

Sermon – Moses

Scott Newton ©

Introduction:

Theme: My favourite Bible character – my real favourite Bible character is Jesus but I don't think that's really what Graeme had in mind. This was a really difficult choice – if I was to list some of my favourite Bible characters then I would have to include not only Moses, but Job, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Habakkuk, John and Paul. Most of the time though that is not based on necessarily what the person was actually like but rather on what they wrote.

Life story:

The story of Moses is known to most people and I'm sure many of you could give a fairly accurate potted biography of the man.

- Born to a Hebrew slave in Egypt
- Parents were Amram and Jochebed.
- Was from the tribe of Levi
- Younger brother of Aaron and Miriam
- Rescued from the water by Pharaoh's daughter
- Presumably educated in the Pharaoh's household
- Around the age of 40 killed an Egyptian
- Fled to Midian
- Was taken in by Jethro/Reuel who gave him Zipporah as his wife. Had a son Gershom.
- When he was about 80 he saw the burning bush
- God told him to return to Egypt to rescue the Hebrew people
- Complained he wasn't all that good a speaker so God assigned Aaron as his spokesman
- Returns to Egypt
- Pharaoh tells him to go fly a kite
- The 10 plagues
- The passover
- The exodus
- The pillar of cloud by day, the pillar of fire by night
- The Red (Reed) Sea crossing
- Complaints, complaints, complaints
- Two months later - Mt Sinai, the golden calf and the 10 commandments
- Numbers 20:10 – Moses blows his chance to enter the promised land
- 40 more years – Miriam and Aaron die.
- Finally dies on Pisgah Peak in Moab overlooking the promised land, buried at Beth-peor, location unknown, 120 years of age
- Joshua son of Nun takes over and leads the Israelites into Canaan.

Why he is one of my favourite Bible characters:

- Called at a very old age so there is still hope for us all...
- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy all written by Moses – the Pentateuch. Deuteronomy is one of my favourite books.
- Certainly did not have an easy life
- Was not a very confident man initially at least anyway



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- The Lord knew him face to face yet he still made mistakes – he was human – just like us
- Of all the OT books Deuteronomy this has most of the gospel in it and is the most quoted book by Jesus.

