

**This is an initial Sample of
*My First History.***

**This book is currently in
production and editing.**

**This sample will be updated
when the book is completed.**



MIRIAM AND THE BAD KING OF EGYPT

1

Miriam was a little girl. She lived with her mommy and daddy in a land called Egypt. It was hot in Egypt. The sun shone bright and strong. When Miriam went outside, the sand was hot on her feet.

Miriam and her family lived in Egypt, but they were not Egyptians. They were Israelites. They were part of the people of Israel. The Israelites lived in Egypt, but they wanted to leave Egypt. The Israelites wanted to live in their own land.

Why do you think they wanted to leave Egypt? They were sad there. The king of Egypt did not like the Israelites. He did bad things to them. The Israelites were sad, and they prayed to God. They said, “God, please rescue us from the king of Egypt. Please let us leave Egypt and live in our own land where we will be free.”

Miriam listened as her mommy and daddy prayed. She wondered, “When will God answer our prayers? When will He rescue us?”

Miriam had a brother named Aaron. One day, Miriam’s mother had another baby boy. Miriam was glad to have another brother. She liked to help take care of the baby. He was a beautiful little boy. But Miriam’s mother knew the king of Egypt would be angry if he found the baby. “We have to hide your baby brother,” she told Miriam. “We don’t want the king to find out about our little baby boy.”

Miriam’s mother put the baby inside a special basket. She hid the basket beside the river. Miriam stayed by the river and kept watch to be sure her baby brother was safe. She wondered, “What will happen to him? Will he die?”

Suddenly, Miriam saw a woman coming down to the river. The woman was an Egyptian. The bad king of Egypt was her father. Do you think Miriam was afraid of her?

The Egyptian woman was a princess. She looked around at the river. Then she saw the basket in the reeds. Miriam watched while the princess opened the basket and looked inside. What did she see?

“A baby!” the princess said with surprise. The baby felt surprised as well. The baby began to cry. The Egyptian princess smiled. “Poor little baby!” she said. “He’s hungry. I must find someone to take care of him.”

Miriam heard what the princess said, so she walked up to her. “Do you want me to go find someone to feed the baby?” she asked. “My mommy can give the baby some milk to drink.”

“Yes, go bring your mother,” the princess said. Miriam ran back to her house and called her mother. The princess gave the baby to Miriam’s mother. The princess didn’t know the baby belonged to her. “Take this baby and feed it,” the princess said. “I want to keep him safe, and he will be my own son.”

The mother took good care of her baby boy. When he grew older, the princess took the little boy to live with her. They lived in her big Egyptian house. She called the baby Moses.

LEARNING TO BE PATIENT

Miriam was glad her brother was safe, but she didn’t want him to live in Egypt. She didn’t want to live in Egypt with the bad king.





The Egyptian princess found Moses beside the Nile River.

Every day, Miriam and the people of Israel prayed. They asked God to rescue them from the bad king of Egypt. Did God hear their prayer?

Miriam waited a long time. She wondered, “Will God answer our prayer today? Will He save us today?” No, God didn’t save them that day. And on the next day, Miriam wondered, “*Will God rescue us today?*” But God didn’t rescue them that day either.

It took a long, long time of waiting before God rescued them. Miriam knew she had to be patient, but it was hard to be patient. At last, God said, “My people Israel are in Egypt. I have heard them cry because the Egyptians hurt them. I have seen their pain. I will rescue them from the king of Egypt.”

Miriam was so happy to leave Egypt. She was so happy that she sang a song to praise God. She held a tambourine in her hand and sang and danced. She sang: “Sing to the Lord, for He has done great things!” The rest of the Israelites joined Miriam. They sang, “The Lord is my strength and song. The Lord will reign forever and ever!”

WHAT HAPPENED LATER?

God rescued the Israelites from Egypt. He stopped the king of Egypt from hurting them. Then God gave the Israelites a new land. It was the land of Israel.

