

MOSES RESCUES A NATION

TEXT: EXODUS 1 – 15

Introduction:

1. God promised to make a great nation from the children of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
2. Later, God told Jacob not to be afraid to go into Egypt, for it was there that this great nation would be formed (Genesis 46:2-4).
3. In Egypt, the number of the descendants of Abraham grew exceedingly (Genesis 47:27; Exodus 1:7).
 - a. There were 70 souls who went down into Egypt (Genesis 46:26-27; Exodus 1:5).
 - b. When they came out of Egypt, there were around 600,000 men – not counting women, children, the elderly, or the tribe of Levi (Exodus 12:37-38; cf. Numbers 1:46-47; Deuteronomy 10:22).
 - c. Including those numbers, the population of Israel would have been at least 2 million people.
4. Because their numbers grew so large so rapidly, the Egyptians began to fear the Israelites.
5. As a result, they were forced into slavery (Exodus 1:8-14).
6. God's promised nation had been formed, but now they needed to be rescued from bondage.
7. For this work, God chose a man named Moses...

I. Moses: The Leader of Liberty

- A. Moses was born during a time of great threat and difficult struggle.
 1. To decrease the population of the Israelites, Pharaoh had ordered his people to kill the male children of the Hebrews (1:22).
 2. When Moses was born his parents hid him for three months so that his life might be spared (2:1-2; cf. Acts 7:20; Hebrews 11:23).
 3. When he could no longer be hidden, his mother placed him in an ark of bulrushes (papyrus) which was positioned near the river's bank where the daughter of Pharaoh bathed (2:3-4).
 4. Pharaoh's daughter, moved with compassion, decided to adopt the baby (2:5-10).
 5. He was named Moses because he was drawn out of the water.
- B. In time, Moses chose to reject the wealth and power of Egypt and to align himself with his Hebrew kinsman – against Egypt (2:11-15; cf. Acts 7:22-23; Hebrews 11:24-27).
- C. As a result, he was forced to flee Egypt into the land of Midian.
- D. In Midian, Moses married Zipporah and they had two sons, Gershom and Eliezer (2:16-22; 18:3-4).
- E. As the children of Israel suffered and cried out to God, He remembered them and moved to help them (2:23-25).
- F. One day, while Moses was tending his sheep near Mount Sinai, God appeared to him as a bush that burned with fire but was not consumed (3:1-3).
 1. From this bush, God called to Moses (3:4-6).
 2. The miracle of the burning bush confirmed that it was truly God who was speaking.

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3. Thus, Moses realized that he was standing on holy ground and approached God with submission (vs. 4), reverence (vs. 5), humility, and fear (vs. 6).
- G. God commanded Moses to go before Pharaoh and to lead God's people from their bondage in Egypt (3:7-10).
- H. Moses made many excuses, but God answered each one (3:11 – 4:17).
- I. Moses returned to Egypt and gathered the elders of Israel to reveal to them the words of God (4:18-31).
- J. Soon after, Moses appeared before Pharaoh and told him the command of God – "Let my people go" (5:1).
- K. Pharaoh responded by asking, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice?" (5:2).
- L. To answer that question, God sent 10 Plagues upon the land of Egypt (5:3–12:30).
 1. **Water Turned to Blood** (7:14-25)
 2. **Frogs** (8:1-15)
 3. **Lice** (8:16-19)
 4. **Biting Flies** (8:20-32) (cf. Psalm 78:45; 105:31)
 5. **Murrain (Pestilence)** (9:1-7)
 6. **Boils** (9:8-12)
 7. **Hail (with Fire)** (9:13-35)
 8. **Locusts** (10:1-20)
 9. **Darkness** (10:21-29)
 10. **Death of the Firstborn** (12:29-30)
- M. These plagues served several purposes:
 1. They demonstrated the power and authority of God.
 2. They were a means of punishment for the people of Egypt.
 3. They proved the folly of Egypt's false religion and the powerlessness of their false gods and goddesses.
- N. Finally, Pharaoh ordered the Israelites to leave Egypt – granting all their requests and fully obeying the commands of God (12:31-36).
- O. Thus, the Israelites began their exodus from Egypt and their journey to the promised land of Canaan (12:37-51).
- P. God's mercy toward Israel did not end with His freeing them from Egypt; for, He continued to guide them until they reached the Promised Land (13:17-22).
- Q. As Israel camped by the Red Sea, Pharaoh hardened his heart and determined to pursue and destroy them (14:1-9).
 1. As the Israelites saw the Egyptians approaching, they reacted with fear instead of faith (14:10-12).
 2. They had forgotten God.
 3. They had forgotten God's power.
 4. They had forgotten God's blessings.
 5. They had forgotten God's guidance.
 6. They had forgotten God's goal.
- R. In answer to their fear God again demonstrated His power (14:13-31).
 1. Moses instructed the people to conquer their fear by standing still and witnessing the salvation of Jehovah.
 2. Following the Lord's instruction, Moses lifted his rod and stretched it out over the sea, and the waters parted.
 3. As this was happening, the pillar of cloud and fire stood between Israel and the forces of Egypt.

