

MOSES (III): MEEKNESS IN THE WILDERNESS

Introduction

- 1) Moses' final forty years of life were spent in leading the children of Israel out of Egypt and through the wilderness to the promised land of Canaan (Acts 7:35-36)
- 2) Moses and Aaron go to Egypt to speak to people and to confront Pharaoh (Ex. 4:27-5:2; 6:28-7:7)
- 3) The plagues on Egypt and the Passover (Ex. 7:14-12:30); Moses keeps the Passover by faith (Heb. 11:28; Ex. 12:5-7, 11-14, 30)
- 4) The children of Israel leave Egypt led by Moses (Ex. 12:37-42; 13:17-22)

I) **The Character of Moses**

A) **Meekness** – humility (Num. 12:3)

- 1) Context is a challenge of Moses by Aaron and Miriam (jealousy and dissatisfaction)
- 2) Implication is that Moses was not one to strike back, lose his temper, or spoil for a fuss, but he remained under control with emotions in check

B) Lord did not choose a weak man to lead Israel, but one with passion and strength

- 1) Self-control and consideration of others strengthened Moses' excellent nature

C) Also exhibited **courage** (Ex. 14:13), **faith** (Deut. 6:24-25), **service** (Heb. 3:5), **priorities** (Heb. 11:24-25), **hope** (Heb. 11:26)

II) **Moments of Significance for Moses during the Wilderness Wandering**

A) **Exodus 32:9-14, 30-33**

- 1) Moses pleads for the mercy of God toward sinful Israel at Mount Sinai
- 2) Did not seek exaltation with selfish pride; sought the good of others
- 3) Moses "stood in the breach" for God's people (see Psa. 106:23)
- 4) Willing to sacrifice his own self for his people (type of Christ)

B) **Numbers 14:1-23**

- 1) Once again, Moses pleads for the pardon and mercy of God for sinful Israel
- 2) Moses' word has influence upon decisions of God – God listens and considers us
- 3) Willing to mediate between God and Israel (type of Christ)

C) **Numbers 16:1-5**

- 1) Rebellion of Korah and others against Moses and Aaron's leadership
- 2) Moses rightly points to God as the final authority in matters of faith and work

D) **Numbers 20:1-13**

- 1) Moses' error at Kadesh – not hallow God before Israel (cf. Deut. 32:51; Psa. 106:32-33)
- 2) Serious error that had serious consequences in his earthly life – not cross over Jordan to enter promised land
- 3) Great people do sin – God's holds all men responsible – fair, impartial judgment

III) **The Final Days of Moses**

A) Moses' final admonition to follow God's word (Deut. 32:44-47)

B) Moses dies on Mount Nebo after viewing the land of Canaan (Deut. 32:48-52; 34:1-12)

C) Appears with Elijah at Jesus' transfiguration; discusses Jesus' "exodus" [death] that was about to be accomplished at Jerusalem (Lk. 9:30-31)

Conclusion

☞ **Great tribute to Moses:** Faithful in all God's house and knew God "face to face" (Num. 12:6-8)

☞ **One greater than Moses now here:** Christ Jesus, who is faithful and a Son over His own house "whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end" (Heb. 3:1-6). Are you a part of the house of Jesus, the church of Christ?