



## The Bible and Three Nations Part 2.

A brief summary by 'theanswerer'



This is part two of the rise of three nations & the exit from the Egypt. (Did you read part 1?)

### The 'Soap Opera' in which Israel, Christianity & Islam continues...

Most of this story comes from the book of Exodus.

## A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - FOR ISRAEL

This story continues the rise of the nation Israel (Hebrews or Jews) and leaving slavery and leaving Egypt behind as God's plan unfolds.



Jacob, their father was living in Egypt at the invitation of the Pharaoh with his twelve sons, one of whom is Joseph and he is Governor (Prime Minister) of Egypt. Remember - the boy Joseph, sold as a slave by his brothers had many troubles, but always a man of integrity, (no serious faults). He told Pharaoh the meaning of his dreams – the coming seven bountiful years followed by seven years of drought and famine. The Pharaoh made him Governor of Egypt and Joseph stored up all the excess grain thus saving Egypt from utter disaster because of the drought and famine so he was very popular there.

The Hebrews stayed 430 years in Egypt and grew to about two million people, (2,000,000 ) in that time. But earlier, a new Pharaoh feared so many 'different' people - so he made slaves of them for many years. The slavery was making mud bricks by hand, to build two cities for the Pharaoh.

God heard their cries and prayers for relief from slavery and set His plans in motion to bring them out. Moses would lead them out.

Moses was at first unwilling to take on the task because he did not think himself capable of that task.

Eighty years before, when Moses was a few months old, the Pharaoh of Egypt had ordered all male Hebrew babies born were to be killed - thrown into the River Nile. He had not heard that God said: "I will bless those that bless you and curse those that curse you." With that killing order, Pharaoh had unknowingly; set a course for his nation to be truly cursed.

Moses's Mother had hidden Moses from the soldiers and when he was a few months old set the baby – he was an unusually beautiful boy - in a little floating basket and pushed it out into the Nile River among the reeds.



One day, while the ladies of Pharaoh's Court, one of them was his daughter, were bathing in the Nile River they saw the floating basket in the reeds and pulled it into the shore and lifted up the lid and the little baby was crying. It touched the Princess's heart. Pharaoh's daughter simply fell in love with the child and claimed him for herself. A Hebrew baby!!! Moses big sister was watching from a distance and came up and offered to find a woman to nurse (feed the baby milk) and the Princess readily agreed. She took him home to Mum! Moses was later weaned (fed on solid food) and given back to the Princess.

Moses was raised as a member of Pharaoh's court and was taught as a child of the court should be taught - all the Egyptian ways until he was a man and he was now forty years old.

Moses realised that he was a Hebrew but did not tell his 'Mother' at the Court of Pharaoh but he knew of the troubles in Goshen and the slavery of his people. One day he went out to see for himself. While watching the slavery of brick-making in full swing, he saw an Egyptian knock a Hebrew to the ground. Moses was angry and looked around to see if anyone was watching, then killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. Later Moses saw two Hebrews fighting and stopped them. One said: "Are you going to kill me as you did to the Egyptian?"

Moses then knew that the murder was known about and Pharaoh ordered his arrest - but Moses fled many miles over the desert until he came upon the family of Jethro - and his many daughters. He rescued the girls from a nasty group of men at a well and was taken by the girls to the home of their father Jethro. In the movie 'The Ten Commandments' the girls were pretty excited to have a handsome eligible man around and of course Moses did marry one of them. He lived there with them for 40 years - then God called him, at 80 years old, to go and free from slavery, his fellow Hebrews in Egypt.

### **History is moving forward and it happened this way:**

Moses was out watching over the sheep one day, near Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. He noticed a bush was burning up there - but it was not consumed (burnt up) so he went closer to investigate. God called to him "Moses, Moses." "Who is it?" Moses asked. "Don't come any closer." God replied, "Take off your shoes for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your fathers, Abraham, Isaac & Jacob. I have heard of the deep sorrows of my people & I have come to deliver them from the Egyptians." (Ex. 3:1-10 TLB). God then informed Moses that he was to go to Pharaoh and demand that he let the Hebrews go. Moses didn't want to go and told God that he had a speech problem and thought that someone else would do a better job of it. They actually argued a bit and God got angry with Moses. (Exodus 4:13-16 TLB).