Miriam was so thankful God answered their prayers. She was thankful He set her people free. She was thankful He rescued them from the bad king. She had to be patient, but God had been faithful. God had kept His promise and given them a new home in Israel.



I waited patiently for the Lord;
And He inclined to me,
And heard my cry.
(Psalm 40:1)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did Miriam's mommy do when baby Moses was born?
2. Was the king of Egypt a good king or a bad king?
3. Why did Miriam have to be patient?
4. What does our Bible verse teach us?



Miriam lived in the land of Egypt. Egypt was a hot place to live.



Jerusalem, Israel

JOSIAH: A LITTLE BOY BECOMES A KING

After Miriam and the people of Israel left the land of Egypt, they moved to a land God gave them. This was the land of Israel. Do you see it on the map? Israel is close to Egypt.



A king ruled over the people in the land of Israel. One day the king died, and it was time for a new king to rule over the people. Who do you think the new king was? He was a little boy named Josiah. Josiah was only eight years old when he became king.

Do you think Josiah was excited to be a king? Do you think he knew how to be a king? He may have needed some help from the surrounding grownups. They could help him learn how to be a good king.

If you were a king or a queen, would you know what to do? Would you know what is right and what is wrong? Could you teach all the people to do good things and not bad things? That would be difficult! Josiah had a hard job. It is not easy to be a king.

FINDING A LOST BOOK

One day, King Josiah asked some men to clean up the temple. The temple was the place where people came to worship God. The men started cleaning each room in the temple. When they went into one room, they found an old book. This was a book Moses wrote. It had all the laws God gave His people. These laws told the people how they should live.

A man brought this book to the king. “King Josiah, we have found the Book of God’s Law!” the man said.

Josiah was excited to see the book. He said, “We must read this book. It will tell us how God wants us to live.”

The man read the book to Josiah. As he read, Josiah said, “God’s Law is good, but we have not done what God told us to do. We have not obeyed God. We have done bad things.” Josiah started to cry. He was sorry the people of Israel had done bad things. He wanted everyone to do good things just like God’s perfect Law told them to.

What do you think King Josiah did? He called all the rulers of the people together. Then he called all the fathers and mothers and boys and girls. He told them to come to a big meeting. When all the people had arrived, King Josiah stood up and started to read. He read the Book of God’s Law to the people. All the people listened as the king read the words of the book.



What would you do if you were a king or a queen?



When Josiah was king, books were written on long pieces of paper called a scroll

When King Josiah finished reading all the book, he spoke to the people. He said, “We must obey what God wrote in this book. We must obey all the laws and commandments that God gave us. In His book, God told us how to live. We must obey Him.”

The people said, “The king is right. We must obey God! We must do what His Law tells us to do.”

DOING WHAT IS RIGHT

Is it good for you to fight with your brother or sister? Is it good for you to take something that does not belong to you? King Josiah told the people that these things were wrong. “God’s Law tells us not to take things that are not ours,” he told the people. “We must obey God’s Law because it is a perfect Law.”





Josiah loved God with his whole heart and wanted to live exactly like God told him to. He wanted to be a good king and lead his people well. But at times it was hard to know what to do. At times, he did not know what was right and what was wrong. Is there a way he could find out? Do you know?

If Josiah did not know what to do, he could look in God's Book. God's Book teaches what is right and what is wrong. Do you know what we call God's Book today? We call it the Bible.

Josiah loved to read God's Book and to think about it. Another word for thinking about something is *meditating*. If we *meditate* on God's Law, that means we think about it all the time. We think about how to love God and obey Him and how to do what is right.

Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.
(Psalm 119:97)



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How old was Josiah when he became king?
2. What book did the men find when they were cleaning the temple?
3. How did Josiah know what was right and what was wrong?
4. What does our Bible verse say we should do if we love God's Law?



Some people in Jerusalem traveled on donkeys.
Would you like to ride a donkey?

