

YEAR OF THE MESSAGE: Moses  
*Law and Order: Divine Intent*  
**Moses and the Exodus: Out of the Frying Pan**  
**Exodus 3**

God chooses another man, Moses. He is to go to the palace of Pharaoh and demand release of the Hebrew slaves.

God often chooses unlikely leaders, and he does so for his own purposes and his own glory. Moses was a reluctant recruit, as many of us are. But even though he lacked some important qualities, God lifted him to the highest point of the Old Covenant.

Every reluctant recruit should read and hear the inspiring story of Moses, the slave baby God made a prince.

I. God prepares us through our history. We have read about some very miserable family history so far in the Book of Genesis. Really, some of you have had to read the Bible under your breath for the first time because you didn't want your children to hear about the sin and degradation that was recorded fairly graphically in the Bible.

A. Our birth parents--Born of slaves parents who believed God

B. Our adoptive parents--Floated on the Nile to the arms of the Princess.

Many people come into our lives who are not blood relatives. But God uses them in powerful ways to shape our future. They may be adoptive parents. And they may be adoptive aunts and uncles and cousins and brothers and sisters.

C. Our positions of authority—prince of Egypt. God really shapes us when he gives us authority over other people. All of a sudden we are reflecting like never before on what is just, what is fair, and what is right.

If you want to take a step forward in your spiritual life, take on some new responsibility of serving others.

D. Our positions of humility--lived 40 years as a shepherd in the desert.

II. God prepares us through our heritage

A. Our ethnicity--Moses discovers his true ethnicity at some point in his boyhood. We are part of a people group. That people group helps deliver to us our identity as a human being. Moses became fiercely loyal to the Hebrews.

The etymology of the word "Hebrew" is uncertain. The idea I like best is that it means "one who crosses over" and is the name given to Abraham and his descendants by the people who lived in the land of the promise at the time. They considered them the ones who crossed over the River Euphrates to come to Canaan.

Your spiritual heritage includes this truth. To truly be a Jew, you must be one who crosses over, who leaves the comfortable and familiar to conquer the unknown and fearful.

B. Our spiritual ancestry—"fathers" provide the fabric of faith; "I am the God of your father..."

Fathers are very important in the Bible. They are primarily responsible for the instruction of the family in the way of the Lord. Often they were better educated

than their wives and more able to understand and explain the accounts of faith from creation, Noah, and the Patriarchs.

Mothers were very important as well. We learn much about the spouses of the patriarchs. Most people would agree that Rebekah was a stronger personality than Isaac, and she got her way.

Sarah was also a strong personality and a woman of faith.

Jacob married two sisters. We learn a good deal about them through the accounts of his family.

The Book of Proverbs concludes with a poem about an ideal woman. It is prefaced in that chapter by the words of King Lemuel's mother concerning how he ought to behave as king.

C. Our generational blessing: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

D. Our in-laws, as with Jethro.

### III. God prepares us through our hiccups

\*\*\*Is that not the most embarrassing thing? You are in a social setting, and all of a sudden, you get the hiccups and cannot stop.

A. Anger--Killing the Egyptian

B. Poor judgment--Running away in the desert

C. Insecurity--Making all kinds of excuses

D. Jealousy