



# **Sweet Stories**

## **Told by the Prophetess Miriam To Her Young Grandchildren**

**2. The Book of Exodus**



Translated by  
**Mary Rose Halim**

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**Monica Azer**  
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To Her Young Grandchildren**

**2012**

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## MOTHER MIRIAM, WHO LOVES CHILDREN

Young children as well as grown ups can gain much happiness from listening to the beautiful stories which are told in the book of Exodus, despite the fact that these stories took place more than thirty centuries ago.

Now I want you to close your eyes and imagine Miriam, the prophetess and sister of Aaron and Moses, imagine that you are sitting by her side along with the other children gathered around. Miriam loved to tell stories, and the children loved to hear them. She would tell them about things she herself had seen and had heard. Miriam kept many of these stories in her heart and mind, but loved to share them with the children.

I bet you are now curious to know what Miriam tells her children, who by the way are really the grandchildren of her grandchildren! Well, if you are curious, just like me, keep on reading!





## THE UNIQUE CHILD

(Exodus Ch.1-2)

The word unique means to be one of a kind. God has created each and every one of us to be one of a kind on this earth; each with different talents and virtues. The Lord created us to live happily on earth just as happy and joyful as the angels are in heaven. However, He does allow times of trouble, and you may be wondering why?

Jesus will never give us a cross that is too heavy for us to carry. That means that no matter what trial or tribulation life hands us, we can always run into His embrace and become filled with love and joy. Miriam believed this entirely, and lived it out in her daily life.

Miriam's father and mother longed to give her a brother, and indeed her mother gave birth to Aaron by the grace of God. Aaron was born just a few months before Miriam turned seven years old. Miriam was filled with so much joy that she even acted as a mother to Aaron caring for him in her arms and filling his life with joy just as Aaron had placed joy in her heart. Now let's take a look at the thoughts from Miriam herself:

"I remember that the people of Israel were very sad at that time. This was because the Pharaoh who ruled Egypt was extremely cruel. He treated the people as his slaves and ordered them to work all day to produce bricks.

Pharaoh saw that our people were multiplying quickly. He believed that we would fight him and his





people, and that we would help the enemies to beat him. Therefore, he ordered that all boys should be killed at birth. The midwives were the ones who would carry out this order when they helped a mother deliver her boy. So in other words, as soon as the baby boy was born, he would be killed.

Three years after the birth of Aaron, my mother gave birth to a very beautiful child. He was just so amazingly beautiful! We thanked God that the midwife did not kill him at birth. She carried and kissed him, and then whispered: “Be careful that no one from outside the house hears his voice. Otherwise the wicked soldiers of Pharaoh will kill him.”

The child lived in our home for three months and my mother nursed him. We all considered him a gift from God, and our hearts were filled with joy. We truly felt that God was present in our home!”





## PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER EMBRACES AND KISSES MY BROTHER

(Exodus Ch. 2)

We had a pious neighbor who loved my brother deeply, and was worried about him.

When he was three months old, she came to us and said: "What are you going to do as the voice of this child can be heard when you pass outside your house? The wicked soldiers are always walking around, and may hear him?"

With tears running down her cheeks, my mother answered: "I will prepare a basket and cover the outside of it with tar so that water will not seep inside. I will then place my baby in it and place the basket in the river and in the protection of God and send it on its way."

(Miriam) I said: "I will go with you, mother. And I will remain on the shore and watch the basket. I will pray God protects him, and I am sure God will save my brother."

When my mother put the basket in the river, she went home filled with sadness, and her tears never dried up. I remained and watched from a distance, and I lifted up my heart to God begging Him to save my brother! I really did not know what would happen to him; I had to place all my faith in God.



Suddenly, Pharaoh's daughter appeared. She was accompanied by some of her maidservants who served in the palace. The princess saw the basket and asked one of the maids to fetch it. As the maid drew near the basket, I cried out with all my heart: "God save my brother from destruction."

They opened the basket. I noticed the princess express emotions joy and cheerfulness and at last I could breathe in a sigh of relief. She put out her hands and carried my brother up from the basket. She hugged him most tenderly. She kept looking at my brother and as though she had found the greatest gift. Her maids rejoiced at seeing her so happy.

