

Moses and the Exodus/Passover Event: Comparing Scripture with Disney's *The Prince of Egypt*

The Moses story and the Exodus/Passover event make up the single-most important story of the Old Testament. It is through this event that the Jewish people come to know who they are and who God is. This event helps us as Christians to understand the meaning of Baptism, the Eucharist, and Jesus as our sacrificial lamb. This story is told imaginatively and creatively in Disney's *The Prince of Egypt*. While the movie is quite engaging and effective, it takes liberties with the story as it comes to us in Scripture. The following exercise invites you to compare and contrast scenes from *The Prince of Egypt* with corresponding Scripture passages in order to come away with a better understanding of the Bible's account of this saving action of God.

Event	Scripture Passage	Prince of Egypt	Compare and Contrast
The Oppression of the Hebrews in Egypt	Exodus 1	Deliver Us (4:15)	-The film shows an accurate depiction of the oppression of the Hebrews in Egypt -Scripture tells us that midwives were instructed to kill Hebrew boys. The film depicts soldiers doing so.
Baby Moses in the "bulrush"	Exodus 2:1-10	The River (3:59)	-Scripture tells us that Moses was placed in a basket in the reeds. The film depicts Moses' basket on a harrowing journey down the river. -Scripture tells us that Pharaoh's daughter finds the child and raises Moses as her own. The film depicts Pharaoh's wife finding him and raising him as a "prince of Egypt" – the brother of Ramses, the future Pharaoh. -The film does not mention Moses' mother nursing Moses as is told in Scripture.
Moses' murder of an Egyptian and his flight	Exodus 2:11-22	Slavery (4:02)	-Scripture tells us that Moses murdered the Egyptian out of anger. The film depicts the event as more of an accident. -Scripture tells us that Moses later is breaking up a fight between 2 Hebrews when he begins to fear for his own life. The film depicts his fears coming to the surface in discussion with his "brother" Ramses (a fictional relationship).
The Burning Bush	Exodus 2:23 – 4:17	Burning Bush (5:44)	-The film has some of the dialogue rearranged (out of sequence). Otherwise it is fairly accurate. -Scripture tells us that God identifies himself as "I am who am." The film uses "I am that I am." -Scripture tells us that Aaron accompanied Moses to help him speak since Moses was not eloquent. The film does not include this.
Moses tells Pharaoh "Let my people go!"	Exodus 5:1-13	Let My People Go (2:52)	-The biggest difference here is that in the film, Moses and Pharaoh are "brothers" who are joyfully reunited. Scripture tells us that no such relationship existed and the name Ramses is not mentioned in the Exodus story.

Moses' staff turns into a snake	Exodus 7:1-13	Playing with the Big Boys Now (3:13)	<p>-Scripture tells us that Aaron accompanied Moses to visit Pharaoh and that Aaron's staff (snake) swallowed the other staffs (snakes).</p> <p>-The film depicts Moses as a young man although Scripture tells us that Moses was 80 years old when he spoke to Pharaoh.</p>
The Plagues	Exodus 7:14-10:29	Nile of Blood (5:46) Plagues (3:02)	<p>-Again, Scripture tells us that Aaron accompanied Moses while the film depicts Moses acting alone.</p> <p>-The film quickly glosses over plagues 2 through 9 while Scripture provides detailed accounts of each.</p>
The Tenth Plague: Death of the Firstborn/Passover Ritual	Exodus 11-12	Ultimatum (1:02) Death of the Firstborn (2:59)	<p>-Scripture tells us that Moses informs Pharaoh of the 10th Plague: the death of the firstborn. The film seems to depict Pharaoh himself announcing the final plague.</p> <p>-Scripture provides great detail about the Passover ritual whereas the film glosses over the details.</p>
Parting of the Red Sea/Destruction of the Egyptians	Exodus 13-14	Parting of the Red Sea (5:26) The Closing of the Red Sea (3:43)	<p>-The film makes no mention of Moses bringing along Joseph's bones as is told in Scripture.</p> <p>-The film also depicts the column of fire suddenly appearing as if for the first time while Scripture tells us that it led them the whole way.</p> <p>-Scripture tells us that the Lord brought a strong wind that blew all night to create the dry land. The film depicts it as a sudden event.</p> <p>-The film depicts Pharaoh as participating in the charge and being swept by the waters while Scripture makes no mention of Pharaoh's participation in the pursuit.</p>
The Israelites sing of freedom	Exodus 15	Goodbye Brother (3:05)	<p>The film quickly jumps ahead to show Moses descending the mountain with the Ten Commandments skipping over Scriptures accounts of the journey through the desert.</p>