

GOD HAS A WORK FOR MOSES

Old Testament Lesson #174

Israel was a nation in bondage in the land of Egypt. At one time the nation of Israel was greatly respected by the Egyptians. However, as the Israelites grew and multiplied, the Egyptians chose to put them in bondage as they feared they would become too powerful. Over hundreds of years the people suffered greatly at the hands of the Egyptians. “The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them” (Exodus 2:23-25).

At this time, Moses was a shepherd in the land of Midian. He had previously fled for his life out of Egypt after killing an Egyptian. He worked as a shepherd for 40 years.

God had a plan to free Israel. He was going to send Moses to be a deliverer. An angel appears to Moses in a bush that is in flames, but the bush is not being hurt by the flames. The angel tells Moses that he has an important work to do for God. “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” (Exodus 3:7). Because of this, he is now going “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” (v. 8). God is going to send Moses “to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt” (v. 10).

Moses is to go to the people and gather the elders together. He is to inform them that God is now going to intervene on their behalf. He has “watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt” (v. 16). And now He will deliver them and take them to the Promised Land.

Moses is to request that Pharaoh allow the people to go. However, God warns Moses that he “will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go” (vv. 19-20).

Moses has some concerns about this assignment. He is afraid they will not believe him or say that God had not appeared to him. To help Moses’ confidence, and to help convince the people that he is telling the truth, God gives Moses three miracles he can perform. First, he can throw his staff on the ground and it will turn

into a snake. If he then grabs the tail of the snake, it will turn back into his staff. In addition, if he places his hand inside his cloak, when he pulls it out it will become leprous, white like snow. Repeating the process will restore his hand back to normal.

Lastly, if they don’t believe the first two miraculous signs, God instructs Moses to “take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground” (Exodus 4:9).

Moses had one more item he struggled with. He felt that he was not a good enough speaker to handle this job. He said, “I am slow of speech and tongue” (v. 10). God reminded him that it was God who created man’s mouth with the ability of speech as well as the ability of eyesight. He did not need to be concerned because God would help him. However, Moses still asked that God “send someone else to do it” (v. 13).

Though this angered God, he agreed and allowed Moses’ brother Aaron to go along and be the spokesman for Moses. Moses was to tell Aaron what to say. God would help both of them speak and teach them what to do. Aaron would do the speaking and Moses would use his staff and perform the miraculous signs that God had given him.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- What kind of man was Moses? In the New Testament book of Hebrews it says concerning Moses, “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” (Hebrews 11:24-25). See also verses 26-29.
- Pharaoh indeed did not allow the people of Israel to leave. God had to perform many wonders upon the nation of Egypt before finally Pharaoh granted Moses and the people of Israel their freedom to go worship God. There were a total of 10 plagues that God inflicted upon Egypt. These are discussed in Exodus 7-13.

ANSWER KEY:

49 Moses, 62 God, 51 Moses, 39 Moses, 100 God, 76 God

staff, healthy, blood

“Who gave man his mouth? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

God had work for Moses to do. God wanted Moses to go to the elders of Israel to tell them about God's plan. Moses was unsure, but God would provide the words for Moses to say.

Solve the equations to find who said each quotation. If the answer is even, God said it. If the answer is odd, Moses said it.

Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh?
 $16 + 33 = \underline{\quad}$
 _____ said it.

What is that in your hand?
 $88 - 26 = \underline{\quad}$
 _____ said it.


Please send someone else to do it.
 $96 - 45 = \underline{\quad}$
 _____ said it.


What if they do not believe me?
 $18 + 21 = \underline{\quad}$
 _____ said it.


I Am Who I Am.
 $57 + 43 = \underline{\quad}$
 _____ said it.

I will be with you.
 $34 + 42 = \underline{\quad}$
 _____ said it.

God gave Moses 3 miraculous signs to perform, each involving a change. Add or subtract letters in alphabetical order to find what each object became.
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

 S N A K E
 +0 +6 +0 -5 +1

 L E P R O U S
 -4 -0 -15 -6 +5 -13 +6

 W A T E R
 -21 +11 -5 +10 -14

Following the path, cross out every letter B, F and R.
 Write the remaining letters in order in the blanks.

