

Timeline of Moses' Life

The Early Years

- Second generation of Israelites born into slavery in Egypt.
- Pharaoh commands that all male Israelite children be killed.
- Moses is born:
 - Mother, Yocheved, and sister, Miriam, make basket of rushes and hide baby Moses in the Nile River.
 - Pharaoh's daughter finds Moses and draws him out of the river and decides to raise him as her own. His name, "Moshe," means "drawn out of the water."
 - Miriam, who was hiding nearby when Moses was found, pleads with Pharaoh's daughter to take her and her mother on as the baby's nursemaids.
- Moses grows up in the Egyptian court but is aware that he is Hebrew. One day, he goes out among the Israelite slaves to see them at work. He witnesses an Egyptian slave master beating a Hebrew man to death. Enraged, Moses kills the Egyptian slave master.
- Fearing penalty for his rash killing of the Egyptian, Moses flees into the wilderness.
- For forty years, Moses lives as a shepherd among the people of the Sinai Peninsula.



Moses Found in the River, fresco from Dura Europos synagogue, 244–255 CE.

Moses as God's Liberator

- One day, on Mount Horeb, Moses encounters a bush that is burning without being consumed by the fire. He hears the voice of God from the bush, instructing him to return to Egypt and free his fellow Israelites from slavery.
- Moses encounters his brother, Aaron, on the road back to Egypt. God instructs the two brothers in miraculous signs that they can perform if the Israelites doubt that Moses and Aaron speak with God's authority.
- Moses and Aaron perform miraculous signs for the Hebrew slaves. The Israelites agree to follow Moses toward freedom.
- But first, Moses must convince the new Pharaoh of Egypt to let the Israelites go free. The new Pharaoh agrees, but then reconsiders. God sends a series of ten plagues upon the Egyptian people, pressuring Pharaoh to release the Israelites. Finally, after the final plague kills the Egyptian firstborn sons, Pharaoh lets the slaves go.



Burning Bush

St Catherine's Monastery, Sinai
Byzantine mosaic, 6th Century CE



Moses and Aaron

The Sinai Icon Collection
Byzantine painting, date unknown