A note for Christian readers: When Jesus called the 12 disciples he did not choose the Synagogue priests, and political leaders – Jesus called ordinary men. God sees the heart, not the outside looks. When God called Moses, God knew that Moses had the right 'heart' and attitude for the task and overlooked his reluctance. For Christians, a willingness to obey is all God wants - He provides, sometimes by a seeming miracle - the skills required for the job to come.

God had Moses' brother Aaron in mind to help Moses & he came along at just the right time! Amazing! Moses took his wife and family, along with Aaron across the desert back to Egypt. The people who wanted to kill Moses were now dead so Moses had no problem there.

### **Now Egypt's troubles begin:**

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him that Jehovah had instructed them to tell him to "Let my people go three days and worship me in the desert or we will be punished." (Ex 5:1-9) Pharaoh was quite rude to them and scorned the idea and told his taskmasters to: "...make the Hebrews gather their own straw - but no less bricks to be made." Wow! Moses and Aaron were devastated (really felt bad) by Pharaoh's reply. What to do?

Soon after that, the Hebrew leaders abused Moses and Aaron: "You make us stink before Pharaoh – may God judge you for this." (Ex.5:20-22 TLB). But God had earlier given Moses a promise: "And I will see to it that the Egyptian's load you down with gifts when you leave - so that by no means will you go out empty-handed. Every woman will ask for gold, silver and the finest of clothes from her Egyptian master's wife and neighbours. You will clothe yourself with the finest clothes from Egypt". (Ex.3:21-22). (That is good planning!) Phew - it seems like an impossible situation - but God is in control.

"NOW YOU WILL see what I shall do to Pharaoh." "...for he must be forced to let my people go." (These words are in capitals are in my Bible)."..."he will drive them out of his land." EXODUS (Ch.6:1—5 TLB). God sent Aaron, aged 83, and Moses aged 80, to confront Pharaoh again and God told them what to do. Aaron threw down his staff and God turned it into a snake. Pharaoh's magicians did the same but Moses' snake ate Pharaoh's snake. Yum - if you are a good snake! God told His two men: "I will harden Pharaoh's heart but I shall force him to let my people go in the end."

### **The Ten Plagues now begin:**

Next day Moses visited Pharaoh and struck the Nile River with his rod – **and the water turned to blood**. All fish died and it stank badly. Still Pharaoh refused to let them go.

At the next visit (plague) there came millions of **frogs** to invade every home, the Palace, all buildings and even beds. Next came **lice** in billions that covered the ground. (Ex. 8:16-19 TLB) Next came **flies** – billions of them - but not in the land of Goshen. (V.22-23)

Next came a **disease to kill most of the cattle** - but not in Goshen. Pharaoh sent an official to see if the disease had struck Goshen. They returned to tell Pharaoh they had not, just as God had said it would be. (Ex.9:5-7).

Next came **boils** on all the animals and people in Egypt. And next came a truly terrible **hail storm** to do great damage to Egypt - the worst ever - but again, not in Goshen.

Pharaoh's officials begged him to 'be sensible - let them go, the land lies in ruins' - but Pharaoh would not.

Then came a plague of **locusts** so thick that you could not see the ground. Next came an awful darkness for three days - worse than night time.

All the plague details can be read about in Exodus Chapter Five to Exodus Chapter Twelve.

The day before the Hebrews left the men and women were to ask every Egyptian home for gifts of gold, silver and clothing. God had turned the hearts of the people of Egypt to be generous and freely give the Hebrews much gold, silver and fine clothing. This 'looting' of much gold, silver and fine clothes was foretold by God before the 10 plagues came - and now God reminds them of it. See Ex.3:21-22) and (Ex. 11:1-3).

Now came the most memorable and awful plague the 'Angel of Death' or 'The Destroyer' will move through on 'Passover' night and kill every first born offspring (the first young of animals and first born child of every person).

