

God Rescues the Chosen People from Slavery

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 10**.

❖ Moses is one of the most important people of the Old Testament. God chose Moses to free the Chosen People from slavery. The Book of Exodus tells all about Moses' mission.

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❖ Pharaoh forced the Hebrews into slavery because he feared that they would take over Egypt, but God was protecting the Hebrews. Through Moses, God would free the people from slavery.

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❖ Moses was a Hebrew child adopted by Pharaoh's own daughter. Moses was raised as an Egyptian, but he knew that he was a Hebrew. Even when he enjoyed great privilege, he was bothered by seeing his people suffer. Moses killed a man who struck a Hebrew. Moses then fled Egypt because Pharaoh ordered his death.

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❖ During their slavery and oppression in Egypt, the Chosen People cried out to God for help. God answered their cries by choosing Moses to lead them out of Egypt. God revealed himself to Moses in a burning bush while Moses tended sheep on Mount Sinai.

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❖ In Hebrew, God's name "I am who am" is represented by the letters YHWH. In the Greek Old Testament, God's name is translated as *kyrios*, or LORD.

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❖ Aaron spoke for Moses, who was not a good speaker. But Moses had been given the ability to perform signs and miracles to convince Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go.

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❖ God sent ten plagues to convince Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go. The first nine plagues were awful, but still Pharaoh would not listen. God sent a final, terrible plague to Egypt to convince Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go.

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❖ The Israelites were spared the tenth plague—the death of every firstborn son—because God told them to sprinkle the blood of a sacrificial lamb on their doorposts. Because death passed over the Hebrews on this night, the Jewish people honor this event with a special celebration called Passover.

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❖ God guided and protected the Israelites in many ways during their escape, called the Exodus. By guiding the people out of Egypt with a column of cloud by day and a column of fire by night, God showed that he was truly with the Israelites.

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❖ God guided Moses to part the Red Sea so that the Israelites could cross safely. When the Egyptian soldiers tried to follow, the water swept over them, drowning them all. God acted through Moses to save the people, but the Israelites knew that it was God who had saved them from the soldiers.

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❖ The name *Jesus* means "God saves." Through Jesus, God saves us from sin.

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❖ Christians celebrate a special meal at Mass called the Eucharist. It is a memorial of Christ's Passover from death to new life. In the Eucharist, we give thanks for Christ's suffering, death, and Resurrection, which freed all of God's people from sin.

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