

Front Page - February 2024

The Preparation of Moses and the Egyptians for the Exodus - Part 2

His Calling and Awareness of God's Power

When Moses was going to have an audience with Pharaoh he could not go in apologetically and make a suggestion to Pharaoh (Ex 5:1). He went in with the confidence of the assurance God was with him. He declared that God demanded not to go in with hat in hand (Ex. 5:1; 7:16; 8:1; 9:1; 10:3). How could a man who was slow of speech, who possibly felt he had lost his purpose for living, was to deliver the Israelites and for those 40 years was a forgotten shepherd on the backside of the desert (Ex. 3:1) be used by God in such a mighty work? Moses had to lose sight of himself and be fixed on the greatness of God. God had to educate his servant to the greatness of the One sending him.

1) Step one

- a) God had to assuredly get Moses' attention. To do so Moses saw the burning bush which was not burning up (Ex. 3:2-3). Possibly he had seen many bushes burn in the desert but this was different, it did not get destroyed. Curiously aroused, Moses decided to investigate the strange happening.
- b) Lesson No. 1
 - i) Where God is manifested it is holy. God invites us to approach Him (Lev. 1:1-2) and to do it with boldness (Heb. 10:19), but never with a casual or patronizing attitude. It is exceedingly serious to approach God in the Name of Jesus.
- c) Lesson No. 2
 - i) God places regulations on how the children of Israel were to present themselves before Him (Ex. 19:10-15). This would come to Moses' mind when the children of Israel would approach Sinai (Ex. 19:17-25).
- d) Lesson No. 3
 - i) Moses' first objection, "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh" (Ex. 3:11). Moses was to learn a fundamental lesson. God will never reveal His purposes for an individual without giving the ability to fulfil His purpose (Ex. 3:10). Moses was not told he would deliver the children of Israel, God had made it clear that He would do the delivering (Ex. 3:8; 17, 20). God's answer, "I will be with thee" (Ex. 3:12).
 - ii) Moses' second objection (Ex. 3:13), "What shall I say unto them?" It is to be remembered that at this time the children of Israel were idolaters so it was reasonable for those who asked what God he was the spokesman for? God's answer is, "I AM THAT I AM" (Ex. 3:14).

2) When we think of Moses, we consider him as a great man, and that he was. However, to the Israelites and the Egyptians he was a nomad who wandered across the desert and declared to the children of Israel that God was going to release them and demanded of Pharaoh to let them go. The natural reaction of the Prince of Egypt was contempt (Ex. 5:2). The Egyptians had some 2000 gods and goddesses, so who was Moses' God to make demands of he who was seen as a god to the Egyptians?

3) This posed a major question, "How can a satanically darkened mind and stubborn prideful heart be broken to the point where it yields to God? In so doing, there is the unspoken acknowledgment that Moses' God is superior to the gods of Egypt.

The Process

1) In the first meeting with Pharaoh, Moses, in the name of God, declares to Pharaoh to let God's people go. He declares to Pharaoh that they are God's people, "Let my people go" (Ex. 5:1). The God of the Hebrews meant

nothing to Pharaoh so in contempt he asks, “Who is the Lord?” (Ex. 5:2). The Prince of Egypt, being great in his own mind, failed to realize God had raised him to that position (Rom. 9:17; Ex. 14:17-18). Instead of letting God’s people go he made life more bitter for them. God knew that they would be under great bondage and such would be the case for 400 years. That being so, from when Moses was born there were still 80 years to go before the exodus. When Moses killed the Egyptians there were still 40 years to go. Having looked at the first and second objection the third is now considered.

- 2) The third objection was, “They will not believe me, nor harken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee” (Ex. 4:1). The Lord knew the reluctance of the human heart to accept the truth of God so God gave three signs (Ex. 4:2-9).
 - a) The purpose of the signs (Ex. 4:3-9).
 - i) The signs were to convince the Israelites that Moses was sent by God to deliver them. They assured Moses God was with him but would they assure the people of this fact, especially when the Egyptian magicians could do the same things, thus indicating their gods were just as almighty as Moses' God.
 - ii) Moses and Aaron gathered the elders of Israel (Ex. 4:29) and told them God had sent him and showed the signs. We read the people believed (Ex. 4:31). The question then becomes, “Did the signs have a deeper significance, a spiritual significance, or were they for the sole purpose of assurance of who Moses was?”
 - iii) Since I am not aware of any scripture to indicate they had a spiritual significance, I accept them as an assurance to the Israelites that Moses was sent by God. I am not aware of the rod being a type of Satan before his fall, becoming Satan and then coming back to his previous condition. Neither am I aware of any scriptures showing the leprosy hand indicating Israel in their defilement and then becoming defiled and then returning to the previous condition. Again, I am not aware of water taken from the river turning to blood and not returning to water. Furthermore, neither were they given to make the Israelites aware of their spiritual condition.

Rowan Jennings