

MOSES - Part I

Read Hebrews 11:23-26; Exodus 1 and 2.

Memorize Hebrews 11:25, 26. Write them out here.

As we enter into the life of Moses we need to have a brief review of the circumstances at the time of his birth. In our last lesson we studied about Joseph. His family had moved to Egypt because of a famine and lived happily there. Now as time has gone by Joseph and his brethren have died. A new king of Egypt has risen to power. Life changes for the Israelites.

Read Exodus 1:1-14.

1. Give a the description of the Israelites at this time (verse 7).

2. a. How did the new king view the Israelites (verse 9)?

b. What did he fear (verse 10)?

c. How did he decide to alleviate his fear (verse 11)?

d. What did the imposed affliction accomplish (verses 12-14)?

e. Personal - Would you care to share how you've reacted, or might react, to prolonged affliction, especially when it gets worse?

Hard laborious work imposed by merciless masters did not seem to deter the Israelites. Instead of dying off or becoming weak and discouraged, they became stronger and multiplied. Plan #1 didn't work so the king devised plan #2.

Read Exodus 1:15-22

3. a. Describe the king's new edict (verses 15, 16).

b. Why do you think he wanted to kill just boys?

4. a. The king's #2 plan didn't work either. Why?

b. How might we equate fearing God with having faith in Him?

c. Give the midwives' real reason for not following the king's command.

d. Today we might call this civil disobedience. In light of Acts 5:29 and Titus 3:1, were they right in not obeying the king? Explain.

e. How did God bless the midwives' faith?

5. Pharaoh decreed plan #3. How was it different from plan #2?

We now have the setting and mood at the time of Moses' birth.

Read Hebrews 11:23; Exodus 2:1-10; Acts 7:20-22.

6. Whose faith is mentioned in Hebrews 11:23?

7. a. How did the parents, especially the mother, exercise faith?

b. What phrase in Hebrews 11:23 describes their faith?

c. What do you think they risked by disobeying the king's edict?

d. Explain how their faith was rewarded (Exodus 2:4-10).

It's likely Jochebed, Moses' mother, was able to nurse him until about 2 or 3 years of age before she turned him over to Pharaoh's daughter permanently. What she instilled in the little boy in those few short years only eternity will reveal. It is interesting how much, both in this chapter and throughout the Scripture, faith has to do with the relationship between parents and children. What an example for us today!

8. a. Using Acts 7:21, 22 (NAS) give your thoughts on the following:

-nurtured

-educated

-the learning of Egypt

-power in words

-[power in] deeds

b. Now write a brief paragraph of what you think Moses' life was like in the palace.

Read Hebrews 11:24, 25, 26; Exodus 2:11-15; Acts 7:23-29

9. Summarize the Acts account. (Note the added information not included in Hebrews and Exodus.)

Moses seemed to know God in spite of the rigorous education in an idolatrous household. Evidently he felt that God wanted him to deliver his people out of bondage. However, it wasn't God's time or God's way. God's timing and ours are not always the same.

10. Moses made some significant choices when he left the house of Pharaoh. From Hebrews 11:24-26 list what he refused as opposed to what he willingly received by his choices.

He refused

He willingly received

11. What do you think the abandonment of his position as a prince in the palace could have cost him?
12. How is sin described in Hebrews 11:25?
13. Give some examples for us today of what it might look like to choose mistreatment with the people of God.
14. From Hebrews 11:26, define "considering" (NAS) or "regarded" (NIV).
15. What does it mean (for Moses and for us) to "bear the reproach of Christ" (NAS)?

NOTE: The NIV Study Bible has the following explanation on "disgrace for the sake of Christ". It reads: "Although Moses' understanding of the details of the Messianic hope was extremely limited, he chose to be associated with the people through whom that hope was to be realized." Moses would have known God's promise in Genesis 3:14-15, that the offspring of the woman would eventually crush the serpent's head--the first indication in Scripture that there would be a Messiah.

16. How could Moses turn his back on all the prestige and riches of his position (Romans 8:18, Hebrews 11:6, Hebrews 11:26)?
17. Personal challenge: In this lesson we've seen choices being made by faith on the part of the midwives, Moses' parents, and Moses himself. We also have similar choices to make. Stop now and consider carefully whether you desire to be identified with the people of God, or will you choose the passing pleasures of sin. Talk to God about your decision.