Before the 'Passover' night in Goshen, God told Moses to give these instructions to the Hebrews. (their tribal leaders).



The time, day and the month were told – with very specific instructions for the "Passover meal" to be eaten that night. A lamb or goat, one year old, without blemish was to be killed, the blood had to be collected in a basin and a hyssop branch used to smear some of the blood sacrifice on the door posts and the lintel (the top of the door). This must be done because when the Destroyer or Angel of Death comes at night he will: 'See the blood and Passover' that house. The lamb must be roasted, not boiled, no broken bones either and all the animal had to be eaten - or any uneaten parts burnt.

All this to be done indoors. Everyone had to be ready to leave Egypt - with sandals on their feet and bread, without yeast, tied in their clothes. Hebrews (Jews) still seriously celebrate this event (Passover) 3,500 years later!! That must be a record in any culture.

Well the 'Destroyer' did come and it did cause the death as was promised. Much wailing and grief was heard. And Pharaoh did order Moses to leave as God had said: "And Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron during the night" and said; "Leave us; please go away, all of you; go and serve Jehovah as you said. Take your flocks and herds and be gone; and oh; give me a blessing as you go." (Ex. 12:31-32 TLB). So they did leave the slavery of Egypt ... and they did take Joseph's bones in his coffin with them, as they had promised him to.

They were all very happy of course - but not long after the exit from Egypt - some wanted to do back!! Can you believe that? Within several months – some wanted to go back to Egypt. Can't please everyone!!)

So the 12 tribes of Israel (The Hebrews) took off across the desert with no shelter from the sun and no housing at night. God fixed it!

God supplied a 'Pillar of cloud' so they were in the shade all day and at night He had a huge 'Pillar of Fire' to give light by night. That can only be called a 'special blessing' because it enabled them to travel at night if needs be. Nobody had to keep the fire burning - that was God's business.

But they got hungry. No supermarket for food for 2 million people.

Moaning from the moaners as usual (am I or you one of them today?) but God in well ahead of them in providing food.



But before that miracle of food supply, God had one last heavy blow against the Egyptians. Pharaoh thought they would be gone for the three days that Moses mentioned earlier. But no, they were off forever to the 'Promised Land'.

God had Moses take them by a route (direction) that made Pharaoh think that he had them trapped against the sea - and that he could rally enough horses, war chariots and soldiers and drive all the Hebrews back to slavery. God had other plans ... to the Egyptian's sorrow and loss.



Beside the Red Sea - historians are not sure it was Red Sea as we know it today. The Sea of Reeds - is referred to often in Biblical text. The www has much to say on it - but it is certain that God chose a spot – somewhere along where the Suez Canal is today - for the final shame and humiliation of Pharaoh and his troops and for the Hebrews (Israelis) to cross some 'impossible water' and continue on to Canaan - the 'Promised Land'.

Note well about the www: There are many 'Believers' in the Christian community now, as there are now 2 billion (2,000,000,000) of us in 2016. Among them are quite a few who prefer to make money from simple people (those who are uneducated & simply believe that God really exists) and who will fall for (believe) anything a more educated person tells them. This is sad, but this sort of person has been around since Adam and Eve ... and always will be living among us. I did see that there are DVDs on crossing the Red Sea. I did not watch it as I do not believe a factual DVD can be made of it. Entertainment – 'Yes' but not truth ... and some claim to have discovered the exact spot where they crossed and so on.

Napoleon crossed on dry land sometime - and nearly drowned because of the tide coming back very fast is on one website.

When Pharaoh knew that he had the former slaves 'trapped' by the sea, he gathered soldiers and war chariots to go after the 'slaves' and force them to come back. When the 'slaves' saw the Egyptian chariots coming they cried out to Moses: "Have you brought us here to die in the desert because there were not enough graves in Egypt? Why did you make us leave Egypt?" ... "Isn't this what we told you, while we were slaves, to leave us alone, better to be slaves in Egypt than to die here." (Ex. 14:11-12)

Well, Moses knew God had it all in His hand and told the people: "Don't be afraid. Just stand where you are and watch the wonderful way God will rescue you today."... "The Lord will rescue you and you won't have to lift a finger." (Ex. 14:13-14). How?

