

# *People of the Bible*

## Moses

Moses was born in Egypt several generations after Joseph brought his father, Jacob, and his brothers there to escape a famine in the land of Canaan.

The descendants of Jacob had been enslaved by the Egyptians and were ordered to kill all their male children. When Moses was born, his mother put him in a basket and set it afloat in the Nile River. He was found by Pharaoh's daughter and raised as her son (Exodus 2:1-10).

At age forty, Moses killed an Egyptian taskmaster and fled to the land of Midian, where he worked as a shepherd for forty years. Then the Lord called him to return to Egypt and tell Pharaoh, "Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness" (Exodus 5:1).

Eventually Pharaoh gave in, and after the Israelites celebrated the first Passover, Moses led them out. At the Red Sea the Egyptians army was destroyed, and the Israelites passed to safety on dry land (Exodus 12-15).

At Mount Sinai, they were given the Law and erected the tabernacle (Exodus 19-40). But because of disobedience, they had to wander in the wilderness for forty years. Moses himself was not allowed to enter the Promised Land, though God allowed him to view it (Deuteronomy 34).

In the New Testament, Moses is referred to as lawgiver and prophet. He joins Elijah at the Transfiguration of Jesus. (Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36)

The first five books of the Bible are attributed to him.