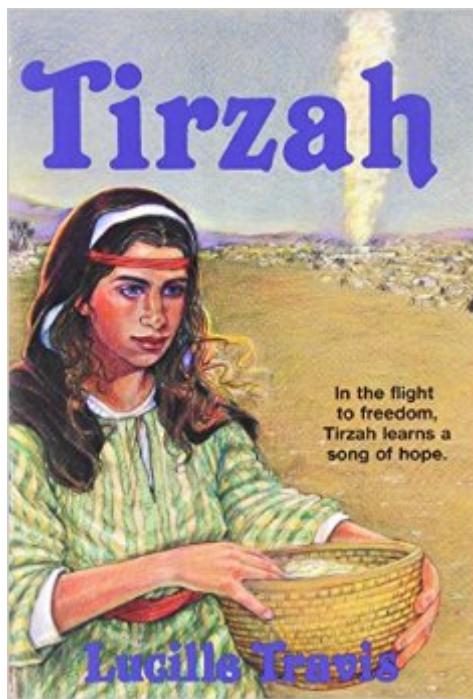


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# Tirzah



## **Synopsis**

Tirzah's people, the Israelites, have been in slavery to the Egyptians for many years. Tirzah and her lame brother, Oren, help gather straw to make bricks. She observes the suffering of her people and the injustices that are done to them by the Egyptian police. Moses begs Pharaoh to let them go, but Pharaoh makes them work harder. One night, when the plague of death strikes down Pharaoh's own son, he allows the Israelites to flee on foot, only to pursue them with horses and chariots. He believes he will have them trapped between the mountains and the sea, but God miraculously delivers them. The Israelites celebrate with a song of hope and victory. Tirzah befriends a young Egyptian girl who has fled with them, even though others treat her badly. In spite of hardship and disappointment, Tirzah and her family keep trusting Yahweh to carry them through.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Herald Pr (April 1, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0836135466

ISBN-13: 978-0836135466

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.5 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #61,286 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Ancient Civilizations #36 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Other Religious Fiction #202 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian

## **Customer Reviews**

As part of our homeschool curriculum to supplement the book of Exodus, my children listened spellbound to this tale. It was excellent historical fiction for youth. The purpose of historical fiction is to bring the reader into the past, to let them feel that they lived it. This author did this very well. We walked in the heat and the sand, we thirsted, we repeatedly heard the whiners and complainers, and we felt awe at the power and mercy of God. No theme development? I guess it was as well-developed as in the book of Exodus itself. The touch of romantic interest was well-done, with several scenarios. Goodness knows there's enough of that in so many teen books, but I thought it was handled quite realistically. It's always there, but is not the major focus of life. Character

development? No, it isn't too strong a feature of this book, but it's there. Ram obviously showed character development as he found faith in the Lord. Tirzah developed as she chose her friends, rather than the cousins she grew up with. And there was even a negative sort of character development for her mother, which, unfortunately, is too often true. I'm a little confused by the idea that the characters should have shown more maturity. Isn't that what we think every time we read the books of Exodus-Numbers? Why can't these people grow up? The theme of racial prejudice, based on one Biblical incident, is more fully developed in this book than in the Bible. And over-all are the themes of faith and trust in Yaweh (Jehovah) and trusting and following his prophet. This is a great book to get a feel of this historical time period, as well as to assess our own commitment to faith, trust, and obedience toward God and his prophet.

Tirzah is a fictional young girl, an Israelite in Egyptian bondage. We follow her out of the hated Egypt, and see what the trek through the wilderness might have been to a young girl. She witnessed the plagues of Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea, feared during the creation and rebellion of the golden calf and the giving of the law, and wondered what would happen when there was nothing to drink. She gathered manna, worried over the sickness from the many quail, and speculated - like a typical teen - about who the matchmakers would think to put together. Tirzah's relations are involved in the common rebellions, and she hears their reasonings and justifications for their positions. The theme of racial prejudice is brought up concerning another young girl, an Egyptian maiden who turned to Yahweh and journeyed with the children of Israel. The final scenes of the book occur when the twelve spies have returned from Canaan. Because of the Israelites' unbelief in Yahweh, they are cursed to wander 40 years in the wilderness until those who did not believe were dead. Tirzah struggles with fear and rebellion throughout the book, but by the end she comes to understand a little of the ways of Yahweh, and learns to hope in Him. Obviously written to appeal to teens, I thought the characters could have displayed a little more maturity. Other than that, Travis has an easy reading style. This won't be anyone's favorite book of the year, but you might check it out for a perspective on what it might have been like for the Israelite children. It's interesting to read about the places and events in Exodus in a work of fiction, and many details from the Scriptures are woven throughout it.

We just got done reading Tirzah and my daughters and I loved it! It is easy and pleasant to read, it's engaging and puts you in the times of the Exodus. It made us all think more personally what might have been and what people went through emotionally. I thought the author did a great job turning

everything back to God which gave us great discussion. This is fiction and it gives you another aspect of the Israelites that maybe you haven't considered before! We loved it and are looking for other books from the same author!

We read this book to supplement what we were learning about in our homeschool lessons. I read this aloud to my 9 1/2 year old son in the 4th grade. We both really enjoyed this book. It really made me think about the emotions that people would have been experiencing. It also gave me a great desire to read Exodus again in its entirety as the parent, to appreciate the true story and compare them. I found this story moving and a great read overall.

I read this book with my children when we were studying the Exodus, and we barely got through the book. I was very disappointed with Tirzah. The characters and story line could have been developed well, but they really weren't. For example, an Egyptian girl who accompanies the multitude out of Egypt becomes, during the journey, a believer in God. Her experience could have been developed in the story, but it wasn't. There seemed to be no main theme to this story at all. It dabbled in the planning-to-leave-Egypt stage and followed through some of the main events of the wilderness experiences, but that wasn't really developed into the theme of the story. It dabbled in romance and match-making, but that wasn't developed into the theme of the story. It dabbled in religious belief, but that wasn't developed into the theme of the story. It was like a narration of events without any main theme ever being developed. Also, the author took some liberties with the time frame, which would have been o.k. since this is fiction, but there were places in the book where the author seemed to forget her own sequence of events and didn't place things (like the length of a pregnancy/birth of a baby) at reasonable times in relation to her own established time frame. I won't buy another book by this author.

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