

Moses Before Pharaoh

Exodus 5:1-9

Introduction

- One of the great characters in human history:
 - Wrote a greater percentage of Bible than any other.
 - Mentioned in N.T. more than any other O.T. person.
 - Great leader of the Jews in the Old Testament.



Moses In Pharaoh's Court

1 Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'"

2 But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."

3 Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest he fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword."



A Remarkable Set Of Events Placing Moses Before Pharaoh

- 'Why did Moses spend the first 40 years of his life in Pharaoh's court?
- He was the son of Pharaoh's daughter. (Ex. 2:10; Heb. 11:24)
- How did this Hebrew become the son of Pharaoh's daughter?
- She "adopted" him.
- How did it come about that she adopted him?
- She found him in an ark in the flags by the river's edge when she went to bath. (Ex. 2:5)

A Remarkable Set Of Events Placing Moses Before Pharaoh

- If he was raised in Pharaoh's house by his daughter, how did he come to know the true God.
- He has his mother, a godly woman as his nurse. (Ex. 2:9-10; 3:6; Heb. 11:23)
- If Jochebed was such a good woman, why did she put her baby in a basket in the river?
- She did it to save his life after the Pharaoh had commanded the deaths of all baby boys. (Ex. 1:16)

A Remarkable Set Of Events Placing Moses Before Pharaoh

- Why would the Pharaoh give the command to kill all the male babies?
- He feared a rapidly growing Hebrew nation allying with his enemies (Ex. 1:7-10); and he did not know Joseph, who had saved his nation from starvation.
- How did Joseph save the nation of Egypt from starvation?
- He interpreted the dreams of an earlier Pharaoh. (Gen. 41)
- How did the king learn that Joseph could interpret dreams?
- He had interpreted the dream of his butler while in prison. (Gen. 40:9-15)

A Remarkable Set Of Events Placing Moses Before Pharaoh

- What was Joseph doing in prison?
- He had been falsely accused by Potiphar's evil wife. (Gen. 39:17-20)
- What is Joseph doing in Egypt?
- He had been sold as a slave by his brothers. (Gen. 37:28)
- Why did Joseph's brothers so hate him?
- Joseph's dreams (Gen. 37:5-11); Joseph's reports to their Father (Gen. 37:2); Jacob's favoritism (Gen. 37:3)

400 Years Earlier God Had Promised

- 13 Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.
- 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.
- 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.
- 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” (Gen. 15:13-16)

Joseph Recognized The Hand Of God In These Events

- Gen. 45:5-8 → And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.
- 6 For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.
- 7 And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.
- 8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Four Lessons

- ***God is able to accomplish his purposes without the miraculous.***
 - His providence works through the natural course of events. (cf. Ruth, Esther, Jehoshabeath/Joash, Moses)
- ***God is able to use evil people and circumstances to accomplish His purposes:***
 - Joseph's brothers
 - The forgetful butler
 - The evil Pharaoh, etc.
 - God does not cause evil people to do evil things (Js. 1:13), but has the foresight, knowledge and power to use them in the accomplishment of his purposes.
 - Seen ultimately in the death of Christ. (Acts 2:36; 3:17; Gen. 3:15; Isa. 53)

Four Lessons

- ***Good people suffer.***

- Also a part of the working out of God's plan
- Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Heb. 11:32-35
- Why? The question of Job.
 - The response of Job's friends – punishment for sin.
 - The response of God – did not tell why; but rather, trust Him.
- Eccl. 8:12-13 Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him. 13 But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God. (Eccl. 12:13)

God Has Made Great Promises To Us

- The forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:38; I Pet. 1:18-20)
- Jesus will come again. (Jn. 14:1-3)
- The resurrection of the dead. (Jn. 5:28-29)
- Final and complete victory over all His enemies. (I Cor. 15:20-28; 51-58)
- Our part is an obedient faith that continues to place our hope and confidence in God and his promises.