

**People of the Promise:
Moses, Part 3: Impossible Journey
Exodus-Deuteronomy**

Introduction

Not Just for Kids—luggage for a trip—what would you need for a 40-year trip with a family of 2 million?

Moses' life story is more about God's work than his own work.

Part One: Rescued to Lead

Part Two: Battle of Wills—Pharaoh's hardened heart; Moses' courageous obedience; Yahweh's infinite power.

Part Three: Impossible Journey

1. Impossible Start, but for God (Exodus)
2. Impossible Survival, but for God (Wilderness)
3. Impossible Destination, but for God (Conquest of Canaan)

1. Impossible Start, but for God (Exodus)

Hebrews 11:28-29

²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

²⁹ By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.

Exodus 12:50-51

50 All the people of Israel did just as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron. **51** And on that very day the LORD brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.

Exodus 14:13-18

13 And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. **14** The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

15 The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward.

16 Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.

17 And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. **18** And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

Exodus 14:30-31

30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. **31** Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD,

and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

The start of the Christian's journey to the promised land is impossible, but for God. Miraculous deliverance from the slavery of sin and death through the new birth, repentance, and faith. (Justification, regeneration, conversion)

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see.*

2. Impossible Survival, but for God (Wilderness)

Psalm 78:19-20

19 They spoke against God, saying, "Can God spread a table in the wilderness?"

20 He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed. Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people?"

Psalm 78:40-42

40 How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the desert!

41 They tested God again and again and provoked the Holy One of Israel.

42 They did not remember his power or the day when he redeemed them from the foe.

Pillar of fire by night
Pillar of cloud by day
Tabernacle in center of the camp
Bitter water made sweet
Manna
Quail
Water from the rock

Battles with and defeat of Amalek, Edom who refused to let Israel pass, Arad the Canaanite, Sihon, Og, Moab (Balak hired Balaam to curse Israel), Midian

Idolatry—golden calf; Baal Peor
Plagues
Fiery serpents—bronze serpent
Rebellion of Aaron and Miriam
Rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram

The Christian would never survive the journey of faith to the promised land but for the keeping and sanctifying power of God (sanctification, perseverance).

*The Lord has promised good to me.
His word my hope secures.
He shall my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.*

3. Impossible Destination, but for God (Conquest of Canaan)

Numbers 13-14

12 Spies—only Caleb and Joshua brought back a good report, so the nation was too afraid to go in.

Numbers 13:30-33

³⁰ But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it." ³¹ Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are." ³² So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. ³³ And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."

God decreed the nation would wander 40 years in the wilderness, one year for each day the spies were surveying the land. Everyone 20 years old and older, except for Joshua and Caleb, would die in the wilderness, and their children would go into the promised land instead. God struck down the ten spies with a plague who brought back an evil report. Then they tried to go in anyway, and failed in the attempt for God was not with them.

Numbers 20—Moses struck the rock a second time instead of speaking to it

Numbers 20:10-12

10 Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" **11** And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. **12** And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them."

Deuteronomy 3:23-28

23 "And I pleaded with the LORD at that time, saying, **24** 'O Lord GOD, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours? **25** Please let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon.' **26** But the LORD was angry with me because of you and would not listen to me. And the LORD said to me, 'Enough from you; do not speak to me of this matter again. **27** Go up to the top of Pisgah and lift up your eyes westward and northward and southward and eastward,

and look at it with your eyes, for you shall not go over this Jordan. ²⁸ But charge Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he shall go over at the head of this people, and he shall put them in possession of the land that you shall see.'"

The Christian would never make it safely home but for the power of God (glorification).

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come.
Tis grace has led me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

Conclusion

Moses' life a failure? He started as a prince, fled as a fugitive, and after battling Pharaoh and leading Israel to the Promised Land, never got to go in himself.

If we were in his sandals, we might think so. But we would be wrong.

Psalm 90:11-17

¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

¹² So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

¹³ Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. ¹⁵ Make us glad for

as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.

16 Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

Did God answer this prayer of Moses?

Yes!

Israel made it into the promised land under the leadership of Joshua, who had served alongside of Moses.

God's people read the writings of Moses to this day. Where would we be without the Pentateuch?

These first five books form the foundation of the redemption story and point us to the Hero of the story, Jesus the Messiah, our Savior-King, who will lead us like a Shepherd into the promised new heaven and new earth where righteousness dwells.

Jesus said in John 5:46

If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me."

1. Impossible Start, but for God (Exodus)
2. Impossible Survival, but for God (Wilderness)
3. Impossible Destination, but for God (Conquest of Canaan)