“ _____
 _____ ?
 _____ ; _____

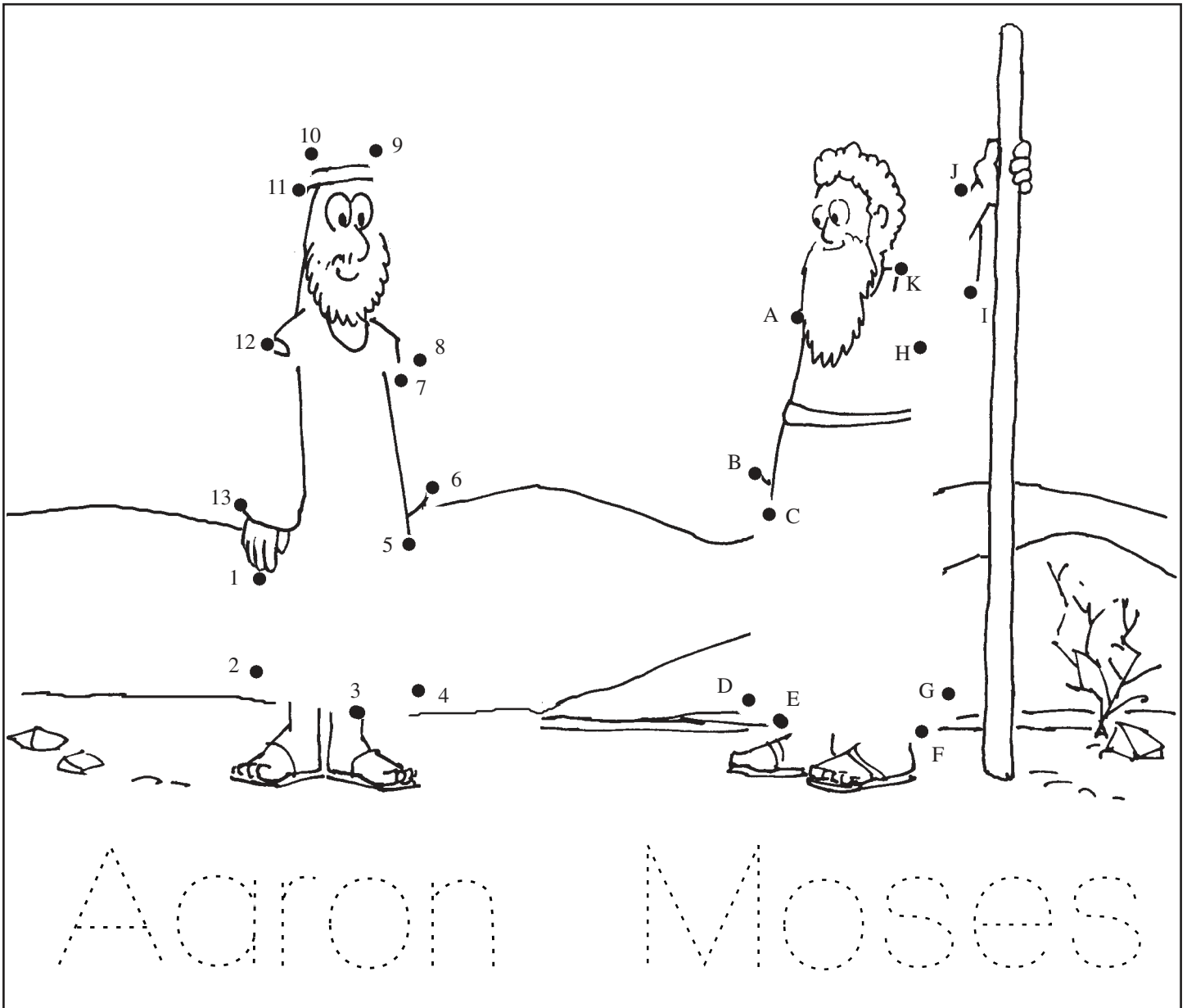
 _____ .”

Name _____

God had work for Moses to do and He would provide the words for Moses to say.

What other help did God provide for Moses?

Connect the dots. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 A B C D E F G H I J K Trace the names.



Name _____