The Lord moved the 'Pillar of Cloud' between the Israelis and the Egyptians so they could not see each other. Moses was told to: 'lift up his Rod' - and God caused a strong east wind to move the water and to dry the land beneath it - and it had happened by morning.

God said to Moses : "Quit praying and get the people moving. Forward march!" (v. 15)" And they did. NOTE: "Quit praying - forward march." Makes me think that the time of moving may have been a big factor (influence) in crossing on dry land.

The Wall Street Journal website on Moses crossing the Red Sea mentions a dry spot where Moses would have known that caravans (of camels) crossed at low tide, makes a crossing there seem quite possible. Moses understood the land and the tides there - the Egyptians did not.

The Wall Street Journal website also mentions Napoleon almost drowning there while crossing on dry land in 1798. Quite interesting - makes you think it could be the actual spot Moses crossed with his two million Hebrews.



Once the Egyptians could see the last of the 'slaves' crossing, where there once was water -they followed. Bad move!!

The Egyptians followed between the 'walls of water' - but once the 'slaves' cleared the water, God let the water return and all the pursuing army were drowned. What a terrible last 'judgement' on the Egyptians? The Bible says that Pharaoh: "Led his army out," but it does not say if he was drowned

Well, to continue, the winners had a big celebration after the enemy army was destroyed - but not long after that were again very unhappy with Moses over the lack drinking water. Some who profess to follow God are very quick to complain if their needs are not promptly met. I have been guilty of that more than a few times in my 84 years.

God had it in hand with a solution. Three days later in their journey, the water they came to was 'bitter' and undrinkable. Complaining again: "Must we die of thirst?" (Ex. 15:23-24 TLB) God showed Moses a tree and told Moses to take a branch of it and throw it into the water. (I guess it was a small pool or a lake). It turned the water 'sweet'. Saved again!

They journeyed on and came to: "...the Sihh Wilderness arriving there on the fifteenth day of the second month after leaving Egypt. There the people spoke bitterly against Moses and Aaron." "Oh that we were back in Egypt ... we had plenty to eat there ... but you have brought us here to kill us of starvation." (Ex.16:1-5) What short memories of God's care!!

The Lord kept his promise and told Moses that He (God) would supply manna from heaven (like coriander seeds or large flakes), called 'Manna' six nights a week. On the day before the Sabbath they were to collect twice the daily amount - because 'No work on the Sabbath' (Day of rest). Of course - some people collected more than the amount needed (an omer – about three quarts or two litres), but in the morning it had maggots in it and stank so was inedible) Them trust God? Well maybe if all goes well and no trust needed!

Meat: millions of quail were sent to them too as a change from the Manna.

### So they travelled through the desert for forty years.



Now that is a long time to travel from Egypt to Canaan, the 'Promised land'. It is a very long time but there is an explanation as to why it took 40 years. Before that, God gave Moses **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS:** (Ex.20:1-17).

Very briefly: (wording varies from translation to translation as a language changes –but the basics never vary)

1. **Worship** no other God but me.
2. Do not bow down to **idols** or images of gold, stone or silver.
3. Do not **swear** by God falsely.
4. Remember the **Sabbath** day and keep it holy.
5. Honour your **father & mother**.
6. Do not **murder**.
7. Do not commit **adultery**.
8. Do not **steal**.
9. Do not **lie**.
10. Do not **covet** (want or desire) your neighbours wife, servant or any of his property.' (Ex 20: 1-17)

Note well: many Christian countries – including Australia – have these Ten Commandments as the basis of their Government's laws and constitution.

The rest of Exodus concerns rules for successful living as a large community – and a strange country - and covers every aspect of many people living close together. This is all in Exodus Chapter 21 to Chapter 40. The next three books Leviticus, Deuteronomy and Numbers, with Genesis, are often referred to as “The Five Books of Moses.”