I cried out in my heart to God so that He might guide me as to what I should do. Then I became encouraged and ran towards the princess. I offered to find someone who could nurse the baby, and she accepted. I ran to my mother and brought her before the princess. The princess handed the child to my mother. She did not know this was the child's mother. She just handed the child and asked my mother to nurse him and care for him in return for some fee. The princess said she would eventually take him back.

My mother nursed my brother with her milk while mixing it with the prayers of her heart. When the child grew up, he learned about the cruelty with which Pharaoh treated the people of Israel.



## THE RETURN OF PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER

(Exodus Ch. 2)

My mother and I went to Pharaoh's palace and presented my baby brother to the princess. She called him Moses as she had carried him out of the river. Suddenly there was a great commotion in the palace. Pharaoh, the queen, the men of his court, and all the women who served the queen and her children came.

They were all happy. Even Pharaoh said to his daughter: "I did not imagine how beautiful and gentle any child could be!"

He also told his daughter: "I have loved Moses, and I will carry him, even when I sleep or when I sit upon my throne." The princess smiled and said: "Did not I tell you that I have never seen such a beautiful child?" My brother, my whole family, and I continued to follow quietly all what happened to Moses as we did not want to be the source of any harm to him.

I grew to learn that Pharaoh loved Moses very much. He was restless unless he was with Moses at all times, even when guests were over.

One day, Pharaoh as usual set the child next to him, and had guests at his table. As he played, the child seized the king's crown and put it on his own head. This disturbed the king greatly. Some of the magicians, one



of them was Balaam, who later on lived in Moab, told Pharaoh that this was a prophecy that Moses would sit on Pharaoh's throne and would wear his crown.

Jethro, the king's adviser, (who later became the father-in law of Moses), quickly said to him: "My lord the king, Moses is just a child who does not understand anything. Let us bring to him a piece of gold and a hot coal on a tray. If he picks the gold then we will know that he can distinguish between gold and fire."

The king listened to Jethro and ordered that a tray be brought in with a piece of gold and a piece of hot coal. The child put out his hand to pick the coal and he screamed. Pharaoh was touched and carried him in his arms and gently soothed him; that meaning to say that Moses did not know the difference between the gold and the hot coal.





## MIRIAM FOLLOWED THE NEWS OF MOSES

(Exodus Ch. 2 -3)

I, Miriam, followed the news of my brother Moses during his stay in Pharaoh's palace. I wondered if my brother ever came to know that he was one of the people of Israel, would he try to release his people from slavery?

Suddenly, my brother disappeared from the palace. I tried to find out what had happened. This is what I was told: One day Moses saw an Egyptian man violently beating a Hebrew man. So Moses beat the Egyptian until he dropped dead. On the next day, Moses saw two Hebrew men quarreling. When he tried to make reconcile them, one of the men said to him: "Do you want to kill me just as you killed the Egyptian man yesterday?"

My brother realized that the death of the Egyptian had become known, and that Pharaoh would kill him when he hears about it. He therefore fled for his life. How I yearned to see Moses my brother! I learned that he had escaped into the wilderness, but he had not told anyone about his whereabouts.

I was deprived of knowing my brother's news for forty years. After that my brother returned to Egypt and I learned from him that he had gone to live in the land of Midian all these years. There he had married a woman called Zipporah, and had worked as a shepherd.



He told me about his relationship with God. Speaking about that, he said:

"I was much happier, richer, and devoted when I lived in the desert; much more than when I lived in the palace as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

Each morning, my heart would fly towards heaven, for God was my Friend, my joy, my treasure, and my glory.

I used to cry out to Him: 'I want to see and meet You face to face.'"





## THE BURNING BUSH, THAT NEVER BURNS

(Exodus Ch 3)

Moses told me this amazing story:

“One day, I was walking in the desert. I was alone. Yet I was not alone: I felt that God was walking with me as a Friend. Then I saw a small weak tree (a bush) and it was on fire, but it did not get burned.

From within the bush, I heard the Voice of God calling and telling me to remove my shoes because the place where I was standing was sacred. He then told me: ‘Return to Egypt. Tell Pharaoh to set my people free so that they will go into the desert and worship Me.’

