

Goshen Gazette Reader's Theatre - Exodus 1-12

Adapted by Rebecca Stewart

Journalists/Cast

Iza Potter

Ceramics expert

Lemme Sellem

Antiquities Dealer

Seymor Skelton

Human remains expert

Doug Bones

Mummy expert

Izzy Digger

Excavation supervisor

Mima Wiseman

Antiquities scholar

Wanna Wright

Journalist

Jewel hunter

Geologist

Hiro Gliff

Egyptologist

Archie O. Logist

Early Bronze Expert

Hans n. Camra

Photographer

Ima Leevin

Court Reporter

Iza Potter

I'm Iza Potter, an expert on Egyptian ceramics. I'm reading today's news from the Goshen Gazette.

God has Heard Us!

Moses Returns Promises Freedom

Adar 10

After 40 years in exile, Moses returned home to Egypt today and was greeted by an enthusiastic delegation of chiefs and elders.

They were eager to explain the increasing hardships that their people were suffering under the rule of a Pharaoh who was extremely cruel and harsh.

The elders were greatly encouraged to learn that God had heard their prayers and would deliver them from slavery. After getting over the initial

shock of seeing Moses' rod turn into a snake, the elders were convinced that Pharaoh would see God's power and grant their request to go and worship God in the desert.

So, with some help from local court officials, they arranged a meeting for Moses and Aaron at the palace. At press time Moses and Aaron were in conference with Pharaoh and his counselors. Moses is still remembered by a few of the older officials as that dashing young general who battled the Nubians. But most are unaware of Moses' background as the son of Pharaohs' daughter.

It is hoped that once all the details are arranged, Moses will inform the elders of the plans and they will then be published in the Goshen Gazette. So keep reading for further highlights as the talks progress.

Lemme Sellem

I'm Lemme Sellem, your local antiquities dealer, here to read today's Goshen Gazette.

Pharaoh Decreases!

More Bricks No Straw!

Adar 15

Insiders at the palace revealed that yesterday's meeting between Moses, Aaron and Pharaoh had been a total debacle.

The "rod to snake" had not impressed Pharaoh. In fact, his magicians had been able to do this trick with their incantations too!

Some observers were, however, quick to note that Moses' snake swallowed the other snakes whole! Those this only angered Pharaoh and his cronies. Eventually Moses caught his snake as it swallowed the last of

the enchanters' snakes, and it became a staff again in Moses' hand.

As a result of the ill-fated meeting Pharaoh's bad humour has resurfaced and he is now demanding that all brick makers need to gather their own straw.

This is the final straw for those who doubted Moses from the beginning. Some of the brick workers, those hardest hit by the new regulation have suggested tarring and feathering both Moses and his brother for making their situation worse.

Straw gatherers are now being recruited from every family and witnesses say they have seen children as young as five in the fields gathering the barley stubble left behind by the reapers.

Seymor Skelton

I'm Seymor Skelton, your funeral home director and human remains expert. I'm here to read today's Goshen Gazette.

A Bloody River

The Nile Turns Red

Adar 20

The department of public safety has issued a boil water advisory as a result of Moses' latest confrontation with Pharaoh. When they met down by the Nile today, strong words were exchanged and Pharaoh vehemently refused Moses demands. Then Moses muttered something that the sorcerer's said was some kind of incantation. Other eye-witnesses said that Moses was talking to God, then he raised his staff. The rest is history.

One of the servants at the scene said, "The River looked red like wine at first but then it became thick and gooey and started to stink. It was a disaster!"

Many Israelites since then have been complaining saying, "Moses promised us freedom but all he has brought us is pain. And now there's no water to drink!"

"Even our stored fresh water has become undrinkable. Why is God cursing us?" moaned Ima Thursdie the Pharaoh's cook.

"Not only do we have to slave in the hot sun but now we have no potable water, and this boil water advisory is just another ridiculous ineffective government boondoggle," grumbled Anita Drink.

Everyone is wondering how the water problem will be resolved and hoping Moses knows the answer.

Doug Bones

I'm Doug Bones, your expert on mummies and all the latest in burial fashions. I'm here to read today's Goshen Gazette

Frogs Legs Anyone?

What's Moses Thinking?

Adar 24

Pharaoh was shocked this morning, when being served his favourite breakfast of fried frogs legs, he discovered that he had more frog's legs than he had ordered and they were still alive and twitching.

When he called to his servants they opened the door and a wave of little green amphibians swarmed over Pharaoh, up his legs, across his torso and finally leapt from his crown to the paving stones. The servants worked

feverishly to remove the green wiggling pile that formed about Pharaoh's feet!

The cook, Ima Thursdie, was quick to apologize, but we have not been able to get a report from her, as she has not been seen since the incident.

We here in Goshen have our frog problem too! They are in our food, in our clothes, and in our beds. There is nothing more disgusting than walking across the cold floor and sliding and slipping on dozens of clammy, slimy, squishy frogs.

