



1. What is Midrash? By Dr. Moshe Simon-Shoshan: Gap Filling

All narrative texts have “gaps,” or, details of the story that are missing. A narrator must always choose which details to put into the story and which to leave out. This is especially true of Biblical narrative, whose sparse style often leaves out information of interest to the reader, such as a character’s motivation. Filling in these gaps is indeed essential to any successful reading of a story... The rabbis seek to provide us with as rich and detailed an image of the Biblical events and characters as they can.

2. Exodus Chapter 2 – The Egyptian Prince

(5) The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe in the Nile, while her maidens walked along the Nile. She spied the basket **among the reeds** and sent her slave girl to fetch it. (6) When she opened it, she saw that it was a child, a boy crying. She took pity on it and said, “This must be a Hebrew child.” (7) Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a Hebrew nurse to suckle the child for you?” (8) And Pharaoh’s daughter answered, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. (9) And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will pay your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. (10) When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, who made him her son. She named him Moses, explaining, “I drew him out of the water.”

3. The Jew?

(11) Some time after that, when Moses had grown up, he went out **to his kinsfolk** and witnessed their labors. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his kinsmen. (12) He turned this his kinsfolk way and that and, seeing no one about, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand... (15) When Pharaoh learned of the matter, he sought to kill Moses; but Moses fled from Pharaoh. He arrived in the land of Midian, and sat down beside a well. (16) Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water, and filled the troughs to water their father’s flock; (17) but shepherds came and drove them off. Moses rose to their defense, and he watered their flock. (18) When they returned to their father Reuel, he said, “How is it that you have come back so soon today?” (19) They answered, “An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds; he even drew water for us and watered the flock.” (20) He said to his daughters, “Where is he then? Why did you leave the man? Ask him in to break bread.” (21) Moses consented to stay with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah as wife.

4. Shemot Rabbah 1:27

... Moses was 20 years old at the time, and some say 40 years old.

5. Exodus 7:7

(7) Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three, when they made their demand on Pharaoh.

6. Stranger in a Foreign Land – Not Egypt?

(22) She bore a son whom he named Gershom, for he said, “I have been a stranger in a foreign land.”

7. R. Mosheh Lichtenstein: Note that Moses agreed to stay in Midian before he married.

8. Burning Bush

(10) Come, therefore, I will send you to Pharaoh, and you shall free My people, the Israelites, from Egypt.” (11) But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and free the Israelites from Egypt?”

9. Moshe’s Second Son: Shemot 18:4

(4) and the other was named Eliezer, meaning, “The God of my father was my help, and He delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh.”

10. Midrash Rabbah Devarim 2:8 (trans. <http://www.aish.com/tp/i/moha/98699364.html>)

R. Levi said: Moshe said to God: 'Master of the Universe, the bones of Yosef are entering the Land, and am I not to enter the Land?! The Holy One, blessed be He, answered him: 'He who acknowledged his native land is to be buried in that land but he who did not acknowledge his native land does not merit to be buried in his land. Whence do we know that Yosef acknowledged his native land? His mistress exclaimed of him, "See, he has brought in a Hebrew, etc." (Bereishit 39:14); and he did not deny it, but in addition said, "For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews (Bereishit 40:15); he is to be buried in his native land. Whence do we know this? For it is said, "And the bones of Yosef, which the Children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, they buried in Shechem (Yehoshua 24:32). 'But you who did not acknowledge your native land will not be buried in that land.' When was this? When the daughters

of Yitro said, 'An Egyptian delivered us from the hand of the shepherds (Shmot 2:19), and Moshe heard and kept silent; therefore he is not to be buried in his land.

11. Mechilta – Describing Why Moses had not Circumcised his First Son

For when Moshe asked Yitro for Tziphora's hand in marriage, Yitro told him: Accept upon yourself that which I shall tell you and I shall give her to you as a wife. He said to him: What is it? He answered: The first son you have will be for *avoda zara* - from then on, for Hashem's name. And he accepted it... Therefore, the heavenly angel came to kill Moshe immediately, and Tziphora took a flint and cut the foreskin of her son and the angel backed down.

