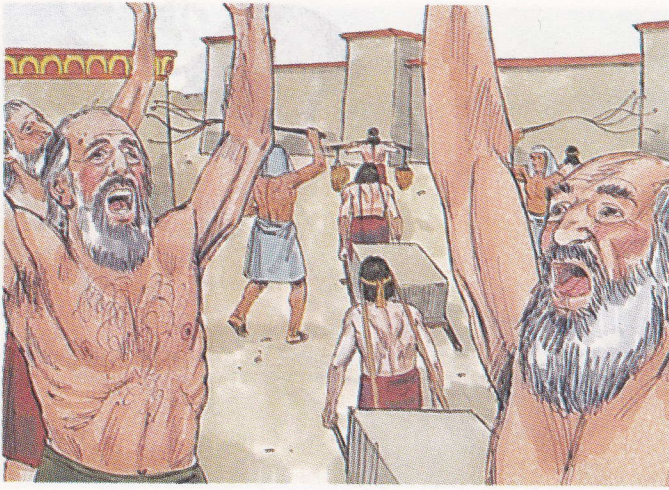
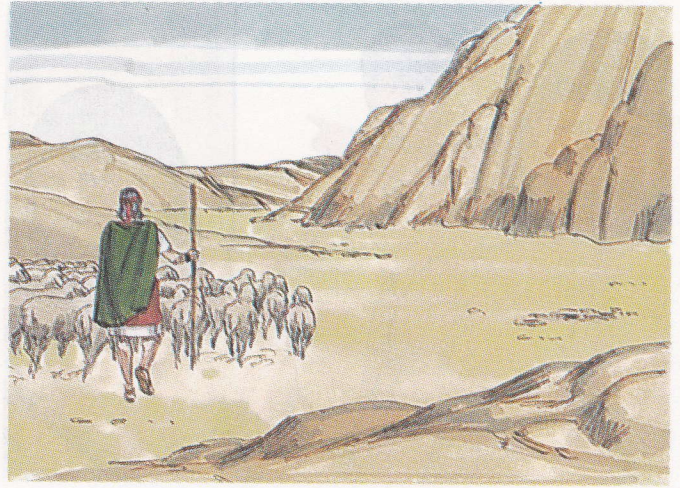


Moses and the Burning Bush



1 When the time was right, God prepared to deliver his people, the Hebrews, from their slavery in Egypt.



2 In Midian, Moses was taking care of the flock of his father-in-law Jethro. One day Moses led the flock across the desert to a holy mountain called Sinai.



3 There Moses suddenly noticed a bush that was on fire but did not seem to burn up. He was puzzled and went to take a closer look at it.



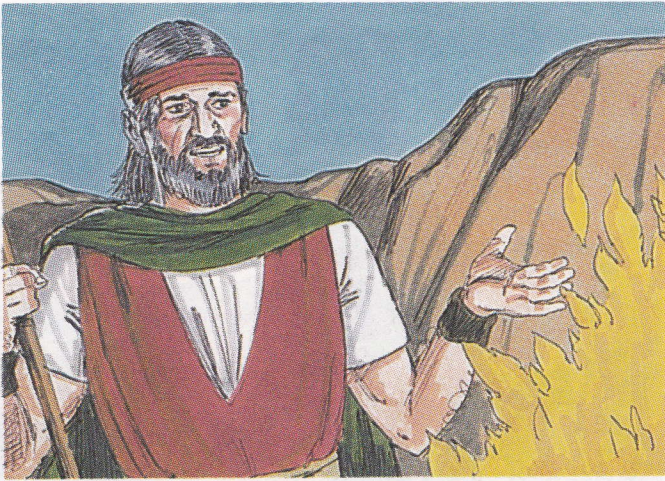
4 Then the Lord spoke to Moses from the midst of the burning bush. "Moses, Moses," the voice said. Moses answered, "Here I am."