It even has instructions as to how to ‘go to the toilet’ safely, for disease control. “When men are at war ... each man must have a spade as part of his equipment: after every bowel movement he must dig a hole with the spade and cover the excrement.” That is among the rules God gave them in Deuteronomy. (23:13-14 TLB). It cuts out cholera, typhoid and such diseases. Surely such a rule from God should be put into practice after cyclones and earthquakes to minimise disease.

In the book of Numbers comes the crunch for refusal to trust God and the consequences of lack of trust - in the face of God's promises. A high price for them to pay for lack of faith in God's power to deliver them and keep His promises.



But the explanation comes somewhat later in the Bible. In Exodus the Tabernacle (Jewish Temple) was constructed and was portable. Yes indeed it was meant to be carried from place to place, and moved only by the priestly tribe of men - from the tribe of Levi.

This Tabernacle was ‘suitable’, truly very beautiful and for the worship of God under strict rituals laid down in Scripture by God. I would dearly love to set my eyes on the finished Temple. Maybe in heaven - but some of man's efforts today to show how it might have been can be seen on the www but I just think the original would have been much more beautiful. ( see Exodus Chapter 25 to Chapter 31).

The 40 years of wandering in the wilderness comes from the book of Numbers and is to allow people to die-without seeing The Promised Land! Not a pretty story, for those adults who refused to believe that God would help them drive out some evil people.

**The story** ( From Numbers Chapter 13 to Chapter 14): God told Moses to send twelve (12) **spies across into the ‘Promised Land’ and to ‘check it out’**, to see what kind of soil was there, what people and houses etc. were there. They were gone forty days and brought back their report - as well as a ‘...cluster of grapes, so large that it took two men to carry it’. The land was very good indeed. Joshua and Caleb urged Moses to; “...go in and possess the land, God has said that He would help us to overcome the occupants.’ BUT - ten of the ‘spies’ and said “No, we cannot overcome those people. They are many and some of the men are like giants, we felt like grasshoppers beside them.”



Mr Zig Ziglar, a Christian and one of the finest motivational speakers in the USA said of this situation in one of his addresses “Caleb and Joshua were the first ‘Positive thinkers’ in the Bible. God told them that He would help them defeat the enemy and they both urged Moses to go. But the ‘Negative thinkers’ said ‘Oh no, we can’t beat them, they are too many big men’. (This is not quite King James but: “Caleb said, come on - the Lord is with us, we can whoop up on them and beat them. LET’S GO”. But the negative thinkers won the day and they spent the next forty years wandering the desert until all the negative thinkers died out.” (Zig Ziglar, was in my city of Perth in 1984).

Well, that’s what happened!! The ten negative thinkers urged Moses not to go in - and they worked the crowd up so they were ready to stone Moses to death. God got very angry with them and told Moses that He was going to kill all the doubters! Wow - look out!

Moses pleaded for them: “But what would Pharaoh think - that their God killed half of them because He couldn’t care for them?” Moses plea worked and God said: “Alright - I shall not kill them - but all those twenty years old and over will wander in the desert until they all die.” And they did wander for the forty years and never saw ‘The Promised Land’ but their children did. (All those under 20 years old at the time).

God did kill all 10 of the doubters (the ten negative spies) in front of the crowd - and reminded them of the ten (10) times they had doubted, and refused to believe God’s promises to help them.

The 40 years: “One year for every day in the promised land bearing the burden of your sins. I will teach you what it means to reject me. I, Jehovah have spoken. (Nu.14:34-35) (That is a very angry God speaking-and giving out punishment). Then they were ready for The Promised Land that God had told Abraham about so long ago.

This is important: “Why would God kill ordinary people to make way for His ‘Chosen people’ in The Promised Land?” One possible answer: Because so many of them were ‘a stench’ (an evil thing) in the eyes of God – like sacrificing (killing) children by fire to their ‘gods’ like Molech and Baal. This was too common for God to let go forever. Children were and still are, special people to God. Sodomy and other evil practices were detestable in God’s sight too.

