

**Monday, November 16, 2020**

## ***A Plan for Moses***

Over the next few days, I want to focus our devotional thoughts on Moses, a great leader of God's people.

**Exodus 2:1-10** - *Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.*

*Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.*

*Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"*

*"Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."*

The children of Israel were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt. Joseph and all his brother's generation have died. The Israelites continued to multiply so greatly that the King of Egypt made a plan to make their lives miserable. Additionally, others were instructed to kill all the boys born to Hebrew women. Into this environment Moses was born to a woman from the tribe of Levi. After hiding him for three months she placed him near the bank of the Nile river. The Egyptian Pharaoh's daughter found him there and rescued him. Taking him home, she had one of the women (Moses's sister) find a Hebrew woman (Moses' mother) to nurse the baby. Pharaoh's daughter named him "Moses" which means to "draw out." Moses had been drawn out of the water to be a servant for God!

I find it amazing that God's plan for his people included using a man to lead them out of Egypt who himself had begun life under some unique circumstances. God was beginning to work his plan. It would be hard to imagine that this "little one" would eventually be the powerful "law giver" and exodus leader that he became.

With the Apostle Paul we can affirm:

**Romans 11:33-36** - *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and<sup>1</sup> knowledge of God!*

*How unsearchable his judgments,  
and his paths beyond tracing out!*

*"Who has known the mind of the Lord?*

*Or who has been his counselor?"*

*"Who has ever given to God,*

*that God should repay them?"*

*For from him and through him and for him are all things.*

*To him be the glory forever! Amen.*

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

## ***Moses Flees to Midian***

A touching, heart-warming story regarding the birth of Moses and the preservation of his life is found in **Exodus 2:1-10**. He was eventually raised by Pharaoh's daughter, growing up with a life of wealth and privilege in the ruler of Egypt's household. All of that changed one day, very suddenly.

### **Look up Exodus 2:11-14**

We know nothing about the temperament of Moses as a young man. When he sees an Egyptian man beating a Hebrew man, Moses intervenes and kills the Egyptian. The next day he encounters a fight between two Hebrew men that Moses attempts to stop. They respond by recalling what Moses had done the previous day. Moses was in fear because of this revelation.

### **Look up Exodus 2:15-20**

Moses' fear drives him to leave Egypt and flee to Midian. Here he finds a semi-nomadic people who are descended from Abraham. God is in the process of preparing Moses for his life's work of rescuing slaves. He interceded on behalf of some Midianite women, helping to water their flocks after some shepherds had driven them away. When the women returned to their father, they told him the story of Moses rescuing them and watering their flocks.

**Exodus 2:21-25** - *Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, "I have become a foreigner in a foreign land."*

*During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.*

Reuel, whom we will know later as Jethro (Exodus 3) is so grateful that he gives his daughter Zipporah in marriage to Moses. (Things were a little different in those days!) Moses gave their son the name "Gershom," the world for alien. Moses was living in an "alien land" outside of Egypt.

God hears the cries of his people in Egypt and remembers the covenant he has made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God is about to do something amazing and it will come through an unexpected source. He intends to rescue his people out of their bondage in Egypt. No one knew at this time, nor could they have imagined, that God would use Moses to accomplish his purposes!

The story is just beginning to take shape, but first God has to convince Moses that he is the man for the job.

Our Father – We thank you for the compassion and love you showed to your people long ago. You are a loving God who cares for and provides for your children. It is hard to imagine your plan of ultimately redeeming the world through your son Jesus Christ. In many ways that plan began to unfold as you redeemed your people out of slavery in Egypt. Thank you for allowing us to be part of the redeemed. In the name of Jesus – Amen.

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

## ***God Reveals his Plan to Moses***

### **Look up Exodus 3:1-6**

This is one of the best known stories from the life of Moses. Mt. Horeb or Mt. Sinai as it is commonly known, is the site of this amazing miracle. Moses is working for his father-in-law, Jethro when he comes upon a bush that is burning but not being consumed. When Moses goes to examine the bush further, God speaks to him! The message of God is that Moses is to come no closer and is to remove his sandals because the place where he is standing is holy ground. While God begins introducing himself as the God of Moses' forefathers, Moses is being overcome with fear.

### **Look up Exodus 3:7-10**

God explains to Moses that he has seen the suffering of his people in Egypt and heard their cries for help. He has a plan to rescue the people and part of that plan includes Moses.

### **Look up Exodus 3:11-15**

Moses raises numerous objections before God that will continue into the next chapter.

1. He feels unfit for the task.
2. He raises questions about the people's ignorance of the character of God.
3. The Israelites may not accept him (Moses) as God's servant.
4. He lacks the ability to speak.

One by one God addresses all of Moses' concerns. He promises to be with Moses helping him all along the way. He promises that the people as well as the Egyptian leadership will listen to Moses.

In chapter four of Exodus, Moses pleads for God to try another plan.

### **Look up Exodus 4:13-17**

God even raises up Moses' brother Aaron to help him. God answers every objection Moses had and provided him with everything he needed.

What a truly amazing story! God uses a reluctant servant, a man who had committed murder, to accomplish his purposes. Moses had no idea that God would use him to change the world. He has come a long way from Pharaoh's household, to Midian and now back to Egypt. God will go with him throughout the journey.