RHODA HEARS A KNOCK

3

Jerusalem was a big city. Many people lived there. Many animals lived there as well. There were no cars or trucks or airplanes in Jerusalem in the past. But there were horses and donkeys. If you wanted to visit a friend, you would ride a donkey—or you would walk. But you could not ride in a car or on a bicycle. Jerusalem did not have cars or bicycles yet!

A long time ago, a bad king ruled over Jerusalem. His name was Herod. Herod was not a good man. He did many bad things. People did not like Herod because of the bad things he did.

Some of the people who lived in Jerusalem were God's people. They loved Jesus very much. Peter was one of these people. He loved Jesus and wanted to obey Him.

When Jesus was on earth, Peter followed Him and listened to Him talk. Peter learned many things as he listened. He learned that Jesus is God. He learned that God made all things, and God loves everything He made. He learned that Jesus loved His people so much He came to earth to save them! Peter's heart overflowed with love for His Savior Jesus.

With Jesus in heaven once more, Peter lived in Jerusalem. Peter told as many people as possible about God. These people gathered to pray, to sing, and to learn more about Jesus. One of them was a girl named Rhoda. Rhoda and Peter were friends.

But one day, a bad thing happened. King Herod sent his soldiers to arrest Peter. The soldiers put Peter in prison.

When Rhoda found out about



Peter, she was afraid. She did not want bad King Herod to hurt Peter or to lock him up in prison.

Many Christians lived in Jerusalem. The Christians heard that Peter was in prison. They gathered in a house. They began to pray and ask God for help. They asked God to rescue Peter from prison.

While they prayed, God did something. Can you guess what He did? He rescued Peter from the prison and set him free. With God's help, Peter escaped from King Herod! Peter was out of prison, but none of his friends, the Christians, knew this. They did not know God had set Peter free. The Christians remained in the house praying. Peter thought, "I need to tell my friends that I am free!"

Peter went to the house and tried to go in. But the Christians had locked the gate. They were afraid King Herod might send more soldiers to arrest them. Peter knocked on the door. *Knock, knock, knock.* "Let me in!" he said.

Rhoda heard someone knocking at the gate, so she went to see who was knocking. "Who is there?" she asked. Do you think Rhoda thought it was a soldier trying to arrest her? But Rhoda listened, and she did not hear a soldier's voice. She heard the voice of a friend!



“It is me. It is Peter.”

“Peter?” thought Rhoda. She recognized his voice and knew that it *was* Peter! He was free! Rhoda was so happy. She ran back into the house to tell all the people the good news. Rhoda was so excited that she forgot to open the gate and let Peter in.

Rhoda raced into the room where all the Christians were praying. “Peter is at the door!” she cried out.

The people looked at Rhoda in surprise. “Peter cannot be at the door,” they said. “He is locked up in prison.”

“But I heard him!” Rhoda said.

The people shook their heads. “No, it cannot be Peter,” they repeated.

Then they heard something. Peter was still standing outside the house, knocking. *Knock, knock, knock!*

“It *is* Peter!” Rhoda insisted. “He is at the door right now! Come and see!”

Finally, one of Peter’s friends opened the gate to look. “It is Peter!” they cried, overjoyed. “God has answered our prayers! Peter is free!”

That was a big surprise. God heard His people pray, and He saved Peter from prison. Rhoda and all the Christians thanked God for answering their prayer.

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.
(Psalm 145:18)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did people in Peter’s city travel? Did they ride in a car?
2. What did King Herod do to Peter?
3. What did Rhoda and the other Christians do?
4. Did the people believe Rhoda when she said Peter was at the door?
5. What does our Bible verse teach us?



The ancient city of Patara

NICHOLAS OF MYRA AND A SURPRISE PRESENT

4

Do you remember Paul the Apostle? He lived a long, long time ago. He was a friend of Peter, the man we learned about in the last chapter. Paul traveled all over the Greek and Roman world. He wanted to tell everyone about Jesus. One of the places he traveled to was a region called Lycia.

The people in Lycia learned about God from Paul. Paul taught them that Jesus Christ had come to save them from their sins. The Lycians learned that if they trusted in the Lord Jesus, they would be saved. They began to love God and obey Him. One day, a little boy was born in Lycia. The little boy's mommy and daddy named him Nicholas. Nicholas was born about 270 years after Jesus' birth.

