

~Hebrews~

Lesson 29 – By Faith...Moses part 1

God has always given man the right to choose.

- That's what faith is- choosing to believe God
- Choosing Jesus over everything else

2 Corinthians 4:14-18 ¹⁴ knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, ... ¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Moses is mentioned 851 times in the entire Bible,

- 771 in the Old Testament
- 80 times in the New Testament
- 11 times in the book of Hebrews.
- The only other name mentioned more than Moses is Jesus

Moses is looked upon by the Jews as the most important figure in Judaism. Namely because:

- He was the leader and deliverer of the children of Israel from the bondage of the Egyptians.
- Some consider Moses to be the greatest Prophet to ever live
- Through the hand of God, Moses wrote the Torah, or in Greek, the Pentateuch, Πεντάτευχος which means five books. This is the first five books of the Old Testament
 - Torah doesn't just mean Law, it is more of an instruction, teaching, training
- Moses gave us the Law- many times referred to as the Mosaic Law or the Law of Moses

When Jews think of Moses, they usually think of the Law.

- But that is not the picture Paul is giving us in chapter 11.
- The examples that Paul is using here in chapter 11 are all **BEFORE** the Law
 - I think Paul is doing this to direct the Hebrew Christians attention away from the works of the Law and focus their attention on faith in Jesus

This is what Jesus said to the Pharisees in John 5:46

John 5:46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.

Moses has already been mentioned in this letter to the Hebrews, being used to foreshadow better things to come, namely Jesus, Heb 3:1-19, 7:11-19, 8:1-6, 9:1-28, 10:28-29.

Now in chapter 11, there are five examples of faith concerning Moses that Paul gives us, two of which we will cover today and the other three next week.

- 1) His birth, v. 23
- 2) Refuses the pleasures of Egypt and chooses God and the greater reward, v. 24-26

Hebrews 11:23-26 ²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

Moses' Birth

Hebrews 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

By faith ... his parents

- Faith only comes from hearing and understanding the Word of God, Rom 10:17.
 - Moses parents stood on the promise of God's spoken Word pronounced over and over again to the Patriarchs, namely Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.
- The last words we read in Genesis is Joseph's declaration of faith in the promise of God to bring them out of the land of Egypt and into the land of Promise, Gen 50:24.

Genesis 50:24 And Joseph said to his brethren, "...God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Let's read the account in Exodus with Stephen's account from Acts sprinkled throughout:

Exodus 2:1-10, Acts 7:17-22

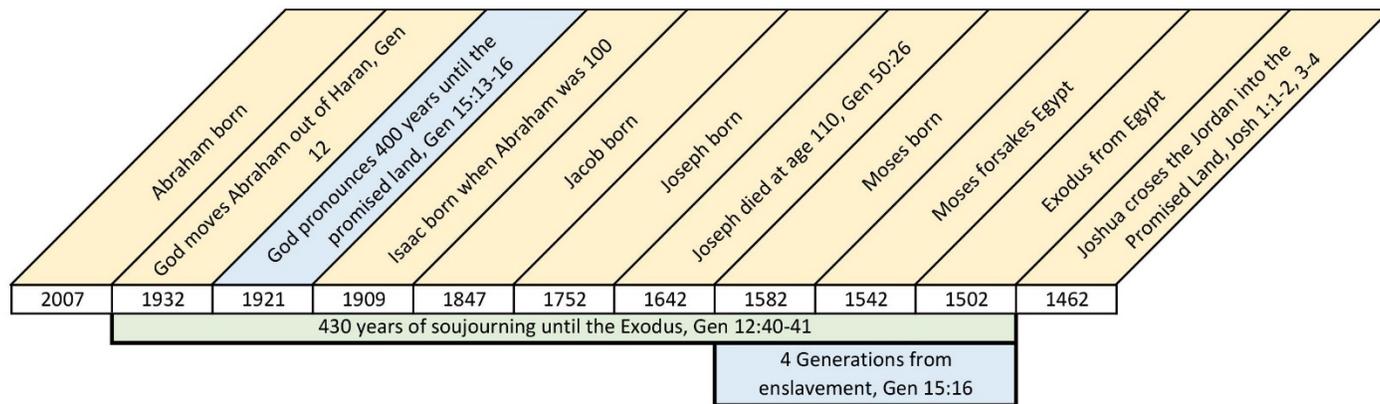
"But when the time of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt ¹⁸ till another king (of a different kind, heteros ἕτερος) arose who did not know Joseph. ¹⁹ This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies, so that they might not live. ^{Acts 7:17-19} ¹ And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. ² So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, well pleasing to God ^{Acts 7:20}, he was brought up in his father's house ^{Acts 7:20}, she hid him three months. ³ But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and he was set out ^{Acts 7:21} laid in the reeds by the river's bank. ⁴ And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him. ⁵ Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. ⁶ And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?" ⁸ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰ And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him away and brought him up as her own son ^{Acts 7:21}. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water." And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds ^{Acts 7:22}.

Moses was born about 60 years after Joseph died.

- The Jews should have had an expectation of their deliverance.
 - Moses parents were one of those who were standing on the promise and expecting their deliverance.
- The Jews even had a timeframe prophesied by God to Abraham
 - When Abraham was 86 years old, God spoke to Abraham of the Jews deliverance, Gen 15:13-16

Genesis 15:13-16 ¹³ Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them (those who own the land), and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴ And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ But in the fourth generation (from the enslavement) they shall return here, ..."

- God told Abraham that the sojourning affliction of His people would last 400 years
 - Its hard to say when this 400 years started exactly, but it was probably around 1900BC



This promise would have certainly been known to the Jews

- Just like Daniel knew the prophecy of Jeremiah concerning the 70 years of the Babylonian captivity.
 - I believe Moses' parents knew this timeframe and received a word from the Lord about it.
- It is not unreasonable to think that God gave Moses' parents a divine message about the deliverer.
 - There are multiple examples of God pronouncing his ordained plan on His chosen
 - Isaac, Sampson, John the Baptist, Jesus
- Stephen tells us that the birth of Moses was **well pleasing to God**, Acts 7:20, and we know from Heb 11:6 it is impossible to please God without faith.
 - Moses' parents laid hold of this promise, and did everything by faith, knowing that the birth of their child was ordained by God.

Moses Refuses the Pleasures of Egypt

Exodus 2:11, Acts 7:23

11 Now it came to pass in those days, when he was forty years old Acts 7:23 when Moses was grown, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel Acts 7:23, and he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens.

Hebrews 11:24-26 ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

Hebrews 11:24 ^aBy faith Moses, ^bwhen he became of age, ^crefused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

a) *By faith Moses... refused*

- For it to be by faith, he had to have heard and understood the Word of God
 - The Spirit of God was stirring Moses and calling him to be the deliverer and save His people from bondage.
- There is no record of God verbally speaking to Him as He does in the burning bush
 - But the Spirit is moved on his heart
 - Stephen says, "*it came into his heart*", Acts 7:23
- Moses had a desire, a calling from God to visit his brethren.
 - It was at this point Moses accepts the calling and rejects Egypt

b) *when he ^αbecame ^βof age...*

α) became – genomenos, γενόμενος, meaning to be made or become

- aorist participle in the middle voice – meaning "having become (by his own doing)"

β) of age – is actually the word megas, μέγας, meaning great

- “having become great (by his own doing)”
- Stephen said, “and he was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds”, Acts 7:22
- This has nothing to do with his age, but everything to do with his status and rank
 - He was great in the land of Egypt, son of the pharaoh’s daughter, mighty in words and deeds.
 - He was at the pinnacle of his life and that is when God stepped in and changed his heart

c) *γ refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter*

- Moses is at a critical point in his life in which he must make a decision
 - Either continue in the pleasures of Egypt or choose God’s will and calling for his life
- γ) refused – ἐρνήσατο, ἠρνήσατο, meaning to refuse, deny, reject
 - Aorist indicative in the middle voice meaning he is the one making this decision on his life. God is not forcing him passively.

Titus 2:11-12 ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, **denying** ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

- Refusing this world, the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches..., Matt 13:22

1 John 2:15-17 ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who commits himself (ποιῶν) to the will of God abides unto the forever.

- Moses was looking to the unseen eternal Father. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob through whom the Messiah was promised.
 - He was looking to forever instead of this life.
- Moses refused, denied, rejected the prestige of Egypt
 - And where something is refused, a choice usually follows

Hebrews 11:25 ^achoosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

a) *choosing rather to suffer affliction...*

- This word choosing is such an amazingly shocking word
 - It is an aorist participle in the middle voice, again meaning he is doing the choosing on himself.
- He is rejecting the pleasures and esteem of Egypt and choosing to suffer with the people of God
- Moses is doing the same thing that Abraham and Paul did when we spoke on that a couple of weeks ago.
 - When Abraham got the call to go sacrifice his son Isaac, the next morning, early in the morning, he saddled his donkey and headed up the mountain to kill his son, Gen 22:3
 - And Paul, knowing that chains and tribulations awaited him in Jerusalem, and yet he is earnestly trying to get there as fast as he can so he doesn’t miss Pentecost, Acts 20:16-24
 - This is what Moses is doing regarding his decision with Egypt.
 - He is earnestly choosing to embrace sufferings, walking directly into tribulations rather than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin

And why is he doing this?... Because...

Hebrews 11:26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

Moses considered the reproach, the sufferings, the insult of Christ as greater riches than the temporal riches of Egypt, because he earnestly looked to the eternal reward, who is Christ.

There are three ways to interpret this verse because the Greek is fairly complex, of which I think all three can be applied.

- 1) First, we can take it just as it is translated. That Moses considered the reproach and suffering of Christ
 - Did Moses know that the Christ, who is the Messiah, would suffer?
 - It is hard to say whether God revealed that to Moses.
 - We absolutely know that Moses wrote of types and figures of the Messiah suffering
 - Abraham's offering
 - The Passover concerning the sacrifice of the lamb and its blood
 - The bronze serpent
- 2) Another view is that Moses suffered the reproaches of Christ as a type and a pre-figure of the Deliverer
 - Moses was the anointed and chosen deliverer for the children of Israel, so it is possible that he considered these reproaches coming on himself as an anointed deliverer, as a christ (little "c", not the Christ)
 - He was willing to suffer reproach as God's deliverer.
- 3) Thirdly, to align yourself with God and His Christ is to bear reproach from the world for His sake
 - Paul says, "I bear in my body the marks for Jesus Christ", Gal 6:17

Hebrews 13:13 Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

All throughout history, before and after the cross, the world has been angry
with God's anointed and His followers.

John 15:20 If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.

2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

1 Peter 4:12-14 ¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

So let us joyfully accept His calling, that we would be counted worthy to suffer for His Name, Acts 5:41

This is what the Hebrew Christians did when they joyfully accepted the plundering of their property, this is what Moses did because he earnestly looked to the reward, and this is what our Lord Jesus did when He went to the cross.

Hebrews 12:2, Who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross and despised the shame

- Jesus joyfully suffered the cross and was victorious over death, being now set at the right hand of the Father.

This needs to be our view. Just like Moses, we must reject and refuse this world and be willing to choose to suffer affliction for the name of Jesus rather than enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.

Being so satisfied in Jesus and regarding Him as infinitely worthy
and of so much greater value than anything
this world can offer.

Looking to our eternal reward,
Being glorified in
Jesus Christ