tribulations (James 1:2ff), study (II Tim. 2:15), and effort (Phil. 3:13-14) to become the great man of faith, courage, confidence, and conviction.

### **The Last Period of Moses' Life**

The last period of Moses' life is from his eightieth to one hundred and twentieth years (Ex. 7:7; Deut. 34:7). Moses obeys the will of God and returns to Egypt from Midian at the age of 80 (Ex. 7:7). His objective is to command Pharaoh of Egypt, in the name of Jehovah God, to let the Hebrews go out of Egypt that they may serve God (Ex. 5:1-2). Moses' commandment, by the authority of Jehovah God, irritated Pharaoh. The Egyptian ruler hardens his heart against Jehovah because it was not something that he wanted to do (see Ex. 10:3). Ten plagues are sent upon Egypt that the Lord may show the world His great might (Rom. 9:17). Eventually Pharaoh allows the Hebrews to leave and Moses directs them to Sinai where they would receive the law of God.

The people's faith in Moses, as God's spokesman, was established at Sinai. When they saw the smoke, fire, and heard the thundering they were terrified (Ex. 19:16; 20:18-21). God spoke the Ten Commandments to the people in their hearing and delivered the rest of

the law through Moses. God then commanded Israel to enter into Canaan and accept his gift of the land that was promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob yet when Israel came to Canaan they rebelled through a spirit of fear (see Numb. 13:25-14:3; Deut. 1:19-26). Due to this sin Israel would wander in the wilderness for forty years and most would die (see Numb. 14:29-34).

The last days of Moses are spent preaching to Israel in the plains of Moab at the end of their years of wandering. Moses prepares the people to enter into a land that was occupied by wicked men who practiced idolatry (see Deut. 9:5). Moses looks back on his experiences with Israel and proclaims, “*Ye have been rebellious against Jehovah from the day that I knew you*” (Deut. 9:24). When Moses completes his final words to Israel he indicates little confidence in their future dedication to Jehovah (see Deut. 31:27). Moses too had sinned against God and was thereby unable to enter into Canaan (see Numb. 20:10-13) though he pleaded with the Lord to let him enter in (Deut. 3:23-29). Moses had now faithfully completed his divinely appointed threefold tasks. Moses’ life ends at the top of Mount Pisgah (Deut. 34:1-8).

### **What Lessons can we learn from the Life of Moses?**

A detailed study of the life of Moses will yield many lessons for the Christian. As Moses went about to fulfill his duty of delivering Israel from Egyptian bondage, delivering God’s law to the people, and bringing them to the promised land there are many God approved and valuable character traits exposed. We find a man who was not strong in the beginning of mission yet through time he became strong in the Lord (Ex. 3-4). The first lesson that we learn when studying the life of Moses is that it **takes time and effort** to develop the Christian virtues (II Pet. 1:5-10). Gospel preaching will certainly produce this type of approach to life (see Rom. 1:5). Secondly, Moses was a man of great **faith** (Numb. 12:7; Heb. 3:5; 11:23ff). Moses’ faith was made evident by his obedient acts (Heb. 11:1ff.). Those who proclaim a faith in Jesus Christ today will evidence that belief by their obedient acts (see Jn. 3:36). Thirdly, Moses was a man of great **conviction** (see Ex. 32:15-21, 26; Numb. 16:1-7, 15). The more heaven, hell, and eternity come to be real in a man’s life the more convicted he will be. Fourthly, we find Moses being a man who **feared God** rather than man (Heb. 12:21). Moses put the fear of God on display when convicting Israel of their sins (Deut. 9:24; 31:27; 32:5). To fear or favor man over God is great folly. Fifthly, many today would not have the **courage** to stand before an assembly of thousands upon thousands and expose their error yet Moses did (Deut. 29:10-11). The New Testament Christian can do no less today (see Eph. 5:11). The sixth, and final lesson, comes in the area of being **meek**. The scriptures reveal Moses to be one of the meekest men upon the earth (see Numb. 12:3). Jesus tells us that the meek shall inherit the earth (Matt. 5:5). The character trait of being meek is defined as gentle, patient, forgiving and humble” (Moulton 340; LS 666; AHD 782). The Christian’s prescribed being seems to be summed up in the word meek. Said people know they are sinners, are humbled by the human experience, and are thereby patient with all who strive against Satan.

The importance of Moses in the history of man cannot be overstated. Moses foretold of the coming of Christ (Deut. 18:15; Acts 3:22; 7:37; 26:22; Jn. 1:45). He was a lawgiver (Jn. 1:17). The Law Moses delivered was simply a shadow of the new Covenant under Jesus Christ (Heb. 8:5). Moses’ law would eventually be understood as inferior to the Law of Jesus Christ in that it had no power to remove sin (see Heb. 7:18-19; 10:1-4). Due to the Law’s inferiority it was identified by the Apostle Paul as the “*ministration of death*” (see II Cor. 3:7ff). The Law of Moses simply identified sin (Gal. 3:19) and thereby served as a tutor to bring man to Christ (Gal. 3:24). Moses knew of Christ’s coming and thereby was persuaded of the rewards of heaven for all humanity (Heb. 11:24-27). We too can be a people of such faith, conviction, fear, and meekness if we will but apply ourselves to God’s will.

*John C. Robertson*