12. Moshe Nursing from Hebrew Woman: Rashi to 2:7

She expressly said, "shall I call a nurse of the Hebrews?" because she (Pharaoh's daughter) had handed him to many Egyptian women to suckle him and he had refused to take suck — this was because he was destined to hold converse with the Shechina (Exodus Rabbah 1:21 and Sotah 12b).

13. Moses's Second Wife: Numbers 12:1

Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman he had married: "He married a Cushite woman!"

14. Josephus, Antiquities 2:10:1-2

The Ethiopians, who are next neighbors to the Egyptians, made an inroad into their country, which they seized upon, and carried off the effects of the Egyptians, who, in their rage, fought against them, and revenged the affronts they had received from them; but being overcome in battle, some of them were slain, and the rest ran away in a shameful ... they proceeded as far as Memphis, and the sea itself, while not one of the cities was able to oppose them. The Egyptians, under this sad oppression, betook themselves to their oracles and prophecies; and when God had given them this counsel, to make use of Moses the Hebrew, and take his assistance, the king commanded his daughter to produce him, that he might be the general (22) of their army. Upon which, when she had made him swear he would do him no harm, she delivered him to the king, and supposed his assistance would be of great advantage to them. She withal reproached the priest, who, when they had before admonished the Egyptians to kill him, was not ashamed now to own their want of his help.

2. So Moses, at the persuasion both of Thermuthis and the king himself, cheerfully undertook the business: and the sacred scribes of both nations were glad; those of the Egyptians, that they should at once overcome their enemies by his valor, and that by the same piece of management Moses would be slain; but those of the Hebrews, that they should escape from the Egyptians, because Moses was to be their general. But Moses prevented the enemies, and took and led his army before those enemies were apprized of his attacking them... When he had therefore proceeded thus on his journey, he came upon the Ethiopians before they expected him; and, joining battle with them, he beat them, and deprived them of the hopes they had of success against the Egyptians, and went on in overthrowing their cities, and indeed made a great slaughter of these Ethiopians. Now when the Egyptian army had once tasted of this prosperous success, by the means of Moses, they did not slacken their diligence, insomuch that the Ethiopians were in danger of being reduced to slavery, and all sorts of destruction; and at length they retired to Saba, which was a royal city of Ethiopia, which Cambyses afterwards named Mero, after the name of his own sister. ...However, while Moses was uneasy at the army's lying idle, (for the enemies durst not come to a battle,) this accident happened: - Tharbis was the daughter of the king of the Ethiopians: she happened to see Moses as he led the army near the walls, and fought with great courage; and admiring the subtlety of his undertakings, and believing him to be the author of the Egyptians' success, when they had before despaired of recovering their liberty, and to be the occasion of the great danger the Ethiopians were in, when they had before boasted of their great achievements, she fell deeply in love with him; and upon the prevalency of that passion, sent to him the most faithful of all her servants to discourse with him about their marriage. He thereupon accepted the offer, on condition she would procure the delivering up of the city; and gave her the assurance of an oath to take her to his wife; and that when he had once taken possession of the city, he would not break his oath to her. No sooner was the agreement made, but it took effect immediately; and when Moses had cut off the Ethiopians, he gave thanks to God, and consummated his marriage, and led the Egyptians back to their own land.

15. Wikipedia: The Battle of Kadesh or Battle of Qadesh

...took place between the forces of the Egyptian Empire under Ramesses II and the Hittite Empire under Muwatalli II at the city of Kadesh on the Orontes River, just upstream of Lake Homs near the modern Syrian-Lebanese border. ... It is believed to have been the largest chariot battle ever fought, involving between 5,000 and 6,000 chariots in total. As a result of the multiple Kadesh inscriptions, it is the best documented battle in all of ancient history.