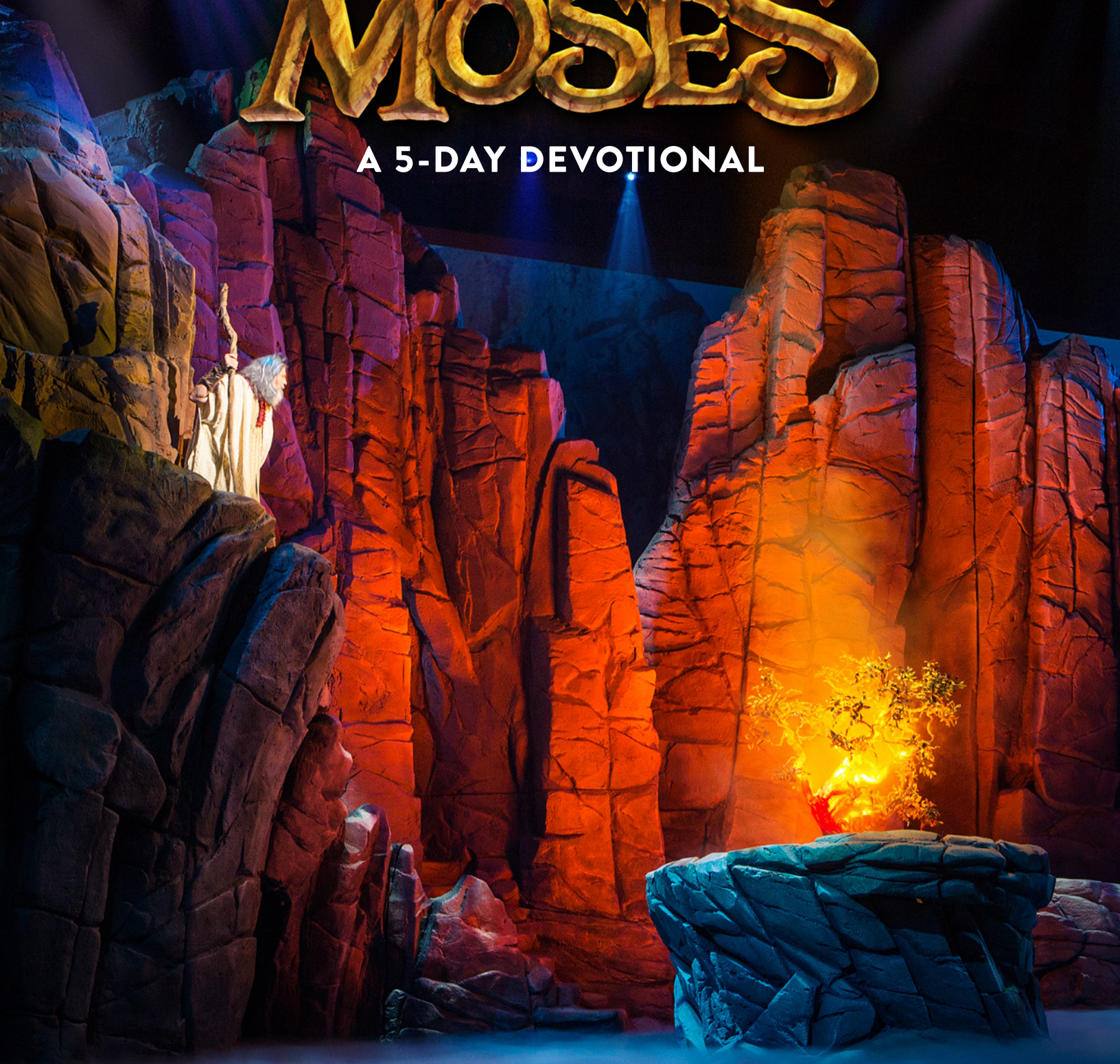


SIGHT & SOUND
THEATRES®

MOSES

A 5-DAY DEVOTIONAL



Moses is a central figure throughout the entire Bible. His intimate interaction with God gives us much to learn from a biblical patriarch who balanced doubts and faith as we do. Inspired by **MOSES**, a Sight & Sound Theatres® production, this five-day biblical study offers a unique glimpse into the life of one who God called *friend*. See **MOSES** in movie theaters September 13, 15, and 20 only.

DAY 1

Read Exodus 2:1-10.