I tried to make excuses as I had difficulty with my speech. But God said to me: ‘Take Aaron, your older brother with you.’ He then promised that He would help me and even act as my mouth, so that I portray wisdom when I speak.





## PHARAOH STANDS UP IN DEFIANCE TO GOD!

(Exodus 5- 11)

In these times, Pharaoh believed that he was very great and that he could stand up even against God. He had forced those who worshipped God to have no time for prayer as he had made them his own slaves and they had to work and make bricks all day long.

Moses and Aaron went to the palace and asked to meet Pharaoh for an urgent and serious matter. When he accepted to receive them, they said to him: “God asks you to release His people, so that they may offer sacrifices to Him.” Pharaoh mocked them and threw them out of his presence. He then ordered his men to increase greatly the burden of work among the Hebrew people.

When Pharaoh refused to allow the people to leave Egypt so that they could worship God, God ordered Moses and Aaron to meet Pharaoh again. This time, Aaron threw his rod on the floor and it became a serpent. Pharaoh thought this was some kind of magic. He therefore called magicians and asked them to repeat what Aaron had done with the rod. Now the serpent of Aaron swallowed the rod of the magicians, leaving Pharaoh and his workers astonished. Later, after Pharaoh still refused to obey God, He allowed many plagues to strike the land in stages. However, these did not harm the people of God. The plagues are as follows:





1. The waters of the Nile became like blood only in the areas where the Egyptians lived. When any one of the people of Israel went to the water, they found it to be sweet.
2. Frogs covered all the homes of the Egyptians: they were in their kitchens, and bedrooms. No one could sleep or eat due to all the noise. They had to run away from them.
3. The air became filled with mosquitos and every Egyptian became uncomfortable.
4. Flies were everywhere in the air, in homes and in the streets. No one could eat, drink, or sit contentedly.
5. Many of the cattle became sick and died, decreasing the amount of food and crops for the Egyptians.
6. Sores covered the Egyptians and the cattle that remained.
7. The sky poured hail and fire at the same time. Strangely, the hail added to the strength of the fire rather than putting it out.
8. Locusts ate the green leaves of all the plants so their crops diminished.
9. A curtain of darkness covered the land so that none of the Egyptians knew how to return to their homes. They became frightened as they could not see anything around them even the things which were a short distance away from them.



After each plague, Pharaoh would cry out to Moses and Aaron for deliverance. Yet as soon as each plague was removed, he would become even crueler. My dear children, what can I say? Pharaoh believed he was greater than God. He would not listen to God. He could have chosen to repent and obey God in order to enjoy His many great gifts, but he refused.







## PHARAOH EXPELS MY BROTHER MOSES!

(Exodus Ch. 11-12)

All the people were astonished and wondering: why is Pharaoh resisting his Creator, the All-patient God? Why is he disregarding God's warnings? These plagues, which are happening one after the other, are intended to make him repent. Yet the cruelty of his heart is becoming even worse. Was it not possible for the All-powerful God to release and protect us by His angels, and just abandon Pharaoh to live in wickedness?

My dear children, I felt that God wished to save all mankind, even the wicked ones! It is sad to find that men sometimes do not listen to the Word of God! Moses and Aaron were so busy that I could not ask them about the details of their meetings with Pharaoh. However, all the people and I learned that Pharaoh was getting more and more angry.

He told my brother Moses: "Get out of my sight. Beware and do not show me your face again. If you do, you will meet your death." Moses was not scared, and although he had difficulty with his speech, he answered Pharaoh powerfully and said: "I will not come back to see your face again."

God was truly patient with Pharaoh for a long time. He treated him with great gentleness, and He sometimes used punishment in varying degrees.





Moses went away from the presence of Pharaoh, and stood before God. He asked Him what he should do as he felt this was a critical time when God Himself was needed to lead the people with a strong and powerful Hand. Moses and Aaron gathered all the people and Moses said to them: “God asked that we should all eat a special meal which is the meal of the Passover. We have to celebrate this every year in order to remember how God had released us from the slavery of Pharaoh.

