



School of the Bible

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People of Faith

The purpose of these notes are to assist in developing a proper understanding of the course presented. They are not a comprehensive evaluation of the material and are intended to supplement instruction given.

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Moses, Joshua, Caleb and Rahab

Outline

1. Moses – the Leader
2. Joshua & Caleb – Men of Courage & Faith
3. Rahab – An Unlikely Heroine

MOSES – THE LEADER

Hebrews 11:23–31

Background to the Exodus

Jacob's 70 descendants, after 430 years, become such a vast population that the Egyptian rulers became afraid of them and so brought in drastic control measures:

Killing male babies under 2 &

Forcing them to work harder.

With the Exodus, God's plan comes into play

- God's POWER is about to be displayed through the exodus
- God's HOLINESS is displayed through the Law
- God's WISDOM is to be displayed through the Tabernacle

Exodus and Israel

- It's the beginning of
- A new LIFE
- A new LIBERTY 9:3
- A new FELLOWSHIP 24:11
- A new assurance of BELONGING TO GOD 6:7–8

Exodus and Egypt

The 1st big scale exposure of it's FALSITY OF IDOLITARY

The primal revelation of God and His truth had over time become more and more obscure through the perverted mind and will of man. It's gods ranked in importance as much Egypt was revered among the nations.

God would show how useless these gods were (12:12) where even the magicians would confess that God is the TRUE GOD (15:14-15, 18:11) God would demonstrate how futile and foolish it is to attempt to resist Jehovah, the God of Israel. Pharaoh: "Who is Jehovah that I should obey Him?"the Exodus would provide the answer in a way that would be a lesson to man for all time to come.

Moses the leader

The time has come for God to raise a great leader who will deliver Israel from oppression: Moses.

Moses' life can be divided into three parts:

1. The 40 years in Egypt – in Pharaoh's court as the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter.
2. The 40 years in the land of Midian – as a shepherd to escape Pharaoh's judgement after killing an Egyptian. (Midian lay between Egypt and Canaan)
3. The 40 years in the Wilderness – as the leader of the nation of Israel.

Forty years in Egypt

Exodus 2:1-10

Moses was born at a time when the Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, had given orders that no more male Hebrew children should be allowed to live.

Revelation 12 talks about the dragon waiting to devour the child – it starts even here in Egypt, again at the birth of Christ, and probably the church of Christ.

Satan hates Godly leaders, and wants people to be without direction, so that he can come to kill, steal, destroy. Without a shepherd, the sheep scatter – easy prey!

The saving of the infant Moses, was **an enormous step of faith** for his parents. They defied the command of Pharaoh, risking their lives. (After hiding him for three months, his mother made a little vessel of papyrus waterproofed with asphalt and pitch. She placed Moses in the vessel, floating among the reeds on the bank of the Nile River.)

FAITH LESSON:

- FAITH REQUIRES DRASTIC/BRAVE/BOLD ACTIONS
- FAITH COMES AT A COST
They risked their lives
- FAITH IN ACTION REQUIRES US TO LET GO

They released Moses into the river, and let go, where they don't really have any control of the outcome, but could only sit, watch and wait for the outcome

“ 2 So the woman conceived and bore a son. **And when she saw that he was a beautiful child**, she hid him three months”

How do we look at our children? What do we believe for our children?

How do we look at new beginnings in Christ? How do approach difficult situations in our Christian lives?

How do we look at situations that seem to no way out?

Moses' parents must have looked at Moses, and believed in Faith, that somehow, Moses would be a great man of God, perhaps even someone who would deliver Israel from slavery.

How do you view children in the church, especially the naughty noisy ones!

Hebrews 11:23-31

He was Pharaoh's daughter's son; he had everything he could ask for, wealth, position, authority, But he gave it all up “to be ill-treated with the people of God. He identified himself with God's people, and that meant giving up much.

Denied himself the passing pleasures of sin – not that he was a debauched type of character, but if he had continued to identify himself with the royal family and their ways, he would have been disobedient to what God asked of Him.

Esteeming the reproach of Christ....Christ hadn't been born yet, in what way could he have suffered abuse for Christ?

- Perhaps he suffered the same sort of abuse that Christ would one day suffer or
- He suffered for God's people, and the writer of Hebrews notes that any suffering for God's people is suffering for Christ who has always been united with God's people.

One day Moses became angry at an Egyptian taskmaster who was beating a Hebrew slave; he killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand.