With love,  
Larry

Our Father – We thank you for bringing Moses into your presence, teaching him to trust you and for providing all he needed to accomplish your mission. Like Moses, Jesus has called us to go and we must trust that you will provide us with all we need to do your will.

In the name of Jesus – Amen.

Thursday, November 19, 2020

## ***Moses and Aaron go to Egypt***

Aaron and Moses meet with the Hebrew leaders and tells them of the plans God had for their deliverance. The people bowed down and worshipped God. (**Exodus 4:29-31**)

### **Read Exodus 5:1-4**

The enthusiasm of meeting with God and then with the Elders of Israel is now beginning to wear off. The Egyptian Pharaoh does not know or honor the Lord. Furthermore, he is angry that the workers of the land are being taken away from their duties.

### **Read Exodus 5:5-9**

Pharaoh's anger now pours out on the Hebrew workers. They are to make their bricks without straw and are required to produce the same numbers they had produced earlier. Pharaoh concludes that the workers are lazy. All of this leads to increased pressure on the workers as well as physical abuse of their foremen by the Egyptians. The Israelite workers lay all of this at the feet of Moses and Aaron.

### **Read Exodus 5:19-21**

Imagine the pressure and sadness these men must have felt as they heard the stories about what was happening to their people. Moses brings these complaints before the Lord.

### **Read Exodus 5:22 – 6:1**

God will us this opportunity to reassure Moses of his plan to give his people a land far from Egypt.

**Exodus 5:6-8** - *“Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord.’”*

The promises God made to Israel must have brought some peace of mind to Moses. The Hebrew people as a whole were NOT impressed and refused to listen to Moses. (**Exodus 6:9**)

If you have ever been in the middle of a big problem for which you could see no solution, you might relate to Moses. The people were blaming him and Aaron for their pain and suffering. God is promising to do something, but Moses doubts that anyone will listen to him! The story continues tomorrow.

Our Father – The problems of today often overshadow your promises for tomorrow. Help us to be faithful people; to believe even when we do not see the solution. Most of all, help us to put our trust fully in you. Because of Jesus – Amen.

Friday, November 20, 2020

## ***Moses and Aaron Speak to Pharaoh***

Good Morning,

**Exodus 6:28 – 7:6** - *Now when the Lord spoke to Moses in Egypt, he said to him, "I am the Lord. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I tell you."*

*But Moses said to the Lord, "Since I speak with faltering lips, why would Pharaoh listen to me?"*

*Then the Lord said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country. But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites. And the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it."*

*Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded them. Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh.*

More than once Moses has reminded God of his limited speaking ability. God has promised to provide what Moses needed, specifically to provide Moses' brother Aaron to help the cause.

God has reminded Moses that he is with him as well as with Aaron. Once again, Moses is told to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let the Israelites go. Then God tells Moses something amazing. He intends to harden Pharaoh's heart so that he will NOT listen to Moses! If you were Moses, you might have to question that plan. This makes no sense at all, but God promises that it will work. With faith and courage, Moses and Aaron begin to implement God's plan.

A series of 10 plagues follow in Exodus 7-11, culminating with the death of every first-born son in Egypt. Finally, Pharaoh orders the Israelites to leave the country.

Scholars believe there may have been as many as one million people plus their livestock leaving Egypt. God's people had been there for some 430 years since the time of Joseph.

It is hard to imagine what must have gone through the minds of the Israelites. Life had become increasingly difficult, but it was the only life they had ever known. Things are changing rapidly, and this is only a beginning!

With love,  
Larry

Our Father – We thank you for the faith and courage of Moses to lead your people. This was a huge undertaking and he had to rely completely upon you. As we face the challenges of our lives, teach us to trust you and hold to your hand and your ways as you lead us. In Jesus' name – Amen.

Saturday, November 21, 2020

## ***Guided by God***

**Exodus 13:17-22** - *When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.*

*Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place."*

*After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.*

The Exodus from Egypt must have been an amazing sight. When Pharaoh let God's people go, God continued to protect them on their journey. He led the people on a way that they would experience the least confrontation.

Moses fulfilled a wish of Joseph by carrying his bones out of Egypt to a land God had promised. Joseph had faith that God would provide for his people, just as he said. (**Genesis 50:25**)

Notice how closely God "guided" his people. By day the Lord provided a "pillar of cloud" to guide them and by night a "pillar of fire" to give them light. Neither the pillar of cloud nor the pillar of fire left God's people. They were with them day and night illuminating the journey.

Near the end of his life on this earth, Jesus our Lord made a similar promise to his followers.

### **Read Matthew 28:19-20**

The "great commission" as we call it involved Jesus' disciples going into all the world. His promise was that he would be with them (and us) to the very end of the age.

When our grandson, Cooper was a baby, he loved to snuggle close to us. He usually wanted his hands or feet to touch us. He needed to know we were there. Sherry and I did not mind at all!

Sometimes we need to feel the presence of God in our lives. We need to know that he is there, guiding us and pointing us toward home. Our "cloud" by day and "fire" by night he continues to lead us. Jesus, his son, promises to be with us to the very end. That is good news!

Dear God – We thank you for your promise to guide us and to be with us throughout our lives. Teach us to listen to and follow your Son. Thank you for the comfort of your Holy Spirit guiding us to live for you. In Jesus' name – Amen.