Every house has to kill a one-year old lamb. They are to smear its blood over the upper lintel and the two doorposts of their front door. In this way they would not get destroyed when the angel of destruction passes over and kills all the firstborn children and cattle of the Egyptians.”

Indeed, in the middle of the night, there was great crying in all the homes of the Egyptians. Finally, after this terrible plague, Pharaoh called and asked Moses to come and meet him once again. He told him: “Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go; serve the Lord as you have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also.”

My dear children, the events that took place in these times are a symbol of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Lamb who was killed for my sake and your sake in order to release us from the violent Satan (Pharaoh), and to carry us over into the heavenly joy.





## WE HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM SLAVERY

(Exodus Ch. 11-12)

Miriam the Prophetess came back and said:

“My dear children, I cannot tell you how happy I am to know that we have all been set free by the grace of God! Can you believe nearly two millions of us are now free and are fortunate enough to be led by the righteous Aaron and Moses?

We left Egypt and took all of our children, our cattle and herds, and everything we could carry. Moses and Aaron were at the head of the procession, and angels were singing the praises of God Who had powerfully saved His people. God could hear the sound of our joyful hearts.

However, Satan would not give in to his defeat and to the victory of God’s people. In the same manner as God deals with his dearly beloved children, so does Satan deal with those people who open their hearts to temptation and the comeliness of a life of sin and a weak spirit.

Satan stirred Pharaoh - who was his slave - and made him repent for allowing our people to leave Egypt. Therefore, Pharaoh sent an army to hunt us down. By that time, we had marched for a long time, until God informed us to stop by the Red Sea. We were trapped! We heard the sound of the army behind us, and the mountains lay





on our left and right. We were encircled with no way to turn, and everyone was frightened. Some cried out and said: “Was it not better for us to continue and serve the Egyptians rather than die in the wilderness?” At that very moment, I knew the faith of our people had been shaken.

Moses my brother said: “Do not fear. Stand and wait for the salvation of the Lord. He will fight while you remain quiet.” Moses then held up his rod and struck the Red Sea. The waters moved and became divided so that there was a path in the middle of the Sea. We crossed safely and stepped on to dry land. The waters became like a fence to our left and right side. It was without a doubt one of God’s wondrous works.

After we had crossed, the Lord told Moses to stretch out his arm once more so that the waters returned and the Sea became one stretch of water once more. This sea covered the whole Egyptian army and the horses, which were pursuing us. They all drowned in the Sea. All God’s people saw this great act, which the Lord had done against the Egyptians, and how He had saved us through His care.

I held a tambourine and sang a beautiful song and all the women, girls, and children joined me. The Church has received this song of praise and has called it ‘The First Hoos (Hymn)’ in memory of this great miracle that the Lord has done for us.







## WHO CAN CHANGE BITTER WATER TO SWEETNESS?

(Exodus 15)

Do you wish to get some quick clips of the lives of my two brothers, Moses and Aaron, in the wilderness?

After Pharaoh's daughter had carried my brother to the palace, my brother Moses lived there for about forty years. He then ran away after he had killed an Egyptian who had violently and cruelly treated a Hebrew man. I used to pray with Aaron, who was younger than I, so that God would protect Moses from worshipping the idols that were in the palace. We prayed that angels would surround him so that his heart and mind might remain pure and focused on heavenly matters.

When we heard that he had escaped from the palace, we did not get frightened. Indeed, we felt he was very close and praying for us just as we were praying for him.

We did not lay our eyes on him for about eighty years, yet we felt he was with us in the spirit. Soon after, we were all released and went into the wilderness, and then finally we were together spiritually and physically. Sometimes, as siblings often do, we had different opinions, but we were so close that this rarely happened.

My dear children and grandchildren, I will tell you about some events that happened during my life with my two brothers, Moses and Aaron.





When we came out of the Red Sea and walked eastwards in the wilderness, we arrived to Marah. We rejoiced as we found a well, but its waters were so bitter that no one could drink.

Sadly, the people turned their songs of praise into complaints against God and Moses and Aaron. However, Moses did not quarrel with the people; but he called on God for help. So God showed him a tree and told him to throw it into the well.

An astonishing thing happened: the waters became sweet!! Could any piece of wood convert bitter waters into sweet ones when it is thrown in them? This cannot happen.