Nicholas grew up in a country we call Turkey. He lived near an ocean called the Mediterranean Sea. You can see it on our map.

When Nicholas was a little boy, he liked to help people. When Nicholas grew up, he continued to help people. "God loves me and cares for me" Nicholas thought. "So



Nicholas was born in Patara, near Myra, on the Mediterranean Sea



Boys and girls wore clothes like this when Nicholas was growing up

I want to love and care for people”. Nicholas became a pastor of a church. The church was in a city called Myra. In those days, pastors were called bishops. Everyone called Nicholas, “Bishop Nicholas”.

GIVING A SURPRISE PRESENT

A poor man lived in Myra. He had three daughters, but he did not have any money. He was in trouble because he could not take care of his girls. What should he do?

Bishop Nicholas heard about the poor man. He wanted to help him. He decided to give the man a present of money. Then the man would be able to care for his daughters. But Nicholas thought, “If I give the man money, he will tell everyone about me.

He will tell people how nice I am.” Nicholas said to himself, “I don’t want that. God gave me this money. When I give this present, I do not want the man to think about me. I do not want the man to say I was kind. I want him to think about God and thank God for caring for him.”

Nicholas thought: “I want this present to be a surprise. I do not want the man to know I gave it to him.” Is there a way Nicholas could keep it a surprise? What do you think he did?

Nicholas waited until nighttime when it was pitch-black outside. Everyone was asleep. Nobody was watching. Nicholas snuck up to the poor man’s house. The man had left a window open. Nicholas crept up to the window. He tossed the bag of money inside. The bag landed beside the fireplace.

The next morning, the poor man woke up and found the money beside his fireplace. “Who put this here?” he wondered. “Some kind person has given this to us!” Then the man thanked God for sending money, so he could care for his daughters.



A BIG ARGUMENT ABOUT GOD

One day, Nicholas heard people in his city arguing about God. They asked, “Is Jesus *really* God? Do we *really* need to love and worship Him? What does the Bible actually say about Jesus?” People all over the Roman and Greek world started arguing like this.

A man named Constantine was ruler of the Roman and Greek world. Constantine wondered, “What should I do? People are arguing. They are saying false things about Jesus.” Constantine planned a meeting. He invited hundreds of pastors to come to the meeting. Everyone gathered for the meeting in the city of Nicaea. (The meeting was called a *council*.)

Bishop Nicholas was one of the men who came to the meeting. Constantine



Constantine was emperor of the Roman and Greek world

waited until all the pastors and guests had arrived. Then he said, “We must believe what the Bible says. Is Jesus God? Does the Bible say so?”

The pastors began to talk about this. They talked for a long time. “The Bible is true, and the Bible tells us that Jesus is God,” they said. “We should love Him and worship Him.” Then the bishops wrote down what they believed. We call this document they wrote, the Nicene Creed. Have you heard of it before? Your mommy or daddy can read it to you.

WHAT HAPPENED LATER?

Nicholas was happy to help write the Nicene Creed. He wanted everyone to love Jesus as much as he did.

After the meeting was over, Nicholas went back to his home in Myra. He lived a long time, until he was an old man. Then he died. People loved Nicholas very much. People

wanted to be like Nicholas. After he died, they remembered all the things he had done. Some people remembered the gifts he had given to poor people. They started giving gifts too. If a poor child had no food, someone would wait until the child went to sleep at night. Then they would quietly put food and toys beside the fireplace in the child's house. When the child woke up in the morning, they would find the special presents waiting for them.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:11)



Bishop Nicholas of Myra

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What kind of clothes did boys and girls wear when Nicholas was a little boy?
2. What did Nicholas do to help the poor man take care of his daughters?
3. Why did Nicholas bring his present to the poor man's house at night?
4. Do you remember what the Nicene Creed is?
5. What does our Bible verse teach us?