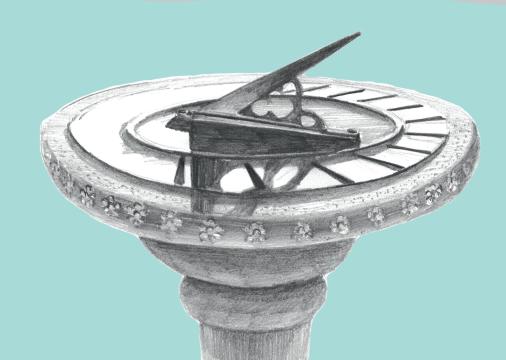


## Joshua Man of Courage



Written and illustrated by M H Philpott





## From Slavery to Freedom

I hope you know the beautiful story of Joseph. He was sold as a slave into Egypt and ended up in prison. But then one night Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had some troubling dreams and Joseph explained them. Pharaoh was so pleased that he put Joseph in charge of the whole land!

Joseph's father Jacob moved to Egypt with all of Joseph's brothers and their families (they were called Israelites) because in Canaan, where they lived, there was no food to eat. That is a story for another time. But it is important because the story of Joshua starts in Egypt, many years after Joseph has died. Joseph's family and those of his brothers have grown and grown and now there are more than a million of them! The new Pharaoh, who had not known Joseph, was cruel to the Israelites and he made them all slaves. The poor children of Israel were miserable.

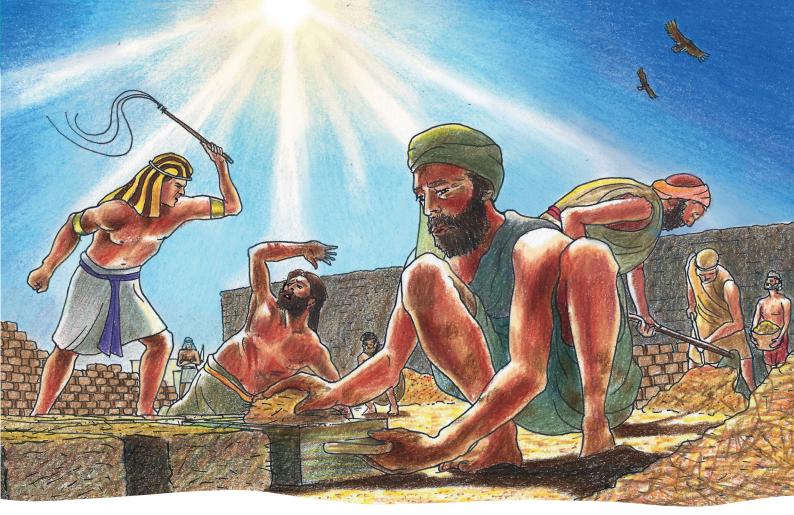
One of the slaves is a man called Nun. He has to work very hard making

bricks for Pharaoh. As an Israelite, Nun would have been brought up knowing that God had said that He would save the Israelites from the Egyptians and take them back into Canaan where Jacob and Joseph had lived.

DID YOU KNOW? A slave is someone who is forced to work without pay



On Map 1, can you find: EGYPT and CANAAN



Nun and his wife had a baby boy—Joshua. It is likely Nun remembered God's many promises and when Joshua was born, he called him Oshea, which means "Salvation."

Joshua grew up and, as soon as he was old enough, he became a slave making bricks like his father. **DID YOU** KNOW? Oshea was later renamed Joshua by Moses One day, an Israelite called Moses came into Egypt from the land of Midian, where he had lived for forty years. Moses and his brother Aaron spoke to the people. They said that God would now deliver them from the cruel Pharaoh. At last—salvation for the poor slaves! God would take them to Canaan as He had promised, to give them the land to live in. God had promised it, so it was called the Promised Land.

DID YOU KNOW? Midian is in the country we now call Saudi Arabia

God was with Moses. Moses bravely told Pharaoh that God had said, "Let my people go!" Pharaoh didn't want to let them go, but God sent horrible plagues and Pharaoh eventually said, "Go!" So the Israelites went, all together, in one night.

The Children of Israel reached the Red Sea. There were mountains on each side and the sea in front; there was nowhere to go. To make it worse, Pharaoh had changed his mind and chased them! They were trapped. Would they all be killed or taken back to slavery?

No, God had other plans. He did an amazing miracle and parted the sea, so they could walk across on dry land!





The Egyptians chased in after them, but God caused the sea to crash back down, and drowned all of the Egyptian army. Moses, Joshua, and all the Israelites were safe! But their journey wasn't over. It was just beginning.

You can read about this in Genesis chapters 41 and 46, and Exodus chapters 1, 4, 12 and 14.

Moses, God's chosen leader of the Israelites, has a lot to do. He has to tell the Israelites what God wants from them, and sort out their problems. He needs someone to help get things done. Moses must have been pleased with Joshua as leader of the army, because

HHun

DID YOU KNOW? In the book of Esther, Haman (who hated the Jews) was from Amalek

now Joshua would be Moses' special helper. God was preparing Joshua for the days ahead when he would have an even more important job.

You can read about this in Exodus chapter 17 verses 8 to 16.