

The Ordering of Moses
by R. NATHANIEL DETT
Text based on scripture and folklore

Miriam *Latonia Moore, Soprano*
Moses *Rodrick Dixon, Tenor*
The Voice of God *Donnie Ray Albert, Baritone*
The Voice of Israel *Ronnita Nicole Miller, Mezzo-soprano*
The Word *Donnie Ray Albert, Baritone*
The Children of Israel Chorus

THE WORD

All Israel's children sorely sighed,

CHORUS

By reason of their bondage —

THE WORD

And unto God they sorely cried,

CHORUS

By reason of their bondage —

THE WORD

All Israel's children sighed —

And unto God they cried —

'Neath Egypt's king they hard were tried —

CHORUS

By reason of their bondage.

THE VOICE OF ISRAEL

O Lord, behold my affliction.

My heart is turned within me;

A dark'ning cloud is Thy anger,

Thy hand is hard against me.

My eyes and heart fail with grieving;

I walk alone in deep shadows.

Oppressed and captive is Judah;

And Zion sigheth in her mourning.

CHORUS

O Lord!

TRIO

God looked on Israel,

And heard her children groaning;

He looked on her children groaning,

And had respect unto her.

CHORUS

And from a burning hush, flaming,

God spake unto Moses saying —

Go down, Moses,

Way down in Egypt's land;

Tell Pharaoh

Let my people go!

Thou shalt lead thy people

To the promised land.

Go down, take thy rod in thy hand

Thou shalt lead thy people

To the promised land.

MOSES

Lord!
Who am I to go unto Pharaoh,
And why should I lead the children of Israel!
How shall they know Thou sendest me?
What name shall I say unto them?
What signs or wonders show?
I am not eloquent;
Have no gift of speech;
Am slow of tongue.

CHORUS

And God spake unto Moses,
Spake unto Moses saying —

THE VOICE OF GOD

Who hath made a man dumb,
Or who hath made his mouth speak?
Is it not I, Jehovah?
God of your fathers?
Now therefore, go,
And I will be thy mouth.
I will instruct thee
What thou shalt say!
Go down, Moses —

CHORUS

Go down, Moses,
Way down in Egypt's land.
Tell Pharaoh
Let My people go!
Thou shalt lead thy people
To the promised land,
I've looked on Israel,
And I have respect unto her.

MEDITATION OF MOSES

THE WORD

And when Moses smote the water,
The children all passed over;
When Moses smote the water,
The sea gave way.
Rejoice, children, and be glad.
The sea gave way,
And when they reached the other shore —
O glory, hallelujah —
They sang a song of triumph o'er
O glory, hallelujah!

MOSES

I will praise Jehovah,
For he hath triumphed gloriously;
The horse and his rider
He has o'er thrown in the midst of the sea!

CHORUS

Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Let us praise Jehovah.

THE WORD

Then did the women of Israel
Gather with timbrels and dances;
And Miriam, gifted with prophecy,
Answered exhorting them, saying —

MIRIAM

Come, let us praise Jehovah,
For His triumph is glorious;
The clouds and fire are his chariots,
The winds and waves obey Him.
Now all the armies of Pharaoh
Are sunk as stones in deep waters.
The deeps stood up as the mountains,
When Thou didst blow Thy breath upon them.

THE WOMEN

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

MOSES

Sing ye to Jehovah,
For He hath triumphed gloriously.

CHORUS

Thy right hand, O Lord,
Is become glorious in power:
Pharaoh's hosts thou hast cast
In the depths of the sea !

MOSES

Sing ye
Praise to Jehovah,
Sing ye.

CHORUS

He is King of kings;
He is Lord of lords.
Sing together, praise Jehovah,
Great God of our fathers.
God, the great I Am That I Am;
Hallelujah,
He is a Man of War.
Mighty is Jehovah,
Mighty in battle;
No god doth wonders like Him.
Praise the Lord.
Sing to Jehovah,
Whose right hand is our salvation.

MOSES

O praise ye,
Praise Jehovah,
Praise His holy name!

MIRIAM

O praise ye,
Praise ye Jehovah,
Praise His holy name!

CHORUS

He is King of kings,
He is Lord of lords.
Sing together, praise Jehovah,
Great God of our fathers.
God, the Great I Am That I Am,
Hallelujah,
He is a Man of War.
Mighty is Jehovah,
Mighty in battle —
No god doth wonders like Him,
Praise the Lord,
Sing to Jehovah,
Whose right hand is our salvation.
O praise the Lord!

MOSES

I will sing unto Jehovah,
For He hath triumphed gloriously.

MIRIAM

The horse and his rider
He hath thrown into the sea!

MOSES

Jehovah is my strength and my song!

MIRIAM

And He hath become my salvation!

MOSES

This is my God, and I will praise Him!

MIRIAM

My fathers' God, and I will exalt Him.

MOSES

Thou, Lord, in Thy loving kindness
Hast led the people, whom Thou hast redeemed!

MIRIAM AND MOSES

Jehovah shall reign forever and ever!