



**The Holy Prophets Moses, the Seer of God, and Aaron
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on September 4.**

The *Prophet Moses*—whose name means “one who draws forth,” or “is drawn from.” That is, from the water—was the pinnacle of the lovers of wisdom, the supremely wise lawgiver, the most ancient historian of all. He was of the tribe of Levi, the son of Amram and Jochabed (Num. 26:59). He was born in Egypt in the seventeenth century before Christ. While yet a babe of three months, he was placed in a basket made of papyrus and covered with pitch, and cast into the streams of the Nile for fear of Pharaoh’s decree to the mid-wives of the Hebrews, that all male children of the Hebrews be put to death. He was taken up from the river by Pharaoh’s daughter, became her adopted son and was reared and dwelt in the King’s palace for forty years. Afterwards, when he was son sixty years old, he fled to Madian, where, on Mount Horeb, He saw the vision of the burning bush. Thus he was ordained by God to lead Israel and bring it out of the land of Egypt. He led Israel through the Red Sea as it were dry land and governed the people for forty years. He wrought many signs and wonders and wrote the first five books of the Old Testament, which are called the *Pentateuch*. When he reached the land of Moab, he ascended Mount Nabau, on the peak called Phasga, and there, by divine command, he reposed in the sixteenth century before Christ, having lived for some 120 years. The first two Odes of the Old Testament, “Let us sing unto the Lord” and “Attend, O heaven, and I will speak,” were written by him. Of these hymns, the first was chanted by the shore of the Red Sea as soon as the Israelites had crossed it; the second, in the land of Moab, a few days before his repose. The *Holy High Priest Aaron* was the elder brother of the Holy Prophet Moses. He was appointed by God to serve as the

spokesman of Moses before the people, and also before Pharaoh, in Egypt. Afterwards, in the wilderness, he was called to the ministry of the high priesthood, as narrated in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers in the Old Testament. The name Aaron means “enlightened”.

Text: The Great Horologion © 1997 The Holy Transfiguration Monastery Brookline, Massachusetts 02445
Icons of Ss. Moses and Aaron courtesy Traditional Byzantine Iconography by the hand of Paul Azkoul
www.traditionaliconography.com



† THE HOLY PROPHE† MOSES
at † THE BURNING BUSH