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The Providence of God In The Early Life of Moses

Introduction

It is one of life's greatest comforts to know that God is on the throne of the universe. He is gloriously sovereign, caring with a deep immeasurable love for His own (Dan. 4:17, 25, 32; 7:9; Jn. 13:1). We can live in the awareness that the Almighty in perpetuity is seeking to bless us (Eph. 1:3).

He is the Workman for, notice the words, "created" (Gen. 1:1, 21, 27; 2:3) and "made" (Gen. 1:7, 16, 25; 2:3). When I look at a shirt or suit, I sometimes see the label, "A Yves St Laurent creation" but that is not accurate, for that which was done was to take material already in existence and make it into something. God created! That is beginning with nothing. He created not only the things we see but also the myriad of unseen things. We cannot see electricity, magnetism or gravity, but these are laws God created which are not mentioned in Genesis, for that is not the focus of His attention. Genesis chapter one is the manifestation of the abilities of God, and in that display of His abilities we read:

- i) God "created" (Gen. 1:1). He alone has the power, wisdom and understanding to create from nothing.
- ii) God "said" (Gen. 1:3). He has the power to speak His will and it is fulfilled.
- iii) God "saw" (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). He has the power to observe and evaluate.
- iv) God "divided" (Gen. 1:4). He has the power to distinguish and separate.
- v) God "called" (Gen. 1:5). He has the power to describe and name.
- vi) God "set" (Gen. 1:17). He has the power to place, keep and at His will remove (Heb. 1:11-12).
- vii) God "blessed" (Gen. 1:28; 2:3). He has the ability to enrich and sanctify.
- viii) God "ended" (Gen. 2:2). He has the power to complete in perfection.

With this consideration the words of Paul are very precious, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

He is the God who moved providentially the life of Moses his friend (Ex. 33:11). The first 22 verses of Exodus chapter two cover the first 80 years of Moses life, although he lived for 120 years (Deut. 34:7).

- a) Forty years as a scholar in Egypt where his loyalties nationally and spiritually were tested (Acts 7:23).
- b) Forty years as a Shepherd in Midian, where his self sufficiency was removed as he learnt to care for animals. God was training him for the greater work (Acts 7:30).
- c) He was being trained to be the Shepherd to Israel, a prophet (Acts 7:37); a king and functioning as a priest (Psa. 99:6; Deut. 33:5), although not a priest officially (Acts 7:36).

The providence of God manifested in the "babyhood" of Moses.

- a) Before the birth of Aaron who was 3 years older than Moses (Ex. 7:7), the Israelis had suffered exceedingly. This afflicting of the Israelis made the Egyptian court concerned for if there was a war they would not help the Egyptians. To prevent this development, the decision was to reduce the population by killing every boy child (Ex. 1:22).
- b) Since there would be 400 years of affliction (Gen. 15:13), and because the birth of Moses was 80 years before the exodus took place, the children of Israel had been under afflictions for 320 years when Moses was born.

Note the providential activity of God:

- a) He was born at a specific time so that the exodus would come in the time God appointed. (Gen. 15:13)
- b) He was born of godly parents. (Ex. 2:1-2)
- c) He was hidden for three months and then exposed. (Ex. 2:2-3)
- d) He was hidden on a particular day in a particular place. (Ex. 2:3)
- e) On that day the king's daughter came to that particular place to bathe. (Ex. 2:5)
- f) She saw the ark and sent for it. (Ex. 2:8)
- g) When she opened it, the baby cried. (Ex. 2:5-6)
- h) Mariam went and offered the services of a Hebrew. (Ex. 2:7)
- i) The baby was brought to its home. (Ex. 2:9)

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- j) Why all these precise happenings? Not just for holding the family together, but for to be taught:
 - i) The truth of God (Ex. 3:15).
 - ii) The distinctiveness of Israel and that they were His people (Ex. 2:11).

Knowing we have a God who genuinely cares and with His foreknowledge and wisdom seeks to guide every step of our lives, breathes comfort to the heart of the believer. Well may we shout with comforting joy, “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Pet. 5:7).

. . . . Rowan Jennings