



# Weekly Update

## September 11, 2022

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**Worship Every Sunday at 9:30 AM**

### Moses: The Well and the Bush (Exodus 2:11-22, 3:1-12)

The well and the bush are two important sites that proved to be turning points in Moses' life. The well was the place he met his wife. The bush is the place he encountered the voice of God.

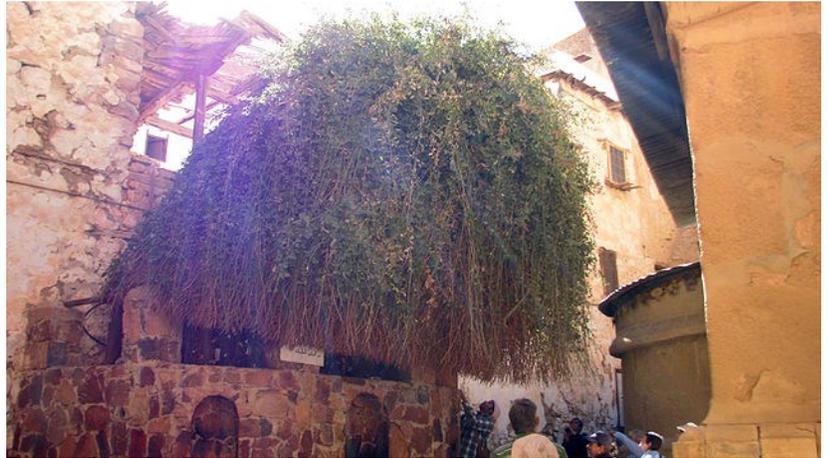
On the page of the Bible, there is but a few paragraphs separating these two events. In Moses' life however, there was 40 years. While Scripture doesn't name exact years, Rabbinical tradition holds that Moses' life could be divided into three 40-year portions.

The first forty are his Egypt years, marked with his rescue from the river, his life in the palace of Pharaoh, and ending with Moses murdering an Egyptian man and fleeing to the wilderness. This forty year period ends at the well, when the fugitive Moses defends a group of women at a well. This chance encounter leads to his marriage and becoming a shepherd with his father-in-law Jethro (or Reuel, the Scriptures inexplicably change the name). The last forty year period is his time freeing the Hebrews from captivity and leading them through the desert.

The well and the bush mark the transition times between his 40 year periods. His first forty years are marked by violence. The murder of the innocents and his own murder of an Egyptian man give way to a time of peace. His middle period begins when he defends the safety and rights of seven women. The rest is uneventful in the Bible, except that he becomes a father, a shepherd, and settles down. This period of peace begins at the well—a place of oasis. The well is his respite, not just from the brutal dry air of the desert, but from a life of torment and violence.

Forty years later, while a father, husband, and toiling as a shepherd, he makes an incredible discovery. He finds a bush that is burning but is not consumed. The very presence of the LORD is found in this bush and the voice of God tells him to do something impossible: Go to Pharaoh and tell him to free Israel. It is an impossible task, and one that is asked of Moses as he enters the final third of his life.

Moses objects. He asks, "Who am I?" There are two things Moses didn't consider when he objects to the mission God



**The bush at Saint Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai Peninsula, which monastic tradition identifies as being the burning bush. (Wikimedia)**

sets out for him. For one, Moses is exactly the person who is fit for this enormous task. He is a Hebrew. He is acquainted with the Pharaoh and the palace. He also knows the wilderness for he has spent the last forty years of his life as a shepherd in the land in which he is about to lead his people. Everything in his life has led him to this point. Who could possibly be better suited?

More importantly however, is God's answer. The most important thing about Moses is that God is with him. Moses was chosen by God, and that is enough. Moses, despite his age, despite his temper, despite his sordid past and his extraordinary life, was chosen by God. And that makes him enough.

Moses would lead the people out of slavery. He would be given God's Law. He would have a relationship with God like no other human would have. And it started when he was entering the last third of his life. He did all of his best work after retirement. He became a leader, a prophet, a man of God, and finally found his own identity when he was could have settled down and collected his pension.

The well and the bush—two turning points in his life—give us a chance to reflect on our own turning points. Where have our lives turned, and how may our lives still turn? Be open to God's call, no matter which portion of life you may be in. God may still speak to you and call you to an extraordinary mission.

# TWO RIVERS CHURCH WEEKLY UPDATE

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## Amani Café opens with culinary delight



After worship on the 11th, Amani Café served a fundraiser lunch. The ingredients and the time the cooks spent preparing the meal were donated so that all the money donated would become seed money for the bigger project.

The dream is to open an East African restaurant in downtown Rock Island to provide economic empowerment and community support for African families and refugees.

The meal consisted of beef stewed in tomatoes, onions, and peppers, beans, vegetable fried rice, sombe (casava greens), and beignet (fried bread).

The next step will be a pop-up carry-out restaurant set up in the church parking lot. This will be marketed to the wider community, and word-of-mouth advertising will be extremely important. In the meantime, members of the team will pursue licensure in food preparation, and work more toward making the operation as efficient as possible. Patience, Rugaiai, Chantal, and the rest of the team are extremely thankful for the tremendous generosity of those in attendance.



### MEMORY VERSE for Sept. 18— Exodus 15:21

**Miriam sang the refrain back to them: Sing to the Lord, for an overflowing victory! Horse and rider he threw into the sea!**

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

09/18	Sunday	Ex. 14:10-29	Crossing the Sea
09/19	Monday	Ex. 15:1-9	Moses' victory song
09/20	Tuesday	Ex. 16:1-36	Manna and quail
09/21	Wednesday	Ex. 24:3-8	Covenant at Sinai
09/22	Thursday	Ex 32:1-14	The people worship the bull
09/23	Friday	Ex. 32:15-35	The anger of God and Moses
09/24	Saturday	Ex. 33:12-34:9	Moses pleads with God

### UPCOMING SERMONS:

### “Moses”

Sept. 18	The Sea & the Dry Land	Exodus 14:10-29
Sept. 25	Blood & Anger	Exodus 24:3-8 and 34:7-20
Oct. 2	Fear & Loathing	Numbers 13:17-21, 25-33; 14:1-4