

MOSES

A Study of Exodus & Numbers

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7 October 2015

BIBLE STUDY PLAN

- You can read the whole Bible
- Organize & Sequence the Books
- 1. Begin in the Gospels, know *Jesus* well
- 2. Understand Genesis: The Predicament, Plan & Promise
- 3. Take the First Steps: the Words & Deeds of *Moses*

CHRONOLOGY

- *Genesis* ends happily for the family of Israel
- **Joseph** settles the entire family comfortably in Egypt
- They are fruitful and multiply (Ex 1:1-7)
- Then a King comes to power “who knows not Joseph”
- The Israelites are enslaved out of fear of their *Numbers*
- **400 year** break in The Story here in Exodus 1
 - No narrative of this time, but grow into 12 large Tribes

BIRTH & YOUTH OF MOSES

- Exodus 2 covers the first 80 years of Moses' life
- He survives the slaughter of the innocents
- Raised as a Prince by Pharaoh's daughter
- Flees to Midian
 - Well
 - Wife
 - Shepherd

THE BURNING BUSH

- Tending flock near Mount Horeb (Mt. Sinai)
- LORD appears in flame of fire-out of the midst of a bush, yet it was not consumed
- Holy Ground
- “I will send YOU to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt” Ex 3:10
- “Who am I?...”
 - Reluctance of Moses, here and recruiting Aaron
- The Israelites will all return to this Mountain to meet God

YHWH

- “I AM WHO I AM”
 - No tense, always, to be, alpha-omega, eternal
- The Divine Name, first given to Moses
- In scripture, it is “LORD” in all capital letters
- “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you’ “ Ex 3:14
- This, ultimately, is what got Jesus turned over to the Romans, and sentenced to death, saying “ I AM”
 - Mk 14: 61-64

SIGNS & WONDERS

- Jesus said...”Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe” (Jn 4:48)
- John’s Gospel uses Seven Signs to prove Jesus’ Divinity
- Moses and the Father used this method first, over and over again, in a very public manner, to win believers
- Staff to be used to perform the “signs”
- The Ten Plagues defeat Ten Egyptian Deities
 - Jesus First Sign Recalls Moses’, Water > Wine

THE PASSOVER

- The Final Plague, the death of the first-born of Egypt
- Pharaoh then releases the Israelites from bondage
- Holy Week progresses in a spectacularly similar way, with the same results...for all of us
- Read Chapter 12 closely in light of the Passion

MANNA

- Hebrew for “what is it?”
- The Bread from Heaven (Ex 16:2-4)
- Sustained Israel for 40 years in the desert
- Jesus references directly:
 - Bread of Life Discourse
 - Jn 6:48-54
 - LORD’s Prayer
 - “Daily” or “Supersubstantial” bread

MOUNT SINAI

- The Great Theophany, God presented to His people
- The entire top of the mountain burning in Fire
- Several chapters of God speaking with Moses
- The writing and giving of The Law
- The Ten Commandments (Ex 20)
 - Love of God (3) and Neighbor (7)
- The Blood of the Covenant
 - Ex 24:8, made “new and everlasting” by Jesus

SACRED FURNITURE

- The Ark of the Covenant
 - Ex 25: 16-23
 - The words and specifications of The Father
- The Bread of the Presence
 - Third prefiguring of the Eucharist in Exodus
- The Lampstand, for 7 candles
- Plus Vestments and the Veil for the Holy of Holies

GOLDEN CALF

- 40 days on the Mountain is too long for the people
 - Melt down their gold and return to idolatry
- Moses saves the people from the Wrath of God
 - Ex 32: 11-14
- Levites redeem their family, with the sword
- Beginning of the Levitical Priesthood
- The Book of *Leviticus* stems from here

TO THE PROMISED LAND

- One year spent at the foot of Mt Sinai
- The Census, or “Numbering” of the people (soldiers)
- Very military in structure:
 - Trumpet blasts
 - Ark of the Covenant out front
 - Tribe of Judah leads procession
 - (Tribe of Blessing > Jews > Jesus)
- A Scout from each Tribe sent up to spy out The Land

DESERT WANDERING

- Only 2 of the 12 Scouts believe they can take the Land
 - Fortified cities
 - “Giant” Canaanites
 - Joshua and Caleb believe God will keep his promise
- The LORD is infuriated by their lack of faith
- 40 days reconnoitering the Land = 40 year punishment
 - Only Joshua and Caleb will survive this journey
- Prefigures Jesus 40 days in the desert (Mt 4:1-11)
 - Jesus quotes Moses to Satan during his temptation

REBELLION

- Siblings, Kinsmen: Korah the Levite
- Questioning of Aaron's Authority
 - Staff grows buds and almonds
 - Placed in the Ark with Tablets & Manna
- Moses Himself
 - Strikes the rock instead of speaking to it
 - Not allowed to enter the Promised Land
- The People, Again
 - The Bronze Serpent...Jesus compares to his Cross

MOSES IN MOAB

- Second Census, or Numbering, of the next generation
- Farewell address here is the book of *Deuteronomy*
- Concessions made because of hardness of heart
 - Jesus explains and corrects when questioned like J-Bap
 - This week's Gospel Mk 10:2-9
- Commissions Joshua to succeed him
 - Joshua & Jesus are known as “Yeshua” in Hebrew

DEATH OF MOSES

- Shown the Promised Land by the LORD from Mt Nebo
- “...there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. “ Dt 34:10
- Appears with Elijah to Peter, James, and John during the Transfiguration of Jesus on Mt Tabor
 - “And behold, two men talked with Him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his *exodus*, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem.” Lk 9:30-31