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CASE STUDY OF MOSES

A Biblical Case Study of the Leadership of Moses (Exod. 2-4, 16-19)

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In Exodus two, the reader was introduced to Moses, as he was abandoned at birth by his Hebrew mother, then reunited with her to be nursed. Moses grew, then was given back to Pharaoh's daughter, an Egyptian, to be raised as her son (Exod. 2:1-10 NIV). Being taught both Egyptian and Hebrew customs and history, Moses was raised in a home of privilege, wealth, but was aware of his brethren's plight. He went out to look at their burdens and saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. When no one was looking, or so he thought, he killed the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand. On a second occasion, two Hebrew men were fighting, Moses asked why are you striking your brother, and his secret was revealed, when man answered him, "who made you a prince and judge over us "(Exod. 2: 11-15)? Do you intended to kill me as you did the Egyptian? Fearful of Pharaoh, Moses fled to Median.

"Now it happened in the process of time that the king died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. So God heard their groaning (cry), and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them" (Exod. 2: 23-25). God heard, remembered, saw and acknowledged them by initiating His rescue plan, choosing Moses, the murderer, to lead and carry out His plan.

As Moses was tending flock in the dessert, he came to Horeb the mountain of God, and the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in the burning bush. Moses decided "to turn aside and see the great sight, why the bush does not burn"(Exod. 3:1-3). In Exodus 3:7-10, God explains to Moses that He has seen the oppression of His people by the hand of the Egyptians, He will bring them up from that land, into a land flowing with milk and honey. He says, "come now, therefore,

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and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” God emphasizes that it is His plan, that he is only using Moses as a vehicle.

“ But Moses said to God, “ Who I am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt” (Exod. 3:11). Feeling inadequate, Moses made excuses, but God quickly reminded Moses, that this is not about you, it is about My plan, I am with you, I am sending you by commanding him, “Say to the children of Israel that, I AM has sent me to you” (Exod. 3:14). In giving Moses this necessary tool, His name, in Exodus 3:15-22, He instructed Moses to reassure His chosen people that He is their God and He shall reign forever. He reinforces His promise of attaining the promised land and Pharaoh’s response. Ultimately, God promises His favor, that Pharaoh will release His people, and they will leave with the silver and gold as they escape.

However, Moses was not convinced, for he said to God, “ but suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, “ the Lord has not appeared to you”(Exodus 4: 1-2). Therefore, God provided more tools to be used, He appeared to Moses through deliverance, turning a rod into a snake and back again, then through the healing of his leprous hand, and turning river water into blood on dry land, but Moses remained scared. He described himself as not an eloquent, but one slow of speech and tongue, so God reminded Moses that He created man, He will speak through him (Exod. 4:10-12).

In Exodus 14:13-17, Moses implores God to send someone else. God became angry but agreed to allow his brother Aaron to go with him, “to be his mouthpiece and Moses shall be to him as God. And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you will do signs.”

Finally, in Exodus 4:18- 20, Moses obeyed God and prepared to return to Egypt. Moses and Aaron met on the mountain of God. They gathered together all the children of Israel. Aaron

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spoke as God instructed, while Moses did the signs as God commanded and because the people believed God had looked on their affliction, they bowed and worshipped Him (Exod. 4: 27-31).

In Exodus 16, the children of Israel had journeyed to the Wilderness of Sin, complaining against Moses and Aaron, that they could have stayed in Egypt if they were to die from hunger. The Lord heard their cry once again, thereby providing meat in the evening and manna in the morning, that they shall eat until they are full, but with instructions. Despite seeing God's presence, despite receiving the food, morning and evening, the people remained disobedient, rebellious and stubborn, but Moses consistently stood in the gap as a leader. The children of Israel left the Wilderness of Sin as God had commanded, complaining once again due lack of water. Moses pray to God and inquired of him, "God instructed him to strike the rock in Horeb, water shall come out and the people can drink (Exod.17: 1-7).

Moses sent Joshua to fight the Amalek's. As long as Moses was holding his hands up, Israel prevailed. As the battle continued, Moses arms grew heavy and tired, so Aaron and Hur supported his hands until Joshua defeated the Amalek's (Exod.17:8-16).

In Exodus 18, Moses, sat to judge the people. When Jethro, his father-in-law saw this momentous duty, he mentored, advised and counselled Moses on delegating responsibility to men that fear God, men of truth, those hating covetousness, to bear the burden with him, so that they all may endure the journey in peace. So Moses implemented his recommendations, judging the hard cases, while the small every day matters were settled by the rulers he delegated.

As the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sinai, they camped before the mountain. Moses went up the mountain to hear from God, the words to be spoken to Israel. "God had chosen Israel to be a kingdom of priests and holy." The people answered, "all that the Lord has spoken we will do" (Exod. 19: 6-8). And the Lord came in a thick cloud to speak to the

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people, that they may believe forever, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt” (Exod. 20:1). Then the Ten commandments were proclaimed.

Questions

1. What was it about Moses, that made him the right person to lead the children out of Egypt, toward the promised land?
2. What factors led to Moses’s success in leading such unappreciative, complaining, whining people?
3. What lessons can be learned from the leadership of Moses?