Yet this tree points to the Cross where the glorious Jesus Christ was resurrected. He fills our hearts with joy and cheer even when we struggle with the troubles of this world. The people drank out of the well after its waters became sweet.

What can you learn from this story? Well, the Lord grants His Holy Spirit to live within us through baptism and chrismation (anointing) to enable our souls to drink freely of the waters of His divine blessings. Continue to thirst for the word and life that Jesus spoke and lived. Always remind yourself “What Would Jesus Do?”





## GOD PREPARES A DAILY BANQUET FOR US

(Exodus Ch 15-17)

In the wilderness, the people became hungry, but there was no food. They complained against Moses and Aaron and told us: “We wish we had died in Egypt where we would be sitting next to the meat pots of the Egyptians and eating to our fill. Now we are here in the wilderness and will die because of hunger.” So God sent special food from heaven to the people every morning. The people called this food ‘manna.’ When they asked to eat meat, God sent birds which they called quails, which they were cooked and ate. This just goes to show you that if we complete the will of God, He will never abandon us and our physical/mental needs.

During the day, God covered them with shade in the form of a pillar of cloud to protect them from the heat of the sun. At night, He used to lead them in the form of a pillar of fire to keep them warm while they sleep.

They arrived to a spot where there was no water. Moses spoke to God and asked: “What shall I do?” And God answered: “Strike the rock with your rod.” When Moses did so, water came out of the rock and the people all drank.

The Lord provides food for our bodies. Will He not provide spiritual food for our souls? Of course, our Lord offers His Body and Blood as our spiritual food, and He grants us eternal life. We must thank Him for this every day!





## WAR AGAINST GIANTS

(Exodus 17)

My dear grandchildren,

I have lived happily for many years and have rejoiced in the Lord who is my Shepherd. He is also the Shepherd of all my people. Look to Psalm 23: “The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want...” He allowed us to be subject to the cruel rule of Pharaoh. We were shepherds unattended by a soldier, or even an army leader. In spite of that, Pharaoh was really frightened from us for no reason. He believed that if Egypt were attacked we would not defend it.

Now in the wilderness, we all stood together as men, women, and children had to face an army of giants, which planned to attack us. Yet we did not know how to fight. This army attacked us. Their soldiers were tall and strong men. My brother Moses told Joshua: “Choose men and go out and fight these giants.”

Moses, Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill and Moses held his rod in his hand. When Moses lifted up his hand, we would win; and when he let it down the giants would win. When Moses became tired, he sat on a rock and Aaron and Hur supported his hands in the form of a Cross until sunset, and so Joshua conquered the giants.

In the same manner, when we make the sign of the Cross, God enables us to conquer our enemy, Satan and his army who are like the giants fighting against us.







## MOSES RECEIVES THE DIVINE CONTRACT

(Exodus 20)

When we lived in Egypt, we stayed in a special area selected for our people, and we were subject to Egyptian law. Remember that we became over two millions persons, and living in the wilderness where God had led us, we needed rules to guide our hearts, thoughts, and behavior. God wrote these rules Himself so that we might behave as God's people who seek heaven with all their hearts.

God asked Moses to climb up a high mountain that is called Mount of Sinai. He spent forty days with God at Mount Sinai. Moses fasted and did not feel he needed any food or drink.

God informed Moses of the things He wanted the people to do. He gave him Ten Commandments, which were written on two tablets of stone. God wanted His people to be His children and to be prepared to live with Him in heaven.

The first commandment is that the believer is to love the Lord his God because God loves him, and wants him to live in His bosom. We must sanctify the day of the Lord by praising Him and act like the angels who worship Him joyfully. The second commandment is that we must love our fathers and mothers by obeying them





making your homes a temple of God and a sanctuary. Next commandments are that the believer should not do anything that is not worthy of the children of God. Therefore, we should not kill, steal, or desire what belongs to others.





