



The Home of
MOSES



General Conference
Ministerial Association

The Shepherd

“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.”

Exodus 3:1

To Pasture

- Provide grazing
- Provide water
- Provide a place of refuge
- Tend to the flock so none go astray
- Defend the flock from predators
- Seek out and find the lost sheep
- Heal and care for the wounded
- Look after the weaker ones

He had his family

“Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, ‘I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.’”

Exodus 2:21-22

Called by God to go to another place

“There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.”

Exodus 3:2

“So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

Exodus 3:10

The four objections that Moses posed

1

Who am I?

*“But Moses said to God,
‘Who am I that I should go
to Pharaoh and bring the
Israelites out of Egypt?’”*

Exodus 3:11

2

In whose Name shall I go?

“Moses said to God, ‘Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?’”

Exodus 3:13

3

They will not believe me

“Moses answered, ‘What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you’?”

Exodus 4:1

4

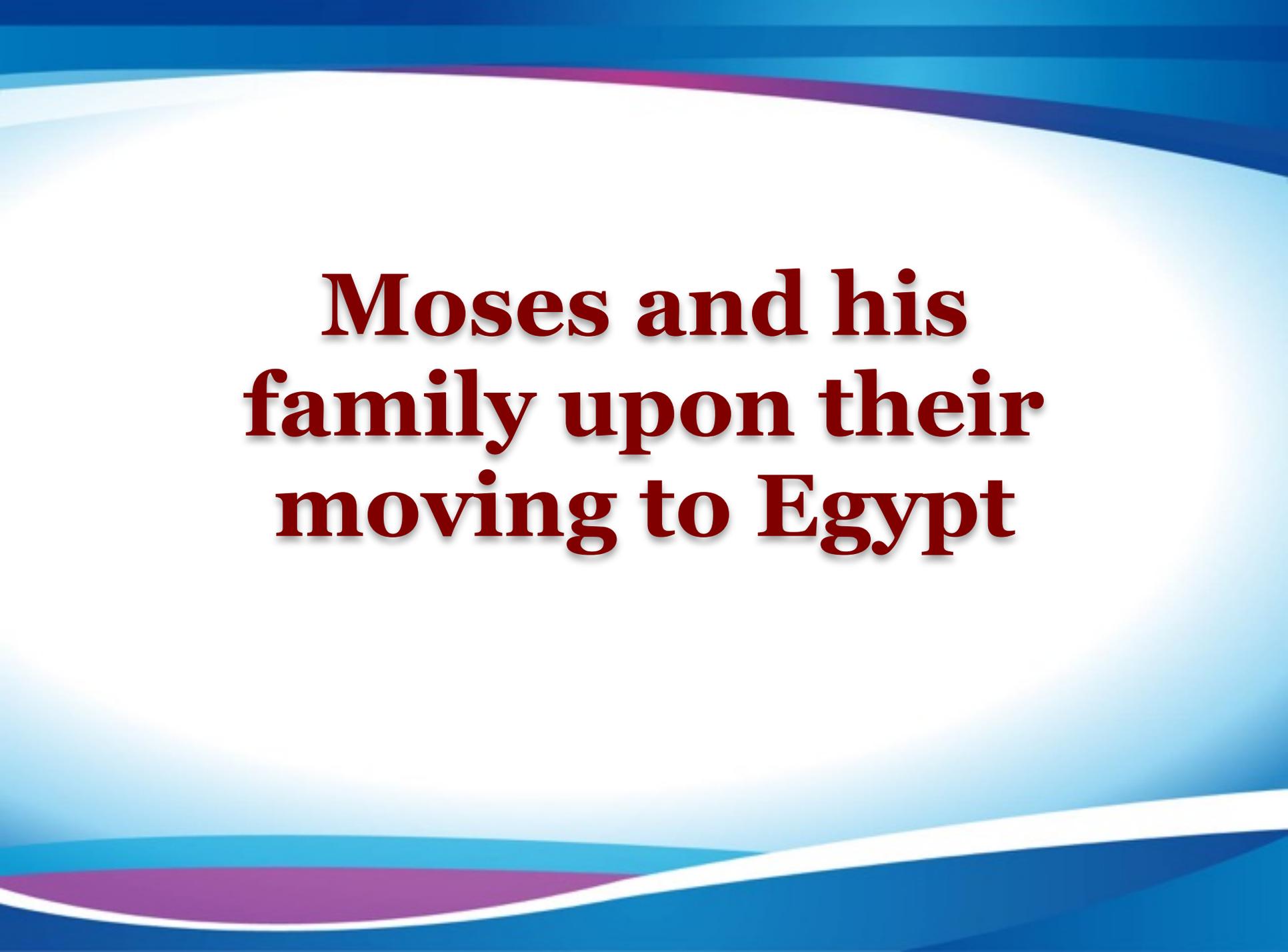
I am slow of speech

“Moses said to the Lord, ‘Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.’”

Exodus 4:10

Let us consider the objections

- They were based on reality.
- All were devoid of pride.
- In none of them did Moses present himself as superior to the responsibility at hand.
- For each of them God had a solution.
- In none of them was the family of Moses implicated.

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**Moses and his
family upon their
moving to Egypt**

He told his father-in-law

“Then Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, ‘Let me return to my own people in Egypt to see if any of them are still alive.’”

Exodus 4:18

Moses, the shepherd

- He was respectful of his father-in-law.
- He understood that it would be very hard for Jethro to be separated from his daughter and grandchildren.
- He held in high regard his wife's family.
- Although it was a divine calling, he did not ignore the psychological implications that can affect the lives of people, and which were worth addressing.

Jethro, his father-in-law

- Proved to be a man of God.
- Respected God's calling of his son-in-law.
- Regarded obedience to God above his own emotions.
- Was aware that his daughter should go with her husband to fulfill a mission entrusted by God.

*“Jethro said, ‘Go, and
I wish you well.’”*

Exodus 4:18

Zipporah, his wife

- Had to leave her father's home.
- Had to travel through the desert with her young children.
- Had to go to a land foreign to her.
- Had to leave behind her family and friends
- Had no friends in Egypt.
- To her, Egypt was synonymous with uncertainty
