

# Moses

## A Great Bible Leader

### Introduction:

1. Love for the church demands good, godly leaders.
  2. Who are the leaders of the church?
    - a. Jesus is the head (Eph. 1:22-23).
    - b. Men lead in worship (1 Tim. 2:8).
    - c. Teachers lead in classes (1 Tim. 2:12).
    - d. All Christians lead by teaching and example in their lives (Matt. 5:16).
    - e. Preachers lead by teaching, but they are not pastors.
  3. Elders are the true leaders of the local congregation.
    - a. Elders lead by example (Heb. 13:7).
    - b. Bishops lead by oversight (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:1ff).
    - c. Shepherds lead by tending the flock (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).
      - i. Lead
      - ii. Feed
      - iii. Plead
      - iv. Bleed
  4. Thus, this study will focus on the role of elders as leaders in the Lord's church.
- I. Leadership Demands Preparation (Acts 7:22)
- A. Moses was raised by his mother and taught the law of God (Exo. 2:8).
  - B. He was also raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter and educated in all the ways of the Egyptians (Acts 7:22).
  - C. Thus, Moses was prepared in every way to lead the people of God against their enemies.
    1. Elders must know the Word of God.
    2. Elders must know the ways of the enemy.
      - a. Temptation and sin
      - b. Error and compromise
    3. This requires preparation by study of both!
  - D. Note that this preparation began at a young age.
- II. Leadership Demands Submission (Exodus 2:11-14)
- A. When he was grown (40 years old), Moses decided to lead the people of Israel by attacking an Egyptian who was harming an Israelite.
  - B. He knew that God wanted him to deliver His people and assumed the Israelites would recognize this fact also (Acts 7:23-25).
  - C. However, he was trying to lead Israel according to his own will rather than the will of God.
    1. His goal was noble and his motive was just, but his method was flawed.
    2. The same was true of Jacob and his seeking the birthright and blessing.
  - D. God did not want Israel to be freed by their own strength nor the might of Moses – but by the power of Jehovah.
    1. Faith in God rather than trust in themselves
    2. Gratitude instead of grumbling and self-righteous legalism

- E. Likewise, elders must be submissive to God's plan for the church.
  - 1. Organization
  - 2. Worship
  - 3. Work
    - a. Money should never be one's first consideration.
    - b. Trust in God is paramount!
- F. One's motive in serving God must be love that springs from thankfulness.

### III. Leadership Demands Leading (Exodus 3:1)

- A. To prepare Moses for leading His people, God made him a shepherd and taught him to lead sheep!
  - 1. Abraham, Jacob, David
  - 2. Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10).
- B. The primary focus of his leadership was spiritual.
  - 1. Out of bondage into salvation, freedom, and rest
  - 2. Into gratitude by their deliverance
  - 3. Into righteousness by the law
  - 4. Into holiness by the priesthood
  - 5. Into fellowship by the Tabernacle
- C. The work of the Lord's shepherds is spiritual – leading men to salvation and Heaven!
- D. To lead, one must be in the front, showing the way.
  - 1. Where was Moses during the 10 plagues?
  - 2. Where was Moses at the Red Sea? (Exodus 14:13-16)
  - 3. Where was Moses at the victory over Egypt? (Exodus 15:1)
  - 4. Where was Moses at the gathering of manna?
  - 5. Where was Moses when Israel complained? (Exodus 17:2)
  - 6. Where was Moses in battle? (Exodus 17:9)
  - 7. Where was Moses in matters of justice? (Exodus 18:13-14)
  - 8. Where was Moses at Sinai? (Exodus 20:18-21)
  - 9. Where was Moses at death? (Numbers 27:15-18)
- E. In fact, it was God leading Israel through Moses (Isaiah 63:11-14)!
  - 1. Where was Jehovah during the 10 plagues?
  - 2. Where was Jehovah during the wilderness journey? (Exo. 13:21; 40:36-38)
- F. Elders are to shepherd the flock of God by tending it (Acts 20:28).
  - 1. Lead
  - 2. Feed
  - 3. Plead
  - 4. Bleed
- G. This demands leadership by teaching and example.

### IV. Leadership Demands Meekness (Numbers 12:3)

- A. Meekness is not weakness; rather, it is strength under control, governed by God.
- B. Moses was more concerned with the spiritual condition of his enemies than the personal attacks against him.
- C. Moses prayed for those who spoke against him (vs. 13).
- D. How often had he done this for the entire nation of Israel who wanted to kill him?
- E. Elders must lead with meekness!

- V. Leadership Demands Faith (Hebrews 11:24-27)
- A. Moses willingly forsook Egypt.
    - 1. This is the same thing he was leading Israel to do.
    - 2. Elders must lead the church in forsaking the world by abandoning it themselves.
      - a. Sacrifice in giving requires sacrifice in spending!
      - b. If we want others to walk by faith, we must not walk by sight!
  - B. Moses willingly chose suffering with God's people.
    - 1. Moses had to eat manna and quail like all the rest.
    - 2. Moses had to spend 40 years in the wilderness on what should have been a three-month journey.
    - 3. Elders must be willing to suffer for the cause of Christ.
  - C. Moses grasped the value of redemption and spiritual blessings with God.

Conclusion:

- 1. The church needs dedicated, faithful leaders.
- 2. Elders are not perfect men, but they must strive to be faithful in all things.
- 3. Faithful congregations will follow good and godly elders.