

MOSES: HIS LIFE AND TIMES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649177325

Moses: his life and times by George Rawlinson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

GEORGE RAWLINSON

**MOSES: HIS
LIFE AND TIMES**

MOSES:
HIS LIFE AND TIMES.

BY

GEORGE RAWLINSON, M.A.

CAMDEN PROFESSOR OF ANCIENT HISTORY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD,
AND CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF TURIN;
AUTHOR OF "THE FIVE GREAT MONARCHIES OF THE ANCIENT
EASTERN WORLD," ETC., ETC.

(SECOND EDITION.)

London:
JAMES NISBET AND CO.,
21, BERNERS STREET, W.



PREFACE.

THE materials for a life of Moses are found chiefly in the four later Books of the Pentateuch. The New Testament also contributes some valuable notices, especially Acts vii. and Hebrews xi. Next to them in value, but next at an interval that is scarcely measurable, come the accounts given by Josephus and Philo. Moses is the hero of Josephus's Second, Third, and Fourth Books, which present to us the circumstances of his life with a considerable amount of detail, but do not add very much to the scriptural narrative, except at the two extremes of Moses' career, his early years and his decease. Different estimates may be formed of the degree of credit to be attached to these portions of Josephus's history, and it requires, beyond a doubt, much critical acumen to deal with them properly, neither accepting nor rejecting them *en bloc*. The same may be said of the notices to be found in the writings of Philo. Philo has left us a work entitled, "The Life of Moses" (*Περὶ Βίῃς Μωϋσέως*), which contains interesting accounts of his education and personal appearance; and in several of his other treatises he gives estimates of Moses' character and abilities. A passage of Artapanus, preserved by Eusebius, is entitled to consideration. Many legends have clustered round the name of Moses, some Jewish, others Mahometan; but these are almost wholly worthless, and throughout the following pages, excepting in a single instance, no notice has been taken of them. The writer's strong conviction has been that it is from Scripture, almost entirely, if not entirely, that we must learn the facts of Moses' life, and deduce our estimate of his character. He believes that in the four later Books of the Pentateuch we have an actual, though not an intentional, autobiography. Without going the length of saying that the whole of Deuteronomy is the composition of Moses, he regards it as a faithful report of discourses held by Moses during the later portion of his life, collected after his

death by Joshua or Eleazar into a volume. And he has not the slightest doubt that Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, were written, almost as we have them, by Moses himself. Moses is thus portrayed to us by his own hand in these three Books, and in Deuteronomy by the hand of a contemporary; and the truth concerning him is best arrived at by a close scrutiny of the scriptural narrative.

Materials for a description of the "times" of Moses exist now in enormous quantities through the interpretation of the hieroglyphic inscriptions, and of the other native Egyptian documents. They are contained in the works of Lepsius, Wilkinson, Rosellini, Mariette, Brugsch, Birch, Chabas, Stuart Poole, and others. The difficulty here has been that of selection. In a work limited to two hundred pages, the author found it necessary to contract within a painfully narrow space his notices of the contemporary history of the manners, customs, and religion of Egypt; while of the grand buildings executed by the Egyptian monarchs, amongst which Moses was brought up, he could only allow himself the briefest and most general description. Similarly, with respect to Moses' life in the wilderness, and to the geographical problems involved in the wanderings, he found it impossible within the limits assigned him to enter into details, or to attempt more than some general portraiture of the Sinaitic region, and the life of its ancient inhabitants. For this portion of his essay he is largely indebted to the labours of Stanley, Tristram, Robinson, Trumbull, Porter, and the travellers whose works have been published under the auspices of the Palestine Exploration Fund. Recent commentaries, as the "Speaker's," the "Pulpit Commentary," and that sanctioned by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, have also been laid under contribution, and have afforded valuable aid. Among general histories of the time, he has derived the greatest assistance from the late Dean Stanley's "History of the Jewish Church," which, though not faultless, is a work of sterling merit. Ewald's History seems to him far inferior; and the other accounts given of Moses in Cyclopædias and Biblical Dictionaries add nothing of any value to the researches and reflections of the two above-mentioned writers.

OXFORD,

G. R.

February 27, 1887.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

ISRAEL IN EGYPT	PAGE 1
---------------------------	-----------

Jacob's descent into Egypt ; Joseph's position ; Circumstances of Egypt at the time—Joseph's Pharaoh, Apepi—Israel after Joseph's death—Commencement of the severe oppression ; its nature—Edict issued to destroy all the male infants.

CHAPTER II.

BIRTH OF MOSES	13
--------------------------	----

Moses' parents ; their position ; their place of abode—His sister, Miriam—His elder brother, Aaron—Aaron's birth had not needed to be concealed—Concealment of the birth of Moses—Plan to save him when further concealment was impossible—The plan skillfully carried out.

CHAPTER III.

