

Exodus 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.

Analysis

Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well (וְשָׁמַע פְּרֻעָה אֶת-בְּזֹבֵר בָּזָה וַיַּבְקַשׁ לְגַדֵּג אֶת-מֹשֶׁה יָצַר מֹשֶׁה מִפְנֵי פְּרֻעָה) vayishma Par'oh et-hadavar hazeh vayevakesh laharog et-Mosheh vayivrach Mosheh mipnei Far'oh)—Pharaoh's death sentence forces Moses' exodus from Egypt. **Moses fled** (וַיַּבְרַח, vayivrach)—the prince becomes fugitive. **Midian** (מִדְיָן), descended from Abraham and Keturah (Genesis 25:2), occupied northwest Arabia east of the Gulf of Aqaba. **He sat down by a well**—wells in Scripture are meeting places where God providentially arranges encounters (Genesis 24:11, 29:2, John 4:6). This scene sets up Moses meeting his wife and father-in-law, who will shape his next 40 years.

Historical Context

Midian's location beyond Egyptian jurisdiction provided asylum. The journey from Egypt to Midian (likely 200+ miles) was arduous through Sinai wilderness. Moses' sitting by a well echoes Abraham's servant finding Rebekah (Genesis 24) and Jacob meeting Rachel (Genesis 29)—betrothal type-scenes where God orchestrates covenant marriages.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' flight from Egypt paradoxically position him for God's call at the burning bush?
2. In what ways has God used forced transitions or exiles in your life to prepare you for future calling?

Interlinear Text

אָתָּה	לְהַרְגִּיל	וַיַּבְקַשׁ	שֶׁ	הַזֶּבֶר	רַ	אָתָּה	פְּרָעָה	וַיִּשְׁמַע	עַ
heard	Now when Pharaoh			this thing				he sought	to slay
H8085	H6547			H1697				H1245	H2026
מֹשֶׁה	מֹשֶׁה	וַיַּבְקַח	מֹשֶׁה	מִפְנֵי	מִפְנֵי	וַיַּבְקַע	פְּרָעָה	וַיִּשְׁבַּ	
But Moses	fled	But Moses	from the face	Now when Pharaoh				and dwelt	
H4872	H1272	H4872	H6440	H6547				H3427	
בְּאָרֶץ	מִדְיָן	וַיִּשְׁבַּ	עַל	פְּבָאָרֶץ:					
in the land	of Midian	and dwelt	H5921	by a well					
H776	H4080	H3427		H875					

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:27 (Parallel theme): By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Acts 7:29 (References Moses): Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Midian, where he begat two sons.

Genesis 24:11 (Parallel theme): And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water.

Genesis 29:2 (Parallel theme): And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a great stone was upon the well's mouth.

Proverbs 22:3 (Parallel theme): A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

Matthew 10:23 (Parallel theme): But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

John 4:6 (Parallel theme): Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

Exodus 4:19 (References Moses): And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life.

Genesis 25:4 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Epher, and Hanoch, and Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.