

EXODUS 2:11-25 THE DELIVERER IS PREPARED FROM PRIVILEGED, TO FUGITIVE, TO EXILE

God in His sovereignty and providence, exhibits in the book of Exodus that He is controlling the way His chosen people, the Israelites, are delivered. Moses is the one who God used to deliver them out of slavery. But it didn't just happen overnight as God had to prepare Moses to lead the people. He started with the birth of Moses in an almost impossible situation as far as human reasoning is concerned. All male babies were to be killed. But God used faithful parents who used wisdom to keep Moses alive and were able to raise him up with a biblical foundation before they had to give him up to Pharaoh's daughter. That is where we left off last week, and now we continue to see how God works all this out as Moses grew up. None of this story is accident. God has a will and His timing is perfect in bringing His plan together. He is patient in bringing His plan to fruition, but man likes to run ahead of God. We want His will but we tend to try to manipulate things to come out the way we want it in our timing. That is human nature as we see this happen many times throughout the Bible.

The passage today proves once again, that even men of God who want to do His will try to make things happen by what they think is right, rather than waiting on God. It may seem like He is moving too slow, but His will is always right. After 40 years you would think that God was now going to use Moses, but because of his failure, God wants Moses to be trained for an additional 40 years. God's ways are not our ways and in training Moses, we observe that God used different approaches. He used education in Egypt for Moses, then failure, and humble service in Midian to prepare Him for faithful service. God takes time to equip His people. When the right time comes, God goes to work.

1.FAILURE 2:11-14

Moses failed to deliver his people for 2 reasons. He thought there would be little cost and he acted without the guidance of God. After all, he had a prominent position and a great education. What else did he need ?

A.Thought He could bring deliverance without cost

- 1.Moses had grown up The first 40 years of Moses' life were spent in the courts of Pharaoh. He was raised and trained like an Egyptian. He looked like an Egyptian, talked like an Egyptian, and acted like an Egyptian. He was nurtured by Pharaoh's daughter, to be prepared for the throne, possibly. At least that is what Josephus reports. He was raised totally different than the way he would have been raised in a Jewish home.

Educated Acts 7:20-29 Moses was educated in the Great Temple of the Sun which was the finest university in the world. The Egyptians were quite advanced. Their

knowledge of astronomy was tremendous.. They knew the exact distance to the sun and had a theory that the world was round and not flat. They knew chemistry, for they were so advanced in embalming the dead. We have no process today that would even come close to theirs. Their colors are brighter than we have today as 4000 years have passed and those colors are still bright and beautiful. Our paint companies would like to know how they did it. Our paint fades after 4 years! They also had a great knowledge of mathematics. Moses was learned in all their wisdom. He would have known medicine, philosophy, law, military leadership, sculpture, and music. He would have had to study hard. He had the respect of the Egyptians and became powerful in influence. He was wise in worldly matters and competent as a leader. So, he was so well educated and famous and successful that it seemed he had all the advantage to do whatever he wanted.

2. For the cause of His fellow Israelites 11

Moses went out to be with his people. All during the time of his education, he had to have thoughts about leading the Israelites out of bondage. He knew he was a Hebrew.

Acts 7:23 says it entered his mind to visit his brethren.

Hebrews 11:24-26 He made a courageous decision to help them even if it meant losing his noble position.

a. Contempt for pleasures of Egyptian court

He knew their lifestyle and it did not equate with His God.

The pleasures and treasures of Egypt faded as he thought about these people. Gross idolatry had surrounded him at every step. He had been forced to accommodate himself.

b. His concern for Jewish brothers

Moses was sure that God was going to use him to deliver His people.

B. Acted in the flesh, without guidance from God 12-14

He knew God's will but his problem was that he didn't seek God's will and timing. He carried out his plan on his schedule.

All the training in Egypt didn't prepare Moses to deliver Israel. He probably had become impatient and anxious and wanted to get things started. He saw the Hebrew being beaten by the Egyptian and his heart went out to him.

Whatever the case, he trusted in his human ability. He was confident in his effort. This is where man has his problem.

1. Murder of the Egyptian Moses acted according to his plan.

He looked one way and then the other, but he didn't look up. He saw his opportunity and he made his move. It was thought out in what he was going to do. He didn't just fly off the handle.

That cruel taskmaster needed to be punished. It was wrong in beating the slave. It still wasn't right that Moses would kill the Egyptian.