MOSES' CHILDHOOD	21
----------------------------	----

Name given to the saved child—His early life at the Court—Impressions made on him by his surroundings—His intercourse with his own family—Story told of his trampling on the Pharaoh's crown—His beauty, spirit, and intelligence.

CHAPTER IV.

EDUCATION	27
---------------------	----

The physical training of Moses—Egyptian athletic games—Early instruction—Reading and writing—Egyptian writing involved a training in art—Arithmetic—Music and rhythm—Later instruction—University of Heliopolis—Subjects of the University course—Geometry—Literature—Astronomy—Law—Medicine—Philosophy of Symbolism—Position of Moses among the students.

CHAPTER V.

	PAGE
EARLY MANHOOD OF MOSES	41

Anomalous position of an adopted founding at the Egyptian Court—Annoyances to which Moses would be subjected—Courses of life which would naturally be open to him—The official life—The literary life—The life of a soldier: its attractions at the time—Grounds for concluding that Moses adopted the military life—Training which it involved—Moses in the Hittite wars—Account given by Josephus of Moses' successes against the Ethiopians—The account criticized.

CHAPTER VI.

THE GREAT DECISION	51
------------------------------	----

Prospects of Moses after the Ethiopian expedition—His leaning towards his brethren—His "tour of inspection"—His remonstrances in high quarters ineffectual—Two possible courses open to him—The great decision—Moses casts in his lot with his brethren—His efforts to help them—His hasty homicide—His danger—His flight eastward—His arrival in Midian.

CHAPTER VII.

MOSES IN MIDIAN	61
---------------------------	----

Country occupied by the Midianites—Position of Reuel among them—Position of Moses—Character of the Sinaitic region—Desolation—Silence—Occasional sand-storms—Silence of the nights—Moses' life in the desert a preparation for his subsequent career—Few circumstances of his life known to us—Names of his sons and explanation of them—Egyptian story of Sancha illustrates this part of the history of Moses.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE RETURN TO EGYPT	70
-------------------------------	----

Events in Egypt during the absence of Moses—Peace made with the Hittites—Peace cemented by an intermarriage—Attention of Ramesses II. turned to the construction of great works—Increased sufferings of the Israelites—Death of Ramesses II.—His character—Menephtah continues the oppression—God's appearance to Moses in the bush—His call—His resistance to the call—The punishment of his resistance—The ground of it—Relations of Moses with Jethro—He is allowed to depart, but lingers—Picture of his departure—His dangerous illness and its consequences—His meeting with Aaron.

CHAPTER IX.

THE LONG STRUGGLE WITH PHARAOH	85
--	----

The two brothers convene the elders of Israel—Their mission accepted—Their first appearance before Pharaoh, and the risk

	PAGE
they ran—The demand and its rejection—Pharaoh increases the oppression—Moses' appeal to God and God's answer—Second interview between the two brothers and the king—Contest with the magicians begins—The First Plague: Pharaoh unmoved by it—The Second, or Plague of Frogs: Pharaoh relents, but recovers himself—The Third, or Plague of Lice: the magicians give way, but the Pharaoh is unmoved—The Fourth, or Plague of Beetles: Pharaoh gives permission, but retracts it—The Fifth, or Plague of Murrain—The Sixth, or Plague of Boils—The Seventh, or Plague of Hail: Pharaoh again yields, but retracts—The Eighth, or Plague of Locusts—The Ninth, or Plague of Darkness—The Tenth, or Death of the First-born—Pharaoh drives Israel out.	

CHAPTER X.

THE PASSAGE OF THE RED SEA	119
--------------------------------------	-----

The gathering—The number that came together—The halt at Succoth—Change in the direction of the march—Encampment at Migdol—Peril of the position and faith of Moses—Regret of Pharaoh—His pursuit of Israel—Terror of the Israelites—Movement of the Pillar of the Cloud—Passage of the sea by Israel—The Egyptians pursue—Their difficulties—Destruction of the entire army—Completeness of the deliverance—Credit which attaches to Moses in respect of it—Moses' Song of Triumph.

CHAPTER XI.

THE STRUGGLE WITH AMALAK	132
------------------------------------	-----

The Sinaitic Peninsula—Its geography—Its population in the early Egyptian period—Its early history—The population in Moses' time—The Kenites—The Amalekites—Natural hostility of the latter to Israel—Their guerilla warfare—The great fight at Rephidim—Part taken by Moses—Results of the victory, and commemoration of it.

CHAPTER XII.

MOSES AT SINAI	
--------------------------	--

Sinai; its geographical feature—God's manifestation of Himself to Israel there, directly, through the elders, and through Moses—Abiding proof of the last-named manifestation in the light that shone from Moses' countenance—Purpose of the manifestations—The legislation of Sinai, not *from*, but only *through* Moses—Individuality of Moses strongly marked in his conduct at Sinai—His reverence—His care for the people—His indignation at their apostasy—His severe punishment of it—His subsequent intercession for his people—His stupendous act of self-devotion and its consequences, to the people, to himself—Exaltation of the character of Moses after Sinai.