## THE GOLDEN CALF

(Exodus 31-32)

I wish to tell you more about the time my brother Moses who spent forty days with God on the top of the mountain. It was as though he was spending days in heaven. I will let him tell you what happened to the people whom he had left in the wilderness below. Listen to what my brother said about the people and what they did during his absence:

“You cannot imagine what God’s people did while I was away for a long time. They believed that I had died, so they asked my brother Aaron to make a statue of gold in the form of a calf, which the Egyptians used to worship. They intended to worship it instead of worshipping God. It was as though they believed that it was the calf that had liberated them from slavery and had led them into the wilderness.

I finally came down the mountaintop and I was carrying the two stone tablets, which had the Ten Commandments that God had written with His finger on them.

I got so angry when I saw the people singing and dancing before the calf that I threw the stone slabs onto the ground. A short time later, I knelt before God and prayed that He might forgive the people. And God did forgive them!





## THE GREATEST DIVINE GIFT TO THE PEOPLE: THE TABERNACLE

(Exodus Ch. 35-36)

Every time I met Moses and Aaron, I would ask them: “When are we going to heaven to see God face to face?” They were younger than I, yet I felt they could give me an answer.

I will never forget the day when I asked Moses: “Why do you look so happy?” He answered: “God has given us a wonderful surprise!” One day, He chose me to live with Him on the mountaintop. It was like living in heaven, and I wished that everyone could have been there to enjoy that wonderful time!

God appeared and asked me to build a special tent and dedicate it for worship: the tent would be known as the Tabernacle. The people could not climb up the Mount of Sinai with me to receive the Commandments of God. Therefore now God Himself was going to descend and live in the Tabernacle, as His Holy House, among the people. In this manner everyone will feel that God is living with them.

God described to me what I should make and put in the Tabernacle: a golden altar and candlestick, a table for the showbread of which no one could eat except the priests. And God Himself came and blessed it with His presence so that it became a sacred place and a cloud covered the Tabernacle. This Tabernacle became the dwelling place of God, and people came there to thank







and worship Him. It became like a church to them and similar to the heavenly place.

The Tabernacle had two parts, which were separated by a beautiful curtain:

1. The Holy of Holies: this is a symbol of heaven. The Ark of the Testimony is placed in it.
2. The Holy: the golden candlestick is placed in it because the Lord Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. They also placed there the golden altar of incense, which represents the offered prayers and the showbread which is a symbol of the Lord Who is the Heavenly Bread.

Outside of the Tabernacle, there was a brass altar where the offering was placed, and a washbasin for the priests to purify themselves when they had to bring the offerings.





## THE ARK OF TESTIMONY

(Exodus Ch. 37)

Dear grandchildren, I cannot describe all the joy of my brother Moses when the Ark of the Testimony was completed for it was a symbol of God's throne!

God asked Moses to construct it and to place in it the two tablets of the Commandments, a golden pot of manna, and Aaron's rod. These would indicate the presence of God in the middle of the Tabernacle. Moreover, God told him to carry the Ark with us whenever we moved from place to place.

The Ark consists of a beautiful chest made of a special wood known as 'acacia wood'. The chest was covered with gold on the inside and outside. It had rings on both sides so that poles were passed through them to enable the priests to carry it. The Ark was also called the Ark of the Covenant as it contained the Ten Commandments.

Not a single person was allowed to touch the Ark and only the priests were allowed to handle it. There were two statues on the top of the cover of the Ark. They were in the form of the Cherubim (who live in heaven and who carry the throne of God). God would speak to Moses through these Cherubim. How miraculous is this Ark of the Covenant?!





## THE AMAZING CLOUD!

(Exodus 40)

Miriam the prophetess said: “One of you asked me if Moses knew the way we had to travel from Egypt and through the wilderness in order to arrive to Canaan? Did he know when the people, who were over two millions, should stop and when to move, and in which direction to go?”

It was truly a very long journey and Moses was our leader. Do you know how he knew the way? He would look up and see a specific cloud, which God used and moved specially to guide us. We would walk every time the cloud rose up from the Tabernacle, and we would travel to the place which God chose.

In the New Testament, God has granted the Holy Spirit to His Church. He descended on the disciples on the Day of Pentecost in order to guide them. The Holy Spirit grants us power. He also guides us, and reminds us of the great gift of salvation which the Lord Jesus Christ has accomplished for us.

From all of these stories I have told you remember this, God is always with us no matter where we are so long as we call upon His name.



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