- Egypt was filled with apostasy and danger to the family, especially for the children.

Moses joined his family to his ministry

*“So Moses took his wife and sons,
put them on a donkey and started
back to Egypt. And he took the
staff of God in his hand.”*

Exodus 4:20

LESSONS

- Moses communicated well with his family.
- He communicated things in a positive light.
- He presented his ministry as positive with no shadow of negativity.
- His wife became involved and was aware of her husband's concerns.

- Zipporah understood her position as helpmeet for her husband.
- She understood the concept of “ministerial family” and realized God’s calling included her.
- She did not object to moving to Egypt, in spite of known difficulties just ahead.

- Along with Moses, she also involved their children in the ministry.
- Zipporah loved, understood and identified herself with the work of her husband.
- She wanted to assist Moses in fulfilling God's mission.
- Moses respected his wife.

(Oh, that every husband could say, "I owe myself to God, to a people, and to a shepherdess"!)

Points to ponder

“God designs that in his home life the teacher of the Bible shall be an exemplification of the truths that he teaches. What a man is has greater influence than what he says.”

AH 353

“The minister’s duties lie around him, nigh and afar off; but his first duty is to his children. He should not become so engrossed with his outside duties as to neglect the instruction which his children need.”

AH 353

“Ministers’ children are in some cases the most neglected children in the world, for the reason that the father is with them but little, and they are left to choose their own employment and amusement.”

AH 354

“The wife of a minister of the gospel can be either a most successful helper and a great blessing to her husband or a hindrance to him in his work. It depends very much on the wife whether a minister will rise from day to day in his sphere of usefulness, or whether he will sink to the ordinary level.”

AH 355

“I saw that the wives of the ministers should help their husbands in their labors and be exact and careful what influence they exert... An unsanctified wife is the greatest curse that a minister can have.”

AH 355

Children

“Your father is a minister of the gospel, and Satan works most zealously to lead the children of ministers to dishonor their parents... Will you allow Satan to work through you to destroy the hope and comfort of your parents?”

AH 357

“Will you allow Satan to work through you to destroy the hope and comfort of your parents?”

AH 357

Conclusion

“You have entrusted to you a little plot of ground; but your own dooryard is left to grow up with brambles and thorns, while you are engaged in weeding others’ gardens... You are preaching the gospel to others; practice it yourself at home.”

AH 356