The public works department has called in the straw gatherers to help with the cleanup. As the frogs die they are being piled into great heaps of rotting frog flesh. The smell is bad beyond words. The plan is to recycle and compost them and use them for mulch on the local onion and leek farms. There's something good from every disaster!

Izzy Digger

I'm Izzy Digger, your excavation expert for all your building needs. I'm here to read today's Goshen Gazette

Ouch that Hurts!

Another Gnatty Problem

Adar 28

Gnats have now added to our miseries. Perhaps the noise of their buzzing is as bad as their bite because it keeps us awake all night. As usual we seem to be suffering as much as our Egyptian masters. First there was the taste and stench of blood, then the odor and nuisance of frogs and now these pesky, annoying gnats. "When will it all end?" many are asking themselves.

We eat and sleep in a cloud of flying, tormenting bugs that target our

eyes and ears. When we open our mouths to eat we can't avoid getting an extra mouthful of unwanted protein. Yuck!

It seems that even Pharaoh's magicians have finally agreed that this is not normal. With their chants they had added to everyone's misery with more blood and frogs, but gnats do not seem to be in their repertoire.

The chief soothsayer, Abra. K. Dabra said this morning, "This is the Hand of God!"

But it is likely that Pharaoh will have Dabra executed for conspiracy, as he now seems to be supporting Moses and Aaron.

The elders have planned a meeting tomorrow to discuss matters and implore God for his mercy. Keep reading for the latest news as it happens.

Mima Wiseman

I'm Mima Wiseman, scholar, researcher and lecturer at Goshen University. I'm here reading today's Gazette.

Scientific Fact

No Flies in Goshen

Adar 30

Work today for many of Pharaoh's servants was a painful experience due to the swarms of biting stinging flies that had infested the palace. Pharaoh was said to be immersed in his indoor pool in an attempt to avoid this latest plague. Meanwhile his servants worked frantically with fans to blow the vicious flying intruders away from Pharaohs' face.

When a few of the servants returned home to Goshen they were exhausted from their day of fanning

but very relieved to see that the flies were not a problem there. Later several returned to report that Moses had met with Pharaoh and there seemed to be some initial progress in their negotiations.

Eventually, Pharaoh agreed to let the people go, but it was not certain as to the time frame that he had in mind. We have not confirmed this report and Moses was not available for comment. We will be interviewing more servants as they arrive from the palace.

Meanwhile, as a result of the last chaotic few days work on the pyramids and temples has stopped and most of the brickmakers, stonemasons, and day labourers have returned to their homes in Goshen.

Many in Goshen feel that God has heard their prayers for relief and has spared them from this latest scourge.

Archie O. Logist

I'm Archie O. Logist, an expert in early bronze culture. I'm here to read today's Goshen Gazette.

Mystery Deaths

Many Egyptian Cattle Die

Nisan 2

If beef is the Pharaoh's favourite food, he won't be seeing it on the menu any time soon. The latest blow to the Egyptian economy has come in the form of a deadly virus that has destroyed all of the cattle of Pharaoh and his people.

But here in Goshen it hasn't affected the flocks or herds. People are beginning to grow in respect for Moses and Aaron. Perhaps they were hasty in thinking God wasn't supporting them. The shepherders union is encouraging their members

to offer up prayers of thanks, as the deadly virus has affected none of the flocks.

The cattle board offered a thank offering this afternoon on behalf of all the ranchers whose herds were spared by God. Any one wanting to participate in the BBQ can join them at sunset this evening.

In the last talks with Pharaoh progress had been made and Pharaoh had agreed in principal to the concept of a 3-day journey into the wilderness in order to worship.

The sad reality is that Pharaoh has made one promise after another but he has not yet let the people go. Some in Goshen have lost heart and are wondering where it will all end, while others are encouraging faith in God's promise. Mima Wiseman said, "We need to look to Abraham our forefather and follow his example of faith as we face an uncertain future."

Wanna Wright

I'm Wanna Wright, journalist and court reporter, here to read today's Goshen Gazette.

Plague of Pus Pains Prince

Nisan 3

Boils, boils and more boils. From the tips of the ears to the soles of the feet most Egyptians are suffering from a mysterious malady that has left them in great agony.

The official court reporter could only barely whisper his news and his wish that Pharaoh would not be stubborn but would let the Israelites go.

According to an unnamed source close to the ruler, many at the palace are beginning to blame Pharaoh for the destruction of Egypt and all the grief that has befallen the nation.

Pharaoh himself is said to sport the

biggest boil of them all on the tip of his nose. But his usually bad humour has been made all the worse by this latest personal discomfort for which his doctors and magicians have no remedy.

Many court officials are trying to ease their discomfort in mud baths but with only minimal success.

Merchants report that there has been a great increase in the sale of potsherds for scraping the festering pustules, and herbal ointments, but nothing seems to offer any relief.