Perhaps Moses felt the call of God on his life and perhaps there is a bit of Jacob in him – doing things his own way?

- *It's a case of hearing the call of God, then moving out without waiting on HOW TO DO the will of God*
- *Unbridled zeal*

- *Impatience*
- *Pride*
- *Immaturity*

*Romans 8:8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God, BUT,
Romans 8:14 Those who are led by the Spirit of God, are the sons of God*

Jesus says He can do nothing in HIS OWN STRENGTH, He ONLY DOES WHAT HIS FATHER TELLS AND SHOWS HIM. John 5:19

When this became known, however, he feared for his own life and fled from Egypt to the land of Midian. Moses was 40 years old when this occurred (Acts 7:23–29).

“So Moses feared and said: “Surely this thing is known.” MKJV

“Then Moses was afraid and thought: ‘Surely, THIS thing is known’ Amplified Version

But what about this verse? Does the Bible contradict itself?

By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; (Heb 11:27)

This is not a contradiction. He knew down deep in his gut, that he was to be influential in the lives of his people. When he was exposed by his own people, he feared them, and that he had failed in his calling.

He feared that he would be seen as a traitor to Egypt, and be prosecuted, and so loose what God had prepared him for.

His flesh feared, but his spirit had come to understand the need to go, and come back later, to face Pharaoh and his magicians.

God uses us in spite of our mistakes! (This error seems greater than that of striking the rock but receives a lesser consequence!)

Error resulting from wrong action, but noble intention/heart

BUT

Striking the rock = DISOBEDIENCE – God said he must speak to the rock, but he struck the rock. ANGER = wrong heart, Not the heart of a shepherd, but a hireling.

Forty Years in the Land Of Midian.

From Egyptian prince, probably the greatest nation in it’s day, to Israelite shepherd, a people without identity and in slavery

Moses' exile of about 40 years was spent in the land of Midian (mostly in northwest Arabia), in the desert between Egypt and Canaan. In Midian Moses became a

shepherd and eventually the son-in-law of Jethro, a Midianite priest. (who incidentally was a descendent of Abraham!) (**Genesis 25:1–2**)

This was the same area through which the Exodus would happen. God prepared him for the journey ahead, and he didn't know it.

How often have we been placed in desert/wilderness situations, not knowing or even worse, not believing by Faith, that we are being prepared for the future?

Meeting Godly people, not aware that their input would have divine input/ results then and later

In the wilderness we have encounters with God, that can only happen then, because only then, are we in a (humbled) position (heart and mind) where we will hear and see God's dealings with us, for us and His Kingdom, for the future. We reach a stage where we stand before God, and He says "Take off your shoes, you are standing on holy ground"

Moses re-institutes circumcision

On the way back to Egypt God seeks Moses to kill him for apparently disobeying the commandment of God to circumcise his child. If Moses returns with an uncircumcised male he has no chance of leading the Jews. (Gen 17:14)

Exodus 4:24–26

Note the courage of Zipporah in doing "the difficult thing".

- **FAITH REQUIRES DRASTIC/BRAVE/BOLD ACTIONS**

She exercised the circumcision

- **FAITH COMES AT A COST**

If she waited for Moses to do the deed, she would be a widow.

- **FAITH REQUIRES ACTION**

She circumcises the boy

Hear what she says: "You are a husband of blood", as in a covenant signed with blood, a blood covenant.

Through the blood of their son:

- Her husband is saved
- their marriage is renewed
- Her son still has a father and can enter the promised land

- The Nation of Israel WILL GET SAVED, while they are unaware of this blood event, their lives carrying on, God is at work, preparing their liberation.

Salvation through the BLOOD, A prophetic display of salvation through the blood of Christ.

Moses & Pharaoh

Exodus 5:-1-2

Pharaoh does not like the idea of letting God's people go and then shows his contempt of God by increasing the oppression of the slaves **Exodus 5:5-14**

But Moses *did not waver* in his mission. He *displays great courage* as he *warns* Pharaoh of the consequences that would fall on his kingdom if he should refuse to let the people of Israel go.

FAITH AND ACTION

Faith does not produce confusion, but steadfastness.

Moses didn't waver, but displayed great courage; why?

- 1st – God had called him
- 2nd – He had God's promises to hold onto
- 3rd – He spoke God's commands, (warns Pharaoh)

FAITH calls for courageous men and women to do God's works here on earth.