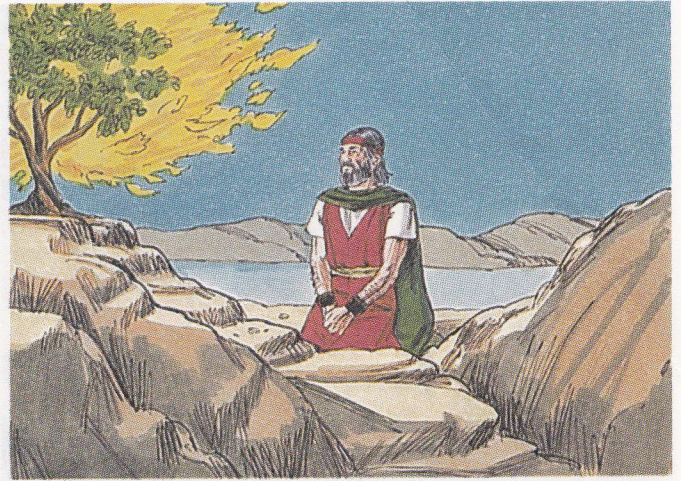
5 Then the voice said, "Moses, take off your sandals, for you are in a holy place. I am the God of your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.



6 "I know about the sufferings of my people in Egypt. I have come down to rescue them and bring them out of Egypt to the land of Canaan."



7 "I am sending you to the Pharaoh so that you can lead my people out of his country," God said. "But I am nobody special," Moses said. "How can I bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"



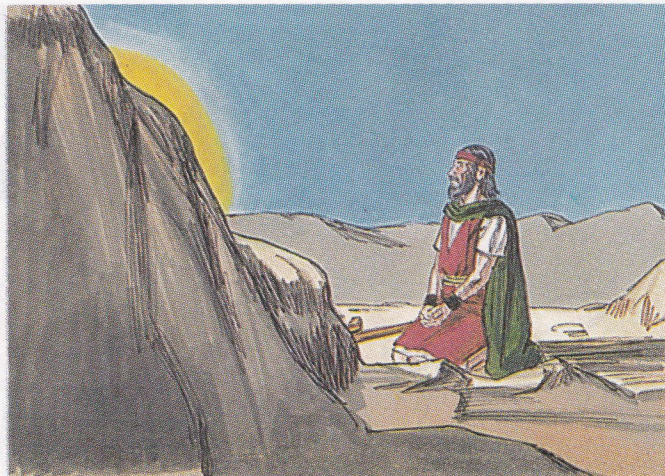
8 "I will be with you. When you bring the people out of Egypt, you will worship me on this mountain. That will be the proof that I have sent you."



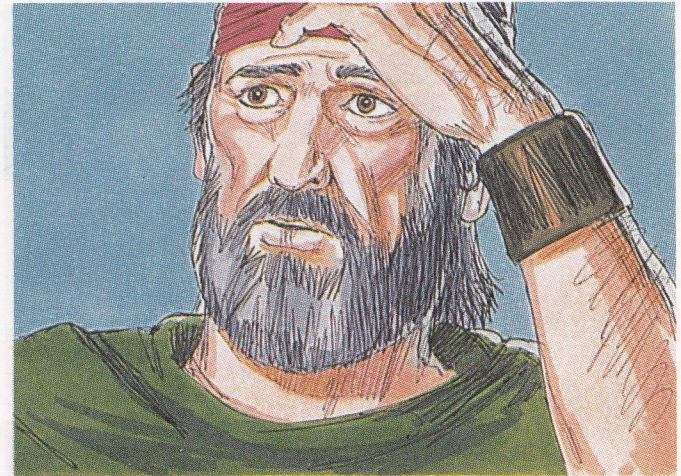
9 Then Moses said, "When I tell the Israelites, 'The God of your ancestors sent me to you,' they will say, 'What is his name?' So what shall I tell them?"



10 God said, "I am who I am. Tell them, 'The One who is called I AM has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is what all future generations are to call me."



11 "Explain to the leaders of Israel that I, the Lord, have decided to bring them out of Egypt. Then go with them to the Pharaoh and say, 'Let us go into the desert to worship the Lord our God.'"



12 Moses still was not sure he could do what God asked. But God showed him some miracles he could perform in Egypt. Then God told Moses that he could take his brother Aaron to help him.