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4. Furthermore, God troubled the Egyptian host by causing the wheels to come off their chariots as they sought to pursue Israel.
 5. Too late the Egyptians recognized and acknowledged the power of Jehovah.
 6. With Israel safely across, God commanded Moses to stretch his hand over the sea and the walls of water collapsed, drowning the Egyptians – including Pharaoh (cf. Psalm 136:15).
 7. Thus, God saved Israel and defeated the Egyptians.
 8. Israel's faith in God was restored, and they trusted Him and His servant Moses.
- S. Following this deliverance, the children of Israel sang a song honoring God's victory over Egypt (15:1-21).
- T. Thus, the Israelites were freed from slavery and on their way to freedom in Canaan.
1. This was due to the faithful leadership of Moses.
 2. This was due to the mercy and power of God.
- II. God: The Founder of Freedom
- A. The God of Heaven and Earth is a God of freedom (Exodus 3:1-15).
1. God instructed Moses to return to Egypt to secure the freedom of the children of Israel.
 2. God declared that His name is: "I AM THAT I AM."
 3. God wants His people to share in His freedom.
 4. God demanded of Pharaoh, "Let my people go, that they may serve me" (8:1).
 5. When freedom was finally gained, God led His people to Mount Sinai to give them His Law – for the purpose of guarding and maintaining their freedom (Exodus 20:1-17; cf. Deuteronomy 5:15).
 6. Their civil freedom allowed them to have religious freedom.
- B. God created man to be free (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:16-17).
- C. Because sin enslaves one to Satan, God has provided freedom for the soul (cf. John 8:31-34; Acts 8:23; 2 Peter 2:19; Proverbs 5:22).
- D. Jesus came to preach liberty for the captives (Luke 4:18-19).
- E. He provided true freedom – from sin (John 8:21-36).
1. This freedom must be protected (Galatians 2:4-5).
 2. This freedom must be appreciated (Galatians 5:1).
 3. This freedom demands submissive obedience (Galatians 5:13 – 6:10).
- F. True freedom can be found only in God!
- III. America: The Ideals of Independence
- A. Those who were responsible for the political and legal system on which this nation was built are often referred to as the Founding Fathers.
- B. These leaders were not perfect, but they to a higher and perfect standard for founding this country – the principles found in the Bible.
- C. The words of the Declaration of Independence echo throughout the history of this country and in the hearts of its citizens.
1. *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."*
 2. The statement is bold: Both the existence and character of God are self-evident.

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3. Of course, the Bible teaches the same thing (Romans 1:18-21).
- D. The Founding Fathers often used terms like “Nature’s God” and the “Laws of Nature.”
 1. These phrases referred to God’s right to rule His world.
 2. If there is a Creator, then the world is under His power and authority.
- E. By studying the writings of America’s Founding Fathers, one will learn that nearly all of them accepted the existence of God.
 1. The Declaration of Independence ended with an appeal “to the Supreme Judge of the world” and “with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence.”
 2. Samuel Adams: “I . . . recommend my Soul to that Almighty Being who gave it, and my body I commit to the dust, relying upon the merits of Jesus Christ for a pardon of all my sins” (Will of Samuel Adams).
 3. Patrick Henry: “This is all the inheritance I can give to my dear family. The religion of Christ can give them one which will make them rich indeed.”
 4. Robert Treat Paine: “I desire to bless and praise the name of God most high for appointing me my birth in a land of Gospel Light where the glorious tidings of a Savior and of pardon and salvation through Him have been continually sounding in mine ears.”
- F. Belief in the existence of God is still rational and righteous today (Hebrews 11:6)!
- G. Since God exists and He is the Creator of the world and of man, the His laws are to be obeyed (Psalm 14:1; 19:1; Genesis 1:1, 26-27; Exodus 20:11; John 1:1-3; Acts 17:28-29).
- H. The concept of Natural Law is summed up in the Greatest Commands:
 1. Love God with all the heart (Matthew 22:35-38).
 2. Love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:39-40).
- I. Any law that violates the law of God is sinful against Heaven and detrimental to humanity (cf. Romans 13:1ff).
- J. Obedience to the will of God is the only way to find true freedom – as a person or a nation.
- K. Thus, to make the USA a blessed nation, the Founders sought to build it upon the principles of Scripture.

Conclusion:

"WHILE WE ARE ZEALOUSLY PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF GOOD CITIZENS AND SOLDIERS, WE CERTAINLY OUGHT NOT TO BE INATTENTIVE TO THE HIGHER DUTIES OF RELIGION. TO THE DISTINGUISHED CHARACTER OF PATRIOT, IT SHOULD BE OUR HIGHEST GLORY TO ADD THE MORE DISTINGUISHED CHARACTER OF CHRISTIAN."

GEORGE WASHINGTON