Then followed a stubborn battle of wills with Pharaoh hardening his heart and stiffening his neck against God's commands. The result – the plagues.

Forty Years in the Wilderness – The Exodus

Pharaoh finally relents and lets the people go and as God had promised they leave with great possessions.

Pharaoh changes his mind and pursues only for God to split the sea for His people to walk through on dry ground and the Egyptians to be drowned.

Exodus 14:10-14

This is one of the most awesome events in the history of mankind:

600 000 men (probably more than 2 million in total) crossing over the Red Sea. This amount being led without a PA system.
Moses would have needed at least 780 tons of food per day (transported in a freight train 1,6km long).
30m litres of water would have been needed for drinking and basic washing.
They in all likelihood crossed the Red Sea in a night (if they crossed 2X2 on a narrow road the road would have been 780 km long taking 35 days and nights to cross). They needed an opening in the Red Sea 2,7km wide so that 3 000 could walk side by side to cross in 1 night.
Every time they set up camp they needed an area of at least 1 100 square km or 33km by 33km.

If they had have taken the commercial route to the land of Canaan they would have arrived in 2 weeks but they needed time for organization and discipline and so they turned southward and arrived at Sinai in 3 months.

CROSSING THE RED SEA PRODUCED TWO DIVINE ACTS AT THE SAME TIME:

- Ultimate judgement (Pharaoh and Egyptians)
- Irreversible deliverance (Israelites)

This event is regarded as the conclusive proof of God's love and the just basis upon which God calls for our devotion.

Israel was hemmed in by lakes on one side and mountains on the other

Faith required great courage

Encourages the people: "Stand firm" (ja right, didn't you see the Egyptian army is around the corner?)

Speaks out in Faith " You will see the deliverance the Lord WILL bring and tells the people to march

Stretch out the staff over the sea

Walk through, between great walls of water

THE RESULT?

- Israel is saved
- God is glorified : "The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt, let's get away from the Israelites" Ex 14:25

Moses was denied entry into the Promised Land because he struck a rock instead of speaking to it for water to come out.

Joshua & Caleb – Men of Courage & Faith

A Good Report

God instructs Moses to send spies into the promised land – of the 12 only two return with a good report: Joshua and Caleb

Notice the word spoken – the evidence of faith can often be seen in by the words we speak!

- *“we are well able to overcome it.”*
- *“their protection has departed from them”*

A Different Spirit

Caleb is referred to having a “different spirit” – this refers to an attitude of faith – someone who is prepared to change situations, challenge thinking and pioneer.

FAITH COMES BY HEARING (and remembering)

Joshua leads the people across the Jordan river probably remembering Moses and the crossing of the Red Sea, how God’s glory was displayed.

Rahab – An Unlikely Heroine

Background.

Joshua 2:1

¹ Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.

Rahab was a harlot by profession.

Her Plan.

It was probably from some of the traveling merchants that she entertained, that she learned of the Exodus of Israel, how God had delivered His people.

When the spies of Joshua sought cover in her house, she knew that sooner or later the king of Jericho would find out about her giving them this accommodation.

Because these men **were different**, they were **men of God and totally unlike the men she was used to dealing with**, she devised a plan.

The two spies hid on her roof under a pile of flax and when the pursuers came to her house, she told them they had been there but left through the Eastern gate.

After nightfall, she led them down through a window in the wall and guided them to the best way of escape.

Her Sacrifice.

Rahab put her very life on the line to save these men of God. Because she had accepted as her own, the God of Israel.

Her Sign.

Rahab offered to shelter the spies and aid them in their escape.

She received from them a promise that when they returned, she and her family would be spared.

The scarlet rope, with which the spies were let down from the wall, was also her way of escape when they returned.

Her Salvation.

God instructed Joshua to destroy the entire city of Jericho along with all of the inhabitants.

Joshua honoured the promise made to Rahab by the spies.

Under the protection of the scarlet line, Rahab and all of her family were brought out of the house.

The spies came to her house not to participate in her sinful indulgences, but to prepare the way for Joshua to take Jericho.

She saved the spies not out of pity, but because she recognized that they were servants of the Lord.

James records her, as being counted righteous through her faith and works.

James 2:25 – ²⁵ Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

Faith takes risks!

Her Status.

Rahab became a faithful follower of the Lord.

She married one of the spies and is an ancestor of the Lord Jesus Christ.