

Moses a Leader

Objective

To learn from Moses' characteristics and personality that enabled him to be a leader

References

- ❖ <http://www.ucgstp.org/lit/gn/gn009/moseslea.html>
- ❖ <http://www.jewishmag.com/76mag/moses/moses.htm>
- ❖ <http://www.gnmagazine.org/issues/gn09/profilesfaithmoses.htm>

Scriptural Verse

“But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses whom the Lord knew face to face” (Deuteronomy 34: 10)

Introduction

Moses, the most famous of all personalities in the Bible, was chosen to be the leader of the Jewish people, to lead them out of the slavery in Egypt and to give them the Torah. What was it about Moses that made him God's choice of the Jewish leader and not any one else in his generation?

Lesson Outline

His life can be divided into three 40-year periods: his time in Egypt, his exile in Arabia and his governance of Israel (Acts 7:23, 30, 36).

Moses, suddenly a royal child, received only the best education the Egyptians could provide. According to the New Testament, Moses was educated "in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds" (Acts 7:22). For the first 40 years of his life Moses was trained and educated as only an Egyptian prince could be.

Moses was willing to risk all that he had, his position and wealth, even perhaps his life, to save another Jew who was being wronged in the eyes of God.

Here we see an end and a beginning for Moses. His life of privilege and luxury was over; a new, difficult life was beginning. Now God would educate him through the seclusion of a shepherd's life, preparing him for his service to God and His people.

Again, we find Moses who has just had to run for his life to Midian, seeing the daughters of Jethro being denied the ability to water their father's sheep, Moses who just had to flee for his life should have not gotten involved. But Moses being true to his character endangers himself to help them!

When a person exhibits such concern for the other with such total disregard for his own person, much less without concern for his own personal gain, is not he the perfect candidate to lead the Jews out of Egypt and be God's intermediate to give the divine law?

In the wilderness and in due time God introduced Himself to Moses in Midian through the miracle of a bush that burned but was not consumed (Exodus 3:1-2). At the outset, God made two things clear: His eternal, supreme existence as the true God and Moses'

commission to help deliver His people in fulfillment of earlier promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Exodus 2:24; 6:3-8).

When God called him for the leadership, four times Moses framed arguments to convince God to use someone else. First, he said he felt inadequate to attempt the task. Second, he asked by what name God would be announced to the Israelites (Exodus 4:13). Third, he expressed doubt that the children of Israel would listen to him or believe him (Exodus 4:1). Fourth, he protested that he was slow of speech (verse Exodus 4:10). Moses' reaction to the circumstances reveals a man devoid of personal ambition and pride. Indeed, he holds the distinction of being the meekest man of his time (Numbers 12:3). However, once Moses undertook the mission, his willingness to submit to God's direction and guidance was a strong, positive attribute.

Moses as deliverer helped free the Israelites from captivity and their cruel taskmasters. He would then lead them for 40 years through the wilderness. How was he able to do this? Moses was a man of God. As a general and prince in Egypt, as the governor of Israel, as deliverer, leader and prophet, he was wholly dedicated to God. Yet he was a humble man (Numbers 12:3), realizing that everything he had and everything he had done had come about by God's intervention and through God's help (Deuteronomy 8:11-20). With this attitude, Moses was able to be a true servant of his people.

The book of Hebrews holds Moses up as an example of faith (Hebrews 11:24-29). It tells of Moses' refusal to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, that he chose to suffer affliction with God's people rather than enjoy the temporary pleasures of sin, that he esteemed the reproach of Christ greater than all the treasures in Egypt, that he kept the Passover through faith and taught the Israelites to do the same. Finally, he passed through the Red Sea while leading the Israelites to safety and freedom. In God's Word for all time, He preserved the record of Moses' faith.

Conclusion

The book of Deuteronomy includes the following tribute to Moses: "But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, in all the signs and wonders which the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land, and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel" (Deuteronomy 34:10-12).

Activities/Discussion Points

Divide the audience into 2-3 groups. Let each group choose an example of other spiritual leaders and discuss their characteristics as leaders. At the end, let the groups meet again to share their findings about other leaders.