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The Preparation of Moses for the Exodus - Part 3

Introduction

In the previous Front Page, there were some leading thoughts on the preparation of Moses. It finished with the third objection of Moses and this paper will consider the third and fourth objections.

The Objections

- 1) The fourth objection was, “I am not eloquent . . . I am slow of speech” (Ex. 4:10). I perceive that God was getting somewhat annoyed with Moses. Had Moses limited God’s knowledge intimating God did not know he had an impediment? God answered, “Who had made man’s mouth?” Moses had to learn two truths; when God chooses an individual to do a work, He knows their natural physical inabilities, but in grace He will tolerate man’s objections.
 - i) Many have heard of Mr. Eternity from Sydney Australia. This child of God could not write but believed God wanted him to bring eternity before the people of Sydney and wherever he went in Australia. Over many years he wrote the word “Eternity” on thousands of streets. When there was the celebration for the year 2000, across the Sydney Harbour Bridge, in the perfect script of Mr. Eternity was the word “Eternity”. Also, downtown close to the City Hall there was a little restaurant and on the floor is a plaque with the word “Eternity” written on it. God used a man with little education to spread the gospel across the world. It is a very foolish thing to limit God in what He wants the individual to do. When I think of Joni and her disability, yet she has been able to do so much for God. My friend Mike McFadyen in Boise had West Nile Virus and was so near death, yet he survived and was in a wheelchair for the next 14 years before the Lord called him home. What a magnificent example to all who knew him. He continued shepherding the sheep, helping in the ministry and in hospitality, yet completely bound by a wheelchair and unable to move any part of his body except for one hand. The lesson is physical limitations does not necessarily prevent us from the work of God.
- 2) The fifth objection, “Send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send” (Ex. 4:13). God had had enough of Moses’ objections and, while some might think it very noble and showed great humility about Moses, I do not see it as such. God had called him to do a special work he had in the school of God had been trained for and he was belittling and questioning the known will, power, love and purposes of God. No wonder God was angry (Ex. 4:14). It seems to me that the sternness of God is very sharp here for He says, “Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart. And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God. And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs (Ex. 4:14-17).

Summary

Moses was educated by God in the palace, therefore he knew the etiquette for meeting and speaking to royalty. He learnt what it was to shepherd. With these experiences he was able to approach Pharaoh and in leading of the children of Israel in the wilderness how to shepherd them. However, Moses could never be a priest as Aaron was because he had never suffered with the people and was consequently able to sympathize with the people.

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Moses in Midian and going to Pharaoh

When God had had enough of Moses' excuses, He told Moses, "All the men are dead which sought thy life" (Ex. 4:19). This is the same message as the angel told Joseph (Matt. 2:20). Then given the message, a clear unmistakable command, "Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn: And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn" (Ex. 4:22-23). This was a declaration of war, an either or situation. Let my son go or I will take your son. You are withholding my son from honouring his father, Let him go!

Moses went into Pharaoh's Palace knowing that Pharaoh would not let them go (Ex. 4:21). Facing Pharaoh he said, "Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness" (Ex. 5:1). Pharaoh had no idea of who he was dealing with and God started to send the plagues.

- a) Observation: The purposes of the plagues were at least fourfold:
 - i) The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD (Ex. 7:5).
 - ii) Against all the gods of Egypt.
 - iii) To demonstrate to his people the superiority of God above all earthy idols.
 - iv) God to show forth His power (Ex. 9:16).
- b) One observation is Moses told Pharaoh when a plague would begin (Ex. 7:16-17; 8:2; 21, 23; Ex. 9:3-5; 9:13-15), and when it would end (Ex. 8:10; 9:29).

The ninth plague was one of darkness (Ex. 10:21-24).

- a) From Ex. 10:24 to 11:8; Moses is before Pharaoh and Pharaoh is furious and says, "Get thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in that day thou seest my face thou shalt die". Then Moses answers, "Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more", and Moses went out from Pharaoh in anger (Ex. 10:28; 11:8). I then see chapter 11:9 -10 are a repeat of that which God had already told Moses.
- b) In between the time when Moses went out from Pharaoh until the Passover, God told Moses words of encouragement (Ex. 11:1), what to say to the people and what they did (Ex. 11:2-3).

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