

Monday Week 12 **The Call of Moses**

Q45 Why did the king of Egypt mistreat the children of Israel?

A The king of Egypt was afraid that the children of Israel would rebel and flee.

Bible Reading: (Exodus 1:7-14)

“Do you believe in God?” asked Yevgenia’s teacher. Each student in the class was asked the same question. Each student said “No” until the teacher asked Yevgenia. “Yes,” she answered. “We believe in God.” Yevgenia was a Russian girl attending the public school when Stalin implemented a plan to erase the name of God from the Soviet Union. Her teacher was doing her part to help promote atheism. “Don’t you know how stupid it is to believe in God when science has proved that the Bible is nothing but a fairy tale?”

Yevgenia felt sorry for her teacher. “She doesn’t believe in God because she doesn’t know Him, and these other students don’t believe in God because their parents don’t know Him.” Her mind wandered to her humble home, a two room log cabin where she had often seen her mother on her knees, with tears rolling down her cheeks, praying for her five girls and three boys. Yevgenia was convinced that her mother knew God, and that God answered prayer. She maintained her faith.

Just like the communists, the Egyptians did not want the Israelites to worship God. They wanted to keep them as slaves. They made their lives very difficult.

Thinking Deeper

In many communist countries, children were not allowed to be taught that God is real. Some parents were arrested because they taught their children about God. Some children were taken from their parents. In one village* in Russia, a Christian man allowed his house to be used as a place where Christians would worship God. The communist leaders were angry. The house was next to a public school and the officials said they were afraid school children might somehow be harmed by Christian teaching. So they sent a bulldozer to the house, chased the people out, and tore the house down. The communists did not want people to believe in God, and they didn’t want children to know about God. They wanted to control what people thought.

Attacks on our faith have been increasing. People that believe in the God of the Bible, Creator of heaven and earth and all that in them is, are often considered to be ignorant Bible thumpers on the level of someone who believes in the flat earth. Just read the atheist blogs, or read skeptics Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens. The spirit of Stalin lives on. Harris said if he could get rid of either rape or religion, he’d get rid of religion. Dawkins implied rather clearly that being raised Catholic is more destructive on a child than being abused by a Catholic priest. Hitchens claims that religion poisons everything. Although Hitchens may have lost his early zeal for communism, he tightly clings to Marx’s idea that religion is “the opiate of the people.” It’s really the other way around. After Communism was in power in Russia for seventy years, one could hardly find an unpolluted body of water in the Soviet Union. Not Christianity but Marxism has been very proficient in poisoning things.

*The village was named Barnaul, in Siberia. This account is found in Anita Deyneka’s book, [A Song in Siberia](#), David C. Cook, 1977.

Tuesday Week 12 **The Call of Moses**

Q46 Who was born in Egypt during this hard time?

A Moses was born in Egypt during the hard time of the children of Israel.
(Acts 7:17-23)

A new little baby was coming to Jonny's house. He already had two sisters, but now another was on the way. His parents wanted him to be ready, so his mother asked, "Jonny, how would you like to have a new baby?" He thought about it and then said, "No, I want to keep the one we have." Of course they were going to keep the little girl they already had, but they were getting a new baby, too. When Jonny understood, he was excited to have a new baby coming.

Before Moses was born, his parents, Amram and Jochabed, already had two children. Miriam and Aaron were their names. They must have been excited when their new brother was born. God had a plan for Moses. He would lead the people out of Egypt where they were slaves. God has a plan for everyone. He has a plan for you.

Thinking Deeper

Some Calvinists believe that God has predetermined everyone's life and choices, so that only the elect are able to choose to follow God. Others are predetermined to only choose rebellion. Islam has a similar teaching about predestination. On the other end of the spectrum are the Deists, who believe that God made the world, put the natural laws in place, and then left it to run on its own. They see no divine intervention. The truth, as the Bible reveals, lies between these extremes. God made the world and its laws. God has a plan for each person. God gives each individual the freedom to make choices. If the person chooses to follow God, He will intervene in that person's life, and in circumstances. If the person chooses to reject God, God will still work circumstances out so that His ultimate will is done, despite the individual's poor choices.

The French Revolution occurred in a climate of unrest by the commoners in France who were disenchanted with the ruling class. This division was fueled by the atheistic underpinnings of the Enlightenment and its intellectual philosophers. Images of the Bastille and the guillotine come to mind, with the resultant bloodshed of multiplied thousands. During the same time England had similar societal divisions with the threat of bloodshed. But there was a difference.

John Wesley was born when the seeds of divisiveness and hatred were already spread throughout England. God had a plan. When Wesley understood salvation by grace, he began preaching it to the masses. The results were amazing. Instead of a revolution, England had a reformation. The gospel transformed the culture.

As He did with Moses in Egypt, God used Wesley in England to promote God's ways and accomplish His intentions. Don't underestimate the plan and power of God, even in dire circumstances. He is working out His purpose.

Wednesday Week 12 **The Call of Moses**

Q47 At the burning bush, who spoke to Moses?

A The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob spoke to Moses at the burning bush.
(Ex. 3:1-6)

Two boys decided it was a good day to burn their field. The grass was dry and there was some wind. They took some matches and lit the grass. The fire burned fast – faster than they had expected. Soon it was roaring across the field toward a woods. Pine trees stood in that woods, and they would burn hot and fast. The boys knew they had a big problem. They got shovels and burlap sacks soaked in water and began fighting the fire. Others came to help. They prayed for God to help stop the fire. Just at the right time, the wind died down and the fire slowed. They were able to put it out. The boys were very thankful that God helped them put out the fire.

Moses saw a fire, but it didn't burn the bush, and it didn't spread. He knew he was seeing a wonderful thing. Then God spoke from the burning bush. Moses hid his face. He was afraid. It was God! Moses listened, and God told him that he was the God of his fathers. Moses heard God, and became a special messenger for God. Listen to God's voice. He has something special for those who hear Him. "I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints" (Ps. 84:8a).

Thinking Deeper

Yuri Gagarin was the first man to orbit the earth in space. He was a Russian cosmonaut whose accomplishment on April 12, 1961 was used as a propaganda piece by Russian leader Nikita Krushchev. He is quoted as saying, "Gagarin flew into space, but didn't see any God there." Instead of proving atheism, Krushchev inadvertently echoed the Bible, which says "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*" (John 1:18).

If we want to see what God is like, we must go to Jesus. Jesus, by his own existence, has declared God. The Hebrew writer spoke of the Son as "the express image of his person." That is, Jesus in human form was a "precise reproduction" of the Father. Jesus said that even his spoken words were the Father's words. "...Whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak" (John 12:50). If Krushchev had really wanted to know about God he should have gone to Jesus. Jesus shows us the Father. Jesus speaks the Father's words. He is our way to God.

Moses saw a different manifestation of God in the burning bush. Although he heard God's voice, he still didn't see him. God told Moses, "Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live" (Exodus 33:20). Others in old times had different kinds of encounters with God. But when Christ came, things changed. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son" (Hebrews 1:1).

Thursday Week 12 **The Call of Moses**

Bible Reading: Exodus 3:7-10

Q48 What did God ask Moses to do?

A God asked Moses to bring the people out of the land of Egypt.

“Jenny, take the cows to the fields and watch them today. You must make sure they don’t get lost. And bring them home before dark.” Jenny’s mother gave the small girl her instructions, packed her a lunch, and sent her off. Jenny wasn’t happy. It was lonely in the fields and the dark woods was close by. Besides, the other children were able to go to school, and now she would get behind. Somehow she managed to get through the day. As evening was coming, Jenny noticed that the cows had wandered off toward the dark woods. How could she find them? She began to cry. Just then a neighbor man happened by. “Just go on home,” he said. “The cows will come home when it’s time for milking.” Jenny went home, and sure enough, the cows came just at dark. Jenny had done a hard job for a little girl.

When God told Moses to lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt, it was a big job. Moses didn’t think he could do it. God told Moses that He would go with him. With God’s help, Moses was able to do what God asked him. You, too, can do great things that God asks you to do because “with God, nothing is impossible.”

Thinking Deeper

There is a new round of skepticism regarding the historical truth of the Exodus. What Jewish people have held as true through millennia, and the Old Testament recorded and reiterated as fact, is being questioned as to its historicity and considered as mere mythology. In other words, they are saying that the Exodus never really happened. The issues raised are highly important. If Exodus is not true, then all the other Biblical references to it are based on myth. Even the Ten Commandments come into question. For the postmodernist who wants to continue his self-centered existence with no accountability to anyone but himself, what a great relief to find that there are no true proscriptions to his hedonism. “Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.”

This kind of dismissing of the Bible and other historic documents is a familiar tactic of those who want reasons not to believe. The enemies of the Jewish people, for example, find it convenient to deny that the Holocaust ever took place. Such denial provides them relief from dealing with the images of skeletons in mass graves and films of people dying in gas chambers. Denial allows them to discount the testimonies of eyewitnesses as well as first person accounts of people who survived the butchery of those grim days. They can renew their anti-Semitism with vigor without the inconvenient reminder of the inhumanity of their hatred.

When skeptics deny Exodus, they conveniently relegate the commandments to mythology, and then can excuse their lying, thieving and adultery as normal, acceptable behavior. Skepticism is convenient for those who love the ways of sin. How inconvenient for the skeptics, though, if the Bible is true, for it says “the wages of sin is death.”

Friday Week 12 **The Call of Moses**
Bible Reading: Heb. 11:24-27

Review the Week's Questions

Q45 Why did the king of Egypt mistreat the children of Israel?

A The king of Egypt was afraid that the children of Israel would rebel and flee.

Q46 Who was born in Egypt during this hard time?

A Moses was born in Egypt during the hard time of the children of Israel.

Q47 At the burning bush, who spoke to Moses?

A The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob spoke to Moses at the burning bush.

Q48 What did God ask Moses to do?

A God asked Moses to bring the people out of the land of Egypt.

The girl walked from home every morning to get to school. She was a good student, had various talents, and didn't cause trouble. But she didn't like her walk to school. Many mornings she would be followed by some boys who were bullies. They made fun of her and called her names. Maybe it would have been alright if they only did it once. But it kept happening day after day. She told her mother that she didn't want it to keep happening. The school really couldn't monitor the streets in the morning, so the boys kept teasing her. Finally, she told her mother she was afraid and just didn't want to go. After they thought about it, they decided that the little girl didn't have to go to school. She could be taught at home. Her mother took her out of the bad situation, and provided what she needed at home. She didn't get mistreated any more.

The Children of Israel were treated badly by the Egyptians. God heard their cry and raised up Moses to lead them away from their trouble. "The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble" (Psalm 9:9).

Thinking Deeper

There are environments that are overtly unfriendly to Christians. Some governments outlaw the expression of Christian beliefs. Others endeavor to silence Christian thinking. For example, hate speech laws in Canada have made it mandatory for Focus on the Family Radio to tape alternate programs if the normal programming deals with homosexuality. Making any kind of judgment on that activity is considered "hate speech." Canadian broadcasters risk their licenses if they air the program.

One place that is unfriendly to ideas of faith is the science classes in government schools. The concept that macro evolution could even be questioned is too outrageous for the Darwinists to contemplate. Some scientists argue that the complexity of the cell with the information mechanism in DNA and RNA looks like it has been designed. The government schools will not let that be considered. Why not? Because if it has been designed, there has to have been a Designer. And if the Designer is God, then you can't say that because you might "establish religion." What are the alternatives? We still have the option to redress our grievances, but in the meantime, Christian parents need to look seriously at Christian schools, or teaching the children at home. Maybe Dad and Mom need to be Moses, and lead the children out of Egypt.

Copyright © – 2008 Hobe Sound Bible Church