

Remnant Life Church

November 14, 2021

“Moses”

Pt 1

Exodus 33:12-17

There are a handful of those in the OT who were set apart for great things

- David
- Joseph
- Abraham

And, the man I want us to look at over the next few weeks, leading into December and the time of advent

To fully understand why God called this man to lead the Hebrew people requires a little historical review

1. Go back to **Genesis 46**
2. Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, and his 12 sons are living in the time of a great famine
3. God saves them by reuniting them with Jacob's 11th son, Joseph who had been sold into slavery 13 years earlier when he was 17 (**Gen 37:2**)
4. By that time Joseph has been made second-in-command of all of Egypt (**Gen 41:43**) also called the Chief Steward responsible for the agriculture and graineries of the kingdom
5. When Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers he sends them to get Jacob, and the entire family, so they can come live in northern Egypt, the land of Goshen (**Gen 46:28**)
6. Sometime later, when the Pharaoh who knew Joseph had died, a new Pharaoh came to power who did not know the story of Joseph (**Ex 1:8**)
 - a. Joseph was most likely living in the time in Egyptian history when the Hyksos people had control of the kingdom
 - b. They were subsequently overthrown and the Egyptians came back into power
 - c. This new Pharaoh was, once again, a Egyptian not a Hyksos ruler like the one who had invited the Hebrews to come into the land
 - d. This would also explain the sudden change towards God's people making them into slaves (**Ex 1:11**)
7. And so for more than the next 4 centuries God's people are a slave nation
8. They pray and cry out to God for generations but nothing changes until a godly encounter that will take place on a mountainside nearly 200 miles away

Now, half of that godly mountainside encounter was born in Goshen, northern Egypt, somewhere around the early 1500 to late 1400's BC

- His name in the Hebrew is Moe-sheh
- In Arabic it is Nockwa-Eesum-Mosem
- In the Greek it is Moe-sayz
- Of course we know him as Moses

READ – Exodus 33:12-17

Moses has to be placed near the top of that OT list of important men

- He is listed in the “Faith Hall of Fame” in **Hebrews 11**
- He had multiple ‘close encounters’ with God the Father
- He was the instrument of God’s hand to bring about some of the most spectacular miracles of the OT
- And he appeared with Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration (**Matt 17:3**)

But his life was not one that should only be admired or viewed from afar as something no one else could ever have

- Because Moses was not superhuman or some type of an angelic being, he was a human, a person, just like you or me.
- And what happened to him is what should be happening to everyone of us
 - Not the specific events, because everyone’s life is unique
 - But the level of availability he lived and presented to God is a blueprint for our lives as well

Moses’ life was one lived in three segments of 40 years

- The first 40 in Egypt
- The second 40 in the land of Midia
- The third 40 in the wilderness

The great 19th-century evangelist DL Moody said this about Moses,
“He spent the first 40 years of his life thinking he was a somebody, the second 40 learning he was a nobody, and the third 40 discovering what God can do with a nobody.”

Moses was many things in the course of his life – he was a

- Lawgiver
- Prophet
- Prince of Egypt
- Founding father of a new nation
- Song writer
- Author
- Deliverer

But he was also a

- Man with a temper
- Prone to rash decisions
- Man with an ego
- Fugitive
- Murderer

But if Moses had a life verse, a single sentence that summarized his life, it would be found in **Ex 33:15**, *And Moses said to God, If Your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.*

- In other words, Moses was saying, God, I can’t live without your presence

- This is what kept Moses in the place that God had prepared for him in spite of his failures, his shortcomings, and his sin
- He was living what I believe we and the church must embrace again today in 2021
 - Not to know about God, but to know Him
 - Not to seek His hand, but seek His face
 - Not to seek the things of God, but to seek His presence
- And so my question for us at the outset of this brief series is what are you seeking this morning?