Though many counselors are hoping that Pharaoh will relent and let the slaves go, others are advising Pharaoh to "hang tough" as this streak of misfortunes cannot last much longer. They are counseling Pharaoh to use harsh measures to keep the slaves under his thumb for they will be needed even more in rebuilding after the recent disasters.

Jewel Hunter

I'm Jewel Hunter, geologist and reporter, here to read today's Goshen Gazette.

Hail, Fire and Wind

Nisan 4

There has never been a storm like it, said 100-year-old soothsayer, Iva Seynital. I'm glad I listened to the old prophet, AhMose. I can think back and remember when he was a young Prince. I thought good things would happen to him.

But since this new bunch of leaders has ruled Egypt there's been nothing but terror. I'm an Egyptian and proud of it but you've got to know when God is against you. No use fighting the one who controls the weather.

I brought in all my animals from the field and advised my

servants and neighbours to do the same as soon as I had heard what Moses had predicted.

And though my barns sustained some damage from the hail and fire, some singed posts and scorched tiles, I didn't lose a single donkey, camel, or calf. Praise be to God.

My neighbours who didn't heed the warning are a sorry lot, weeping and wailing over the loss of the rest of their herds. But they were warned and did not act, so I can't feel too sorry for them."

When asked what his plans are for the future he was quick to respond,

"There's a lot of life in me yet, so I'm wondering if I won't just join the people in Goshen and leave for greener pastures with my herd before Pharaoh destroys all of Egypt."

Maybe, I'll even get into raising some sheep and goats like those folks in Goshen.

Hiro Gliff

I'm Hiro Gliff, Egyptian language expert and reporter for the Goshen Gazette. I'm here to read today's news.

Galloping Grasshoppers!

Nisan 9

Spring has just begun to appear, with the new buds and blossoms on the trees and a carpet of fresh grass and wildflowers, sprouting where a week ago there was nothing but burned turf as a result of the freaky hail and lightning storm.

But there is bad news on the horizon as a huge cloud of locusts has been spotted approaching from the desert. Just as Moses predicted!

This cyclical occurrence is happening at an unusual time however, and the numbers of pesky

hoppers seems far greater than is normally expected. They are known to eat anything that is green! Who knows what will be left for grazing or eating after they swarm over the land?

It looks as if these ravenous insects will ruin the barley harvest and devastate this year's grape, fig and plum yields. We could really use a huge flock of ravens right now, as I don't know how this swarm will miss Goshen on its way east.

In Goshen we have not experienced the recent disastrous weather or disease that has destroyed the flocks and herds of Egypt. But, some people here are wondering how God will protect their fields from swarms of locusts?

Moses could not give me an answer to this question, but he was certain that God would protect Goshen. We will know the outcome to this dilemma shortly.

Hans N. Camra

I'm Hans N. Camra, artist and reporter for the Goshen Gazette. I'm here to read today's news, as I was unable to draw events in Egypt due to the extreme darkness.

Night at Noon

Nisan 10

The Locusts did skip over Goshen as Moses predicted before they mowed down the fields of Egypt. But now, Moses has instructed everyone to choose their lamb for the leaving celebration on the evening of the 14th day of Aviv.

Early today, Moses announced that there would be total darkness for three days in the land of Egypt. We do not need to be concerned about this latest development, as God has promised to keep the lights on in

Goshen in some miraculous way.

We will have time in the next 3 days to gather and hear further instructions about the departure from Ramses and Succoth. Our leaders will be organizing the exodus and they want everyone to be prepared to march out in an orderly fashion at a moment's notice.

While the Egyptians are stuck at home everyone in Goshen has time off to pack up their household goods and be prepared for a quick march when Moses gives the word. If you have not already asked for your wages, you will need to do so as soon as the darkness ends.

Moses has instructed all the Israelites to be reasonable and request politely for what is fair. Moses is certain that the Egyptian bosses will be generous and eager to send them off with some fine mementos of the Israelites' service to Egypt.

Death Angel Strikes a Blow

Nisan 15

Last night as many Israelites ate their meal of lamb and bitter herbs, they were unsettled by the eerie sounds of wails and shrieks from nearby residences. It appears that in each Egyptian household there is at least one family member who died during the night. Even the Pharaoh's firstborn son was discovered lifeless in his bed. But all the firstborn sons were safe in those homes with the blood on their doorposts. Following God's instructions paid off for Egyptian and Israelite who heeded the warning.

Word then came from Moses that Pharaoh had finally relented and given the order for all Israelites to leave Egypt. People began to leave their homes in the early morning

hours while it was still dark.

They were carrying or hauling all of their worldly possessions on donkeys and camels or in baskets or carts while herding a motley assortment of goats, sheep, and cattle. The tribal families have now converged on the main meeting places and have begun to form ranks for the long trek that they will be making south into the desert.

It has been a night of celebration and joy after years of slavery. This will be my last report from Egypt as editor for the Goshen Gazette, as I have decided to join the exodus. My next post will be as the publisher for the Desert Chronicle. I'll keep you updated daily on our progress to the promised land.

Ima Leevin

Court Reporter