I could write a book on the many times that God, and Jesus, has got angry with His ‘Chosen People’ - the Jews and he has called them some very bad names like rebellious, stiff necked, hard hearted and more - but his love for them never fails. Loving someone does not mean liking them and what they do.

### **The Promised Land:**

Well they did get there after driving out most, but not all, of the people God had told them to. That failure caused quite a few of them to marry non-Jews and some of them to worship their idols and God tolerated that. Each tribe was allocated land and lived and grew there and generally were happy.





However – here the story gets quite mixed up. How? God made every human person with three parts: body, soul and spirit ... and no two people are exactly the same.

ALSO: God gave all of us the ability to choose - in simple terms - to be good, or bad. That means we can make our own decisions as to stealing, telling lies, committing adultery, and breaking the law to get things for ourselves. So, everybody is different, but as we grow older (grow up) we can change and decide to do right things. I am quite sure that you know someone from each group!!

Many hundreds of years later God's Prophets warned God's people of a coming disaster – if they continued to disobey God in many different ways! Many refused to listen but God always carries out his word of warning of very serious trouble to come along - because they refused to obey God's ways.

Many did not pay attention to the warnings - so many kings, including Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem and killed, or carried off as slaves, many of the Jewish inhabitants. Nebuchadnezzar is remembered more than the others because his invasion was big! To Babylon in Persia (now Iraq) they went and it is now known as The DIASPORA, (the exile or dispersion). There were many broken hearted Israelites who did truly obey Gods ways - but many did not!!

The WWW has many different websites on The Jewish Diaspora & many people telling their version, or their group's version of how it all happened. 'The Diaspora' is still continuing today in that some Jews do not want to come to return to, the 'Promised land' but many do.

A modern day 'Diaspora song': By The Rivers of Babylon is well worth a look and listen. One website has the words, well sung too, and an artist's impression of what it was like there. The song sold millions of records. Their captors asked them to sing the happy songs of (Israel) and in the song it says: "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" (It was taken from Psalm 137 by West Indian people in 1970s.) It is a haunting and sad but beautiful song.



One hundred years ago this year - in 1917 the British government led by Arthur Balfour began planning that Jews be granted a 'Homeland' in the 'Middle East, or Palestine as it was then known. That year Australian soldiers (The Tenth Light Horse Brigade) defeated the Turks (The Ottomans) at Beersheba and Britain took control of Palestine. This signalled the beginning of the end of World War One (WW 1) and that war did finish in 1918.

At the end of World War Two (WW 11), in 1948, Israel was granted a 'Homeland' in the Middle East and is now known as Israel. There was an immediate war with the Palestinians (Arabs or Muslims) and Israel won. There have been several wars there since then and Israel has won them all.

The Muslims, descendants of Abraham's son Ishmael, grew as a Nation, or a State, after Muhammad, when he wrote the Quran or Koran 600 years after Jesus was on the earth.

This is an on-going story, a yet to be finished story - and don't forget that God is in control - even if it does not seem like it sometimes ... and the story does have some way to go yet.

**A Prophecy by the answerer:** For about 2,300 years quite a few have tried to dominate and 'rule the world'. The Romans were quite successful for a while (they even built a bridge over the Thames in England in 25 AD). Quite a few have tried: Persia, Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Germany (twice) Communism from Russia. They all ruled by force. But their leaders fell, save a few small countries under communism. Even today in 2016 some very radical and violent Muslims have plans for world domination but they will follow the others in failure.

With 7 billion (7,000,000,000,000) people in the world many big problems are coming up. Most nations have serious trouble of some sort. I did read some years ago that the next big war will be fought over water – yes water - there is not enough of it & some people waste it.



Jesus said that He was returning one day to rule the world with His kingdom of love and justice. If Jesus promises something it will happen! Maybe soon, but nobody knows when. Jesus himself said: "I don't know, the angels don't know, only God himself knows when it will be." See Matthew Chapter 24:1-14. (Many troubles will come before that 'Second coming').

**On this website there are two offers of a free Bible to you.** In the Bible you can read for yourself the history of God's 'Chosen People', the Jews ... and your future as a 'believer' or a 'non-believer'.

