

Lesson 02

The Early Prophets: Moses

Text: Numbers 12:1-8

Introduction:

1. The early Bible prophets included great men of faith like Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph.
2. However, Moses stood out among them all.
3. He was unique in both his relationship with God and his role with the children of Israel.

I. Moses: The Prophet

- A. Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses claiming that he should not be held above other prophets of God.
 1. Both Miriam and Aaron are referred to as prophets (Exo. 15:20; 7:1).
 2. Moses was not self-seeking when it came to prophesying, desiring that all God's people could do the same (Num. 11:25-29).
 3. Yet, his siblings felt that his status should not be viewed as greater than their own.
- B. God responded to this situation by announcing that Moses had a unique relationship with Him.
- C. God spoke to many prophets in dreams and visions, but He spoke to Moses "mouth to mouth" – appearing and speaking to him clearly (cf. Exo. 33:11; Deut. 34:10).
 1. This does not mean that Moses saw God in all of His glory (cf. John 1:18; 4:24; 1 Tim. 6:16).
 2. Yet, he was allowed to see and hear a demonstration of God's majesty (cf. Exo. 33:20-23; 34:28-29).
 3. **"...[A]t this moment we are as close to God as we have chosen to be"** (Mike Vestal).
 4. Moses' greatest desire was the presence of God's glory (Exo. 33:14-18; cf. Psa. 42:1-2; 63:1-3; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 4:11).
- D. In some ways, the work of Moses begins what is commonly thought of as the assistance or service of a prophet (Jer. 7:25; Luke 24:27, 44; Acts 26:22).
- E. Moses' role as prophet foreshadowed the work of Jesus as the Prophet of God (Deut. 18:17; Acts 3:22-23; 7:37; Heb. 3:1-6).

II. Moses: The Lawgiver

- A. It was through Moses that the 10 Commandments were given (Exo. 20; 24:12; 31:18; 34:1-4).
- B. It was through Moses that the Law was given (Exo. 20ff).
- C. It was through Moses that the Pentateuch was written.
- D. "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

III. Moses: A Type of Christ

- A. Protected as infants (Exo. 2:2-10; Matt. 2:14-15)
- B. Prepared for service (Acts 7:22; John 2:24-25; 17:5; Col. 2:3)
- C. Sacrificed to save others (Heb. 11:24-27; 2 Cor. 8:9; Phil. 2:5-8; Luke 19:10; John 3:16-17)
- D. Similar lives:
 - 1. Fasted 40 days (Exo. 34:28; Matt. 4:1-2)
 - 2. Power over the sea (Exo. 14:27; Matt. 8:26)
 - 3. Fed a multitude (Exo. 16:26; Matt. 14:20-21)
 - 4. Radiant faces (Exo. 34:35; Matt. 17:1-2)
 - 5. Endured murmuring (Exo. 15:24; Mark 7:2)
 - 6. Had 70 helpers (Num. 11:16-17; Luke 10:1)
 - 7. Established memorials (Exo. 12:14; Luke 22:19)
- E. Proved their claims by miracles (Exo. 4; John 20:30-31)
- F. Gave laws (John 1:17)
- G. Had to be believed and followed (Exo. 4:1-9, 29-31; Heb. 11:29; Mark 16:16; John 8:21; etc.)

Conclusion: The things “written aforetime were written for our learning” (Romans 15:4).