

MOSES (I): LOOKING TO THE REWARD

Introduction

- 1) **Hebrews 11:24-26** – important statement about the faith of Moses
- 2) Moses' life divides into three periods of forty years each (see Acts 7:20-36)
- 3) This study will look at a critical choice Moses made in the first phase of his life
- 4) There are critical points in everyone's life that determine where we will go and what we will do – let us learn from Moses' example in making important *early* choices

I) Early History of Moses' Life

- A) Born to Amram and Jochebe (Ex. 6:20); hid three months from Pharaoh's death decree, then put in ark of bulrushes (2:1-3; Heb. 11:23)
- B) Sister [Miriam] watches as Pharaoh's daughter finds baby; offers to have a Hebrew woman nurse him; his mother nurses him and then gives him to Pharaoh's daughter to be her son; named Moses, meaning "drawn out" (Ex. 2:4-10)
- C) Moses was learned in all the wisdom of Egypt – became mighty in words and deeds (Acts 7:22)
 - 1) Reading and writing of hieroglyphic and other scripts, copying text, instruction in writing letters and documents; sports such as archery and horseback riding; the best instruction in various languages, sciences, mathematics, medicine, literature, and music

II) The Critical Choice of Moses' Early Life (Hebrews 11:24)

- A) When Moses became of age (Heb. 11:24), was grown (Ex. 2:11), was forty years old (Acts 7:23), "it came into his heart to visit his brethren" (Acts 7:23), "went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens" (Ex. 2:11)
 - 1) This is the critical point of Moses' life – will he continue in Pharaoh's house or be identified with his downtrodden, slave brethren, the children of Israel? *Cannot do both!*
- B) A situation forces him to choose – Egyptian beating a Hebrew, "one of his brethren"
 - 1) Moses had to choose sides and the course of his future – he "defended and avenged" the Hebrew and killed the Egyptian (Ex. 2:12; Acts 7:24-25 – acting as a deliverer)
- C) Moses renounces Egyptian ties – "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter," and casts his lot with his brethren, a contemptible, burdened slave-nation (Heb. 11:24b-25)
 - 1) Foolish choice in eyes of world – everything to lose!
 - 2) No turning back, for he learns that what he did is known, and he is now despised, misunderstood, and rejected (Ex. 2:13-15a; cf. Acts 7:26-29a)

III) Faith Looking to the Reward (Hebrews 11:25-26)

- A) Moses' choice held only the promise of hardship, danger, scorn, and suffering affliction
 - 1) "Couldn't Moses have done more good as an Egyptian?" To refuse to walk the path of righteousness, even when it is difficult, is compromise and apostasy – it is sinful to embrace ease and apathy while turning away from difficult paths of truth and faithfulness
- B) Faith judges the future consequences of our present choices – affliction with God's people *better* than the "passing pleasures of sin" (material wealth, worldly friends, power, influence)
- C) Treasures of the "reproach of Christ" greater than treasures of Egypt (Psa. 89:50-51)
 - 1) Consideration of the permanent vs. the passing away (2 Cor. 4:18; 1 Jn. 2:15-17)
 - 2) Considered the shame of God a treasure and worldly gain as a loss (Phil. 3:7-8)
- D) Moses' faith "looked to the reward" (cf. Heb. 11:6)
 - 1) His eyes were "fixed" (kept looking) – weighed issues of time in the balance of eternity
 - 2) By faith we find glory in the times we must choose the reproach of Christ (Heb. 10:32-35; 13:12-14).

Conclusion

Are you willing to make a critical choice like Moses did? Either standing with God's people or with the pleasures of sin will set in motion the rest of your life. What are your eyes fixed on?