Pharaoh had ordered the genocide of all Hebrew baby boys. A couple from the Israelite priesthood tribe of Levi managed to miraculously keep their pregnancy and birth a secret. They were able to hide their son from the authorities for his first three months. Imagine the stress and fear these new parents must have endured where even their child crying could mean a death sentence.

Whether Moses' mother knew it or not, she was about to take part in a divinely inspired plan by placing her child into the very spot that had meant death for so many other male infants. She took her baby boy down to the Nile River, carefully set him in a basket she made of bulrushes, the same plant that lined the side of the river, and then covered the bottom of the basket with bitumen and pitch, creating a tiny camouflaged boat. She then set adrift her watercraft with its precious cargo among some reeds at the riverbank.

As the baby boy's older sister kept watch from a distance, it "just so happened" that soon Pharaoh's own daughter came down to the Nile to bathe. She spotted the basket and sent a female servant to fetch it from the water. After seeing him, the royal daughter chooses to adopt Moses as her own, rather than turn him in to be executed.

God's hand of protection and favor over Moses as an infant started a pattern of miracles that would continue throughout his life. Saved from death, he was promoted to a position of prosperity living in Pharaoh's house. His mother was allowed to help prepare him for God's calling on his life. Only God could have orchestrated such incredible events in the face of such dire circumstances.

All of us can look back and see the places where God intervened and changed the course of our lives. Circumstances that make no logical, worldly sense can have perfect spiritual meaning when God is the Game Changer. We must take our personal history mixed with faith and constantly remind ourselves that He will be with us and continue to lead our path, just as He did Moses.

Is there a situation in your own life today that has created the same sort of desperation for an answer that Moses' mother felt? What proactive steps can you take to place your faith and current circumstances directly into God's hands?



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DAY 2

Read Exodus 3:1-15.

As an adult, Moses began to witness the horrible conditions under which his own people lived. One day, he came upon an Egyptian brutally beating a Hebrew slave. Likely trained in the art of combat, Moses killed the taskmaster and hid his body. Pharaoh found out what happened and vowed to kill his daughter's adopted son. So Moses decided to run and disappeared into the land of Midian.

For the next forty years, Moses spent his life tending to sheep in the wilderness. All the while, every Israelite knew of the divine prophecy regarding Abraham and longed for God's deliverance. But then the fateful day came when God decided to introduce Himself to the fugitive shepherd in a unique yet intriguing way—through a burning, but not consuming fire in a large desert bush.

A fascinating Scriptural detail here is that God's introduction to Moses is recorded as an actual conversation—a back-and-forth interactive dialogue. God is personally interacting with Moses, just as He had with Adam, Noah, and Abraham.

Moses asked God two distinct questions to which we can all relate: “Who am I to do this?” and “What if my people don't believe me?” His first and very human response was his way of conveying: “I can't do this.” How many times have we all felt those same doubts and struggles?

The key for us all is found when God tells Moses, “I will be with you.” God knows we cannot do His assignments without Him. He may make us the means but He is the End, inviting and allowing us to be intimately involved in His Kingdom work on Earth.

God initiated a deep and intimate friendship with Moses—a pattern established for a relationship that we too can experience in our own lives today, because of Jesus Christ.

A crucial focal point of this passage is to understand that God wants this same kind of relationship with you. He has not left you alone either, but desires to walk with you, empower your life, and speak with you as a friend, just as He did with Moses.

What are some insecurities and doubts that Moses had that you also struggle with and can relate? Have you come to the place of accepting that God is *your* God?



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DAY 3

Read Exodus 7:1-6.

The ten plagues listed from Exodus chapters 7 to 12 devastated Egypt on every level. The accompanying miracle to these plagues was that the Israelites were unaffected by and protected from them. God simultaneously showed His curse on Pharaoh's kingdom and His favor on His people. While the Egyptians believed Pharaoh controlled the elements of nature, God proved His complete control over all creation, including the sun.

If God had sent Moses to lead an opposing army and show military might, that would have spoken Pharaoh's language. Instead, God harnessed and controlled nature as well as the elements. These methods delivered the message on God's terms, spoken in His language, not Pharaoh's. Animals that were normally little to no consequence to humans became a massive threat. Water that was a source of life turned into a symbol of death. Light disappeared and darkness reigned as it was in the beginning of time. Creation turned to chaos to fight the Egyptians.

And, now, in the end, God will show His power over life and death. Pharaoh had failed in his attempt to kill the Israelite first-born deliverer. Now God would not fail in His promised deliverance through His servant, not His soldier. He gives Moses explicit instructions for the Passover, offering life over death.

The sacrificial lamb from which each family had to gather blood for their doorpost is a foreshadowing of the blood of the final sacrificial Lamb—Jesus. The blood that Jesus shed on the cross, when spread around the doorpost of our own hearts, offers for the salvation of our souls. The “passing over” of the death that moved through the land that night was because of the blood-marked homes. The “passing over” of eternal death occurs when the blood of Christ marks our hearts. The lamb's shed blood meant new life with a fresh start was about to come to the children of Israel. In Christ, the Lamb of God's shed blood means new life with a fresh start that comes to the now-adopted child of God.

What does the Passover, connected to the death and Resurrection of Christ, mean to you? Have you accepted the shed blood of the Lamb of God to redeem your own heart, bringing you new life?



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DAY 4

Read Exodus 12:29-38.

Imagine for a moment being an Egyptian and knowing that your horrible suffering is coming at the hand of your leader's pride, ego, and stubbornness. The God of the Israelites, through Moses' obedience, has beaten their leader at every turn. In a matter of days, Egypt witnessed the years of oppression their people had placed on an entire nation coming down upon them. The sowing had now become the reaping. Regardless of what the Egyptians believed about Pharaoh prior to the plagues, likely by this point his position as a god was questionable and his approval ratings were way down.

God led Israel through Moses—from slavery to plunder, bondage to freedom. The nation suddenly had the blessings of great provision for their journey to the Promised Land. But at some point after Moses and the Israelites had a reasonable head start, Pharaoh changed his mind about losing his slave-labor force and decided to recapture them. Being defeated by God and Moses was likely beginning to sting as well. So he bridled up more than six hundred chariots and horsemen, taking off at breakneck speed to head off Moses. Meanwhile, the Israelites were camped out by the Red Sea.

Now, imagine the people of Israel's shock and terror as they heard the sound of hundreds of hoof beats rumbling across the land, heading straight for them. In great fear, the people quickly turned on Moses. Suddenly with their lives threatened, they decided that returning to slavery was better than death by the sea.

Applying this scenario to our own lives, when we realize a major life crisis is “riding over the hill” towards us, we must remember that God is never surprised and always has our best interest at heart. There is great peace and comfort to be found in knowing that we need only to be still, listen to, and follow Him, just as Moses did. God will fight for us as we face life's overwhelming odds. This is a major point of application we should not miss in this story, regardless of the perceived threat level.

Think about your most recent (or current) crisis: did you panic like the Israelites or look to God as Moses did? What practical steps toward spiritual maturity can you take in between crises to move from fear to faith?



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DAY 5

Read Exodus 14:19-31.

In Day 3, we looked at the correlation of the lamb's blood on the Hebrew doorposts to save their firstborn to Christ's sacrificial blood placed on the "doorposts of our hearts" to save us. Today, let's make another Old-Testament-to-New-Testament connection, creating more foreshadowing of God's work in salvation. This reference is what happens after His blood saves us. He has a new place for us to go—an Exodus, if you will, through this life into eternity.

Once we have accepted Christ and His blood has redeemed us, salvation becomes both an event and a life-long journey—a starting line *and* a race to run (Romans 6:16–19). Potentially walking through this world for several decades before we enter Heaven is much like traveling through the parted Red Sea between Egypt and the Promised Land. We know life could close in and swallow us at any moment, bringing death, while the Enemy of our soul, the Accuser, is nipping at our heels with his only goal being to “steal, kill, and destroy” (Revelation 12:10; 1 Peter 5:8; John 10:10).

But if we keep our eyes on the Lord and follow Him, He will see us through to the other side, reserving a place for us in His Heaven (John 14:2–3; Hebrews 12:1–2). Once there, we no longer have to be concerned with the past, the “Egypt” where we were enslaved, or the threats of the Enemy, because God through Jesus Christ has taken care of death and Hell and we are now where only He resides—the other side of this life for all eternity.

The Exodus is not only a historical and biblical event, but a grand metaphorical picture of all God's adopted children walking out salvation in the world by faith, enduring the many dangers and threats, until we reach the place God has prepared for those who love Him (John 14:2-4). The story of Moses, his doubts, fears, and struggles, along with the victories and miracles, can be a constant inspiration and motivation to the kind of relationship God wants with us every day.

In your own spiritual journey, what have been some of your “burning bush, Pharaohs, plagues, miracles, and even Red Sea” moments? What is one Scriptural truth that God has shown you in these five days?



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