When one acts in the flesh it is invariable they will have to cover up something. He was stuck with a corpse and a shallow grave.

2. Anger and sense of justice of Moses

Anger is what Moses had and put on display here, but it is a personality trait that God had given him. God uses our personality to carry out his will. God has to cleanse those traits that would reflect arrogance and self serving. Moses definitely stood for justice, and a righteous anger and justice can be Godly characteristics. But his anger was displaced.

3. Rejected by the Israelites

Those two men fighting proved the Israelites weren't any better than the Egyptian.

Moses was probably hoping for an organized rebellion by the Israelites. They were not impressed by Moses.

Moses is a type of Christ and this would be an occasion that would picture the nation as a whole did not receive Christ.

As Moses was rejected, so would Christ be rejected by His own. Acts 7:25-27

4. Fear of Moses

The murder became known. Perhaps the Pharaoh knew about Moses and his interest he had in the Israelites, thus his desire to get Moses. Moses tucked up his royal robes and ran like a scared coyote.

Why would Pharaoh want to kill his son, Moses? Maybe there was something going on behind the scene. Could it be that he was well aware of Moses' Hebrew birth and that the murder betrayed his national allegiance? Whatever the reason was, Moses fled to Midian. His failure to lead the Jews must have devastated him. He had to learn that deliverance would come from God's hand, not Moses' hand.

So, to sum up this part, we say that Moses failed to deliver the children of Israel. He failed because he thought he could deliver them with not too much cost. The second reason is that he took action without the strength and guidance of God.

But, this defeat is what God will use as an important part of his preparation.

Psalms 119:71 says it was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn. God was not through with him. Let's see how God changes him.

2. HUMILITY

2:15-25

A. Fugitive

15

Moses was an outcast. He goes to the desert where that will be his home for the next 40 years. He will be prepared to be the deliverer. To him, it probably seemed like a dead end. He was an alien in a strange land.

Midian Genesis 25:2 seed of Abraham These are relatives of the Jews.

Opportunity to make himself familiar with the area. He will get to know the land well as 40 years later, he will guide his people there.

B. Settlement in Midian

16-22

God used this time for a lot of reasons. One is Moses finds a wife. Two sons were born to them. This sub-section shows

how Moses got his wife.

Care for the 7 daughters of the priest 16-17

Protector He protects these young girl shepherds. They would do this job until puberty. That would give us the idea that the girls were young. Moses becomes a servant in this foreign land. Some shepherds came and drove away the flock that the girls were trying to water. Moses drove the shepherds away and then watered the sheep.

Moses, in his Egyptian dress, must have stuck out like a soar Thumb.

Welcomed and accepted by the father 18-20

Reuel was told by his daughters that this Egyptian had helped them.

For his kind act he was rewarded as Reuel took him in and gave Moses his daughter. Reuel meant(friend of God)

Jethro was another name for Reuel. 18:12-23 Jethro might've been a title of Reuel which meant priest. Being a Median, he probably knew the true God and was a priest.

He was in line to marry a Cleopatra type beauty and instead gets married to a shepherdess.

Shepherd Another element of the type of Christ that Moses was is that he was a shepherd. As Jesus was a shepherd of his people Moses learns to be a shepherd of stubborn sheep. It seemed that All those years of education were wasted as he tried to keep sheep Alive in a semi-arid desert.

Married to a foreign woman 21

Another type of Christ item here is that Moses took a Gentile bride, as did Jesus.

His son's name Gershom (to drive out) 22

It meant a sojourner in a foreign land.

This was always a reminder to Moses about his banishment.

C.Continued bondage of the Israelites 23-25

A new Pharaoh but disappointment 23

A new king suggests a passage of time. The Israelites thought they might have some hope of decreased oppression after the king died.

Israelites were in their lowest despair when the new Pharaoh kept them in their heavy bondage. This is a turning point, for when people are at their dire need, is when they turn to God, who is their only hope. When they remembered God, they discovered God always remembered them.

God's response God is sensitive to human need. 24-25

God does not forget His promises. He heard the cry

1.Heard 2.Remembered 3.Looked 4.Acknowledged

Application: Moses had to learn humility before he would be the great leader of Israel. He lived the lowly position of the Israelites. The Moses of chapter 2 must precede the Moses of the Red Sea crossing. His failure is something God used to prepare him.

We too, must be broken before we can be built up again, for God's glory.