

# And Moses Wrote . . . .

By Jim Myers

One thing I have observed many times over the past 30 years of working with ancient Hebrew and Greek texts is that some of my most important discoveries are linked to English words I am very familiar with. These words are so familiar they are almost invisible to our brains. This is one reason I encourage people to slowly read the words of the Bible out loud, so their ears are involved in the process.

While working on this series of emails about the *Ten Commandments*, I had one of those experiences. It happened when I read the words below from Exodus 17:14.

*“And Yahweh said to Moses, **Write this** . . . .”*

I have read this verse hundreds of times before in English, Hebrew, and Greek. This time, for some unknown reason, the words **write this** grabbed my attention! I did a quick search on my computer and discovered that this is the *first time the Hebrew word translated **write** appears in the Bible!*

*From Genesis 1:1 to Exodus 17:13 no one wrote anything.*

I followed the text and found this in Exodus 24:3-5.

*Moses came and told the people  
all the words of Yahweh and all the judgments.  
All the people answered with one voice and said,  
“All the words which Yahweh has said we will do.”  
**Moses wrote all the words of Yahweh.***

The words that Moses spoke to the people and wrote begin at Exodus 20:1 and end at 23:33. There are a lot of words in those verses!

*Moses had to have a very good memory and know how to write.*

What's even more remarkable, Moses was over 80 years old when he did those things! So, how did Moses develop a memory like that and learn how to write? His life can be broken down into two 40-year segments.

- *The first 40 years he lived in Egypt as a member of Pharaoh's family, after being taken from the Nile River and raised by the daughter of a pharaoh.*
- *The next 40 years he lived in Midian as a member of the family of a Midianite priest.*

Thanks to archaeologists we now have access to very ancient Egyptian writings. They contain a great deal of information about life in Egypt during the time from Joseph to Moses. As a young Egyptian prince of Israelite parentage, Moses would have spent much of his childhood in “palace nurseries,” which were training schools for aspiring rulers.

- They learned to read and write both the formal hieroglyphs of the monuments and the cursive script of everyday documents written on papyrus.
- They were educated in the arts of kingship and international diplomacy.
- Many learned to read **Akkadian** – the lingua franca of the greater region, preferred for diplomatic correspondence – written with cuneiform signs on tablets of clay used by the Hittites, Assyrians, Babylonians and north Syrian states.
- By their late teens, they were well-educated and imbued with the legends and tales of both Egypt and Mesopotamia.
- Moses may well have taken a special interest in the epic stories of the great Semitic kingdoms of the north. **Hammurabi of Babylon** published his great law code at precisely the time (according to the New Chronology) when Moses was studying the arts of kingship and the rule of law.

Exodus 24:12 reveals the moment the foundation for transforming the Tribes of Israel into the Nation of Israel was revealed to Moses.

*And **Yahweh** said to Moses,  
“Come up to Me on the mountain and be there;  
and I will give you **tablets of stone, and the instructions (TORAH)**  
**and the commandments (MITzVOT)** which I have **written**,  
that you may **teach** them.”*

The **Nation of Israel** will be a nation of people who are able to **read** and **write** the **instructions (TORAH) and the commandments (MITzVOT)**. The words of Deuteronomy 6:6-9 will be repeated many times in Jewish Scriptures and prayers.

***These words**, which I command you today, are to **be in your heart**.  
You are to **repeat them** to and with your sons, and are to **speak of them**  
when you sit in your house, when you walk in the road, when you lie down,  
and when you rise up. You are to tie them as a sign on your hand,  
and they are to be for bands between your eyes.  
You shall **write them** on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

The **Nation of Israel** is to be a nation in which **all people are trained to read, write, and teach the instructions and commandments of Yahweh** – not just the leaders of the nation! This is what I discovered when I explored the words, “And Moses wrote . . . .”

**Source:**

*Exodus: Myth or History?* by David Rohl © 2015; Thinking Man Media, St. Louis Park, MN; pp. 138-139.