Let's take a few minutes this morning to look at 2 things that defined the first 40 years of Moses' life

1. None of what Moses did through the power of God would have been possible if not for his parents – who were both of the priestly clan of the Levites (**Ex 2:1**)
 - a. **Heb 11:23** – *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents because they saw that he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.*
 - b. They had to do this because Pharaoh had declared that every newborn male child born to the Hebrews must be thrown into the Nile
 - i. This same type of a decree would be made again in another 15 centuries in and around Bethlehem in an effort to kill Jesus as a baby (**Matt 2:16**)
 - ii. And just as He did with Moses, God would have Jesus leave the area, once again defeating the plans of the enemy
 - c. But what of that word 'proper' in Heb 11:23?
 - i. In the original language it means to be elegant, attractive, or fair
 - ii. But looking further into the definition and in the way it is used by the author of Hebrews the meaning is expanded to include 'as judged by God'
 - iii. IOW – his parents knew, only through the revelation of the HS, that Moses had been set apart by God
 - iv. And so they, at great risk and under penalty of immediate death, hid their son
 - v. And when they could no longer do that, their faith increased, enabling them to float their 3-month old son down the Nile river in a basket
 - vi. God guided that basket and had Pharaoh's daughter in the place she needed to be for His sovereign plan to be put into action
 - d. We should recognize that the call on Moses' life did not begin at the burning bush on the side of Mt. Horeb, it began in his cradle and that call was not only seen, but protected, by his father and mother
 - e. Few prayers are more powerful than those of parents and grandparents for their children
 - f. So Moses is raised in the royalty of Pharaoh's house as satan's plan to have him killed as a baby have failed
2. But the very thing that satan tried to use to destroy Moses later as an adult, was used by God to get him to the next stage of his life
 - a. Around the age of 40 Moses has a change occur in his heart

- b. In Stephen's speech to the Sanhedrin found in **Acts 7**, he tells how Moses decided to go visit his people the Israelites
- c. IOW God is starting to prepare Moses
 - i. KJV says, it came into his heart to go and visit HIS people
 - ii. The call of God is beginning to be revealed to the one who will carry it out and it begins with the revelation that he is not an Egyptian but a Hebrew – one of the slave people
- d. Moses sees an Egyptian beating an Israelite and he kills the Egyptian and burys him in the sand
 - i. His action was wrong
 - ii. But God is greater than the plans of the enemy
 - iii. **Gen 50:20** *Joseph says to his brothers, You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*
- e. We see two things in this event that marked the transition of Moses' life from stage 1 to stage 2
 - i. You can never cover your sins to the point that they will not be found out
 1. Moses tried to bury the result of his rash and violent actions in the sand
 2. But the act did not go unnoticed and it meant that Moses had to leave the only home he had ever known
 - ii. Nothing is wasted by God in your life to accomplish His will

What does that mean?

- Moses spent 40 years in a polytheistic culture – meaning the worship of many false gods
- But they were also some of the most advanced people on the face of the earth
 - God was preparing Moses for what was to come
 - Moses was receiving the very best education he could have possibly gotten in that day
 - He was trained in the art of fighting and war
 - Trained in the sciences, geography, and how to be a leader of the people
 - He was receiving, from people who did not acknowledged the one true God, everything he would need to lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt
 - Nothing of those first 40 years was wasted

God is preparing each of you to live in His will for your life

- You never stop be prepared
- Because every day, every season of your life is a new opportunity, a new challenge
- The question, again, is what are you seeking?
 - Is it to be in God's presence through time in prayer and the Word?
 - Is it to serve God with your whole life?
 - It is to present your life to Him and allow Him to prepare you through the situations, trials, and challenges that life brings?
- Moses could have remained in Egypt and lived a very comfortable, priviledged life
 - Instead, he responed to what God was revealing to his heart
 - And it led him to the next 40 years of preparation

- He spent the first 40 years thinking he was a somebody
- He is about to learn to that he is a nobody, apart from God
- Is that something that each of us realize this morning as well?

He is preparing each and every one of you for the purpose He has for your life

- But that will only come to its fullness if you are seeking His presence
- It will only come if you are willing to surrender your life to Him fully as a servant to the master
- Then watch what God will do in and through you, all to His honor and glory