

*Dear Diary,*

I'm so excited! Our wonderful God has seen how badly we slaves are treated by the Egyptians. He is going to help us. A man named Moses has been chosen to lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt. He was looking after sheep by Mount Horeb when he saw a bush on fire that wasn't burning up! When he hurried over, a voice called him from the bush, 'Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals. You are standing on holy ground.'

It was God. Moses was so afraid he hid his face. God said that he had seen the suffering of our people. He was going to take us to a land flowing with milk and honey. Moses was to tell the people that I AM had sent him.

God then told Moses to throw his stick onto the ground and it became a snake! When he caught it by the tail, it became a stick again. When Moses put his hand inside his coat it came out covered with a skin infection. He did it again, and his hand was back to normal. This was all part of a plan to make the people believe Moses. Moses has also been told to ask Pharaoh to let our people go into the desert and offer sacrifices to God. However, Moses says he can't speak well so God has chosen his brother, Aaron, to speak for him. Moses and Aaron have spoken with our leaders and shown them miracles. The leaders believe them. Everyone is praising God.

*Joshua*



*Dear Diary,*

Pharaoh is very angry. Moses and Aaron gave him God's message and now he is making the Hebrew people work harder than ever. Pharaoh says we are lazy. Our people are blaming Moses and Aaron.

But Moses and Aaron have seen Pharaoh again. Aaron threw down his stick and it became a snake. However, the magicians in Pharaoh's court were able to do the same thing. But Aaron's snake gobbled up all the rest.

Pharaoh still won't listen to God.

Then the other day Moses waited for Pharaoh to come down to the river and asked him again to let us go. When he said no, Moses hit the river with his stick. We could hardly believe it. The great river Nile turned to blood. So did the water in the whole of Egypt.

The fish died and the smell was terrible. After the Nile was turned to blood – then the frogs started to arrive. They were jumping on people, crawling on the beds and in the ovens. Nowhere was frog-free. Aaron simply stretched his stick over the waters and out they came. He isn't the only one – Pharaoh's magicians have created even more!

But praise God! Pharaoh has told Moses we can leave if he sorts out the frogs.

*Joshua*



*Dear Diary,*

I've got some good news and bad news. Good news first. God has made the frogs die. They are piled in heaps throughout Egypt and the smell is dreadful – but the bad news is worse than that.

Pharaoh has broken his promise. We are still slaves. So there are more plagues to come.

Aaron hit the dust with his stick and a swarm of gnats came up out of it. This time the magicians couldn't copy it. They said it was caused by God. Everyone was itching and scratching – even the animals. It didn't have an effect on Pharaoh, so God sent another plague – flies!

The buzzing was unbelievable – the Egyptians hated it. The flies were everywhere – laying eggs in the food and crawling on the babies. It's amazing though – in Goshen where we slaves live, I didn't see a single one. Anyway, Pharaoh called Moses and the flies have gone. Perhaps he's finally agreed to free us?

*Joshua*

