

# Exodus 2:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren.

## Analysis

**And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren** (וַיֵּיגְדַל מֹשֶׁה וַיֵּצֵא אֶל-עָחָיו וַיַּרְא בְּסֹבְלֵתָם, vayigdal Mosheh vayetse el-echav vayar besivlotam)—**Grown** (וַיֵּיגְדַל, gadal, likely 40 years old per Acts 7:23) marks Moses' transition from prince to deliverer. **Went out unto his brethren**—Moses identifies with the oppressed, not oppressors (Hebrews 11:24-26). **Looked on their burdens** (וַיַּרְא בְּסֹבְלֵתָם) echoes God's later "I have surely seen" (3:7). **Spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew**—the verb "smiting" (וַיַּכֵּה, nakah) describes violent beating. Moses' intervention (v. 12) shows zeal for justice but premature, self-dependent action.

## Historical Context

Stephen's sermon (Acts 7:23-25) explains Moses' intention: "he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not." Moses' royal status made this inspection possible but also isolated him from his people's trust. His 40 years in Egypt prepared him culturally; his next 40 years in Midian would prepare him spiritually.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does Moses' choice to identify with his oppressed brethren challenge you to align with the suffering rather than the powerful?
2. What does Moses' premature action teach about the difference between godly zeal and self-directed impatience?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיְהִי יוֹם	בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא	וַיִּגְדַּל לְמֹשֶׁה		
H1961		H1992		
And it came to pass in those days		was grown	when Moses	
	H3117	H1431	H4872	
וַיֵּצֵא אֶל	אֶחָד מֵעַמְּהוֹתָיו	וַיִּרְאֵם	בְּסִבְלָתָם	
	H413			
that he went out	one of his brethren	and he spied	on their burdens	
H3318	H251	H7200	H5450	
וַיִּרְאֵם	אֶת יֶשׁ	מִצְרַיִם	מֵעִבְרֵי יֶשׁ	אֶחָד מֵעַמְּהוֹתָיו
	H376		H376	
and he spied	an Egyptian	smiting	an Hebrew	one of his brethren
H7200	H4713	H5221	H5680	H251

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 1:11** (Parallel theme): Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.

**Matthew 11:28** (Parallel theme): Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

**Isaiah 58:6** (Parallel theme): Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

**Exodus 3:7** (References Egypt): And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

**Luke 4:18** (Parallel theme): The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,