

Lesson Eleven: *Preparation for Deliverance*
Exodus 2:1-4:31

Themes:

Exodus: God fulfills His promises by establishing His people as a nation and by delivering them from bondage through the leadership of Moses.

Deliverance under Moses (1-18): God delivers His people through His mighty power, not through the power of human effort.

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- I. (2:1-4:31) **The Preparation of Moses**
- a. (2:1-3:1) Learning trust through failure
 - i. The tension of two cultures
 - 1. (2:9) Jewish: the preservation of His heritage and beliefs (2:9)
 - 2. (2:10) Egyptian: educated in the wisdom of Egypt (cf. Acts 7:22)
 - a. Tension: Will Moses identify himself with the Egyptians or the Hebrews?
 - ii. A heart for the Hebrews
 - 1. (2:11) Moses identifies himself with the people of God.
 - a. *By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin* (Heb 11:24-25).
 - 2. God's people find themselves between two worlds (Josh 24:15).
 - a. The temporal and the eternal
 - i. *The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever* (I John 2:17; cf. Matt 6:19-20).
 - iii. Self reliance
 - 1. (2:13-14) The rejection of Moses' leadership
 - a. Deliverance without divine authorization
 - i. God's people must not labor where they are not called.
 - b. Deliverance according to human wisdom and strength
 - i. *He supposed that his brethren understood that God was granting them deliverance through him, but they did not understand* (Acts 7:25).
 - ii. God's people must not labor in their own strength.
 - iv. Preparation
 - 1. (2:16-17) Moses' character
 - a. God's use of our ordained dispositions (Ps 139:13)
 - 2. (2:23-25) Moses learns to wait upon God's timing (40 years).
 - a. *My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken* (Ps 62:5).
 - i. A purposed patience (the development of a shepherd)
 - ii. Faithfulness in the "little things" (Luke 19:7)
 - 3. (3:1) Moses learns the land.
 - a. God's people do not often see the Lord's preparations.
 - v. Tension
 - 1. An unlikely leader
 - a. How will Moses possibly be used to deliver God's people?
 - b. By what authority will Moses lead? (2:14)

- b. (3:1-10) The call of the Lord
 - i. (1-6) An encounter with God
 - 1. (1) A providential encounter (Luke 2:8)
 - 2. (2-3) The Lord captures Moses' vision.
 - a. Turning aside to the Lord
 - i. God's people must be quick to attend His revelations.
 - 3. (4-6) The fire of the Lord
 - a. A symbol of God's presence
 - i. Genesis 15:13-17, Exodus 13:21-22; 19:18; 40:38
 - b. A symbol of God's holiness
 - i. (5) Holiness banishes and endangers sinners (Gen 3:24).
 - 1. *Holiness endangers the sinner because the holiness of the Lord is not a passive attribute but an active force, embracing all that conforms to it and destroying all that offends* (J. A. Motyer).
 - a. Psalm 24:3-4; I Samuel 6:19-20
 - ii. The sinner's fear (Is 6:3-5)
 - 1. Only God can authorize our approach
 - c. (5) The means of Moses' approach
 - i. Separation (Lev 11:44; cf. 19:9-25 distance)
 - ii. Obedience (John 3:36)
 - 1. We approach God on *His* terms.
 - iii. Fulfilled in Christ (our atonement)
 - 1. *For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God* (I Peter 3:18; cf. Rom 5:1).
 - d. (6) Moses' response
 - i. The manifestation of God creates holy fear in the heart of His children (the knowledge and fear of God).
 - ii. (7-10) A divine commission
 - 1. (7-9) The Lord's timing
 - 2. (10) The Lord's instrument
- c. (3:11-4:17) Human fear and divine enablement
 - i. (3:11) An inward focus: *Who am I?*
 - 1. (3:12) Answer: *I will be with you.*
 - a. What matters is who God is
 - ii. (3:13) A desire for assurance: *Who are you?*
 - 1. (3:14-15) Answer: *I AM WHO I AM*
 - a. The revelation of God's character
 - i. The eternal, preexistent one
 - ii. Stresses the absolute sovereignty of God
 - iii. I am the one you can count on to be with you
 - iii. (4:1) Doubts concerning his leadership: *Why should they follow me?*
 - 1. (4:2-9) Answer: *I will demonstrate My power through you.*
 - a. Three signs: God's control over rulers, disease, and nature
 - iv. (4:10) Doubts concerning his speech: *Who am I to speak?*
 - 1. (4:12) Answer: *I will be with your mouth.*
 - a. (4:14) The provision of Aaron
 - v. (4:18, 27-31) Obedience brings success
 - 1. Moses is now prepared to lead God's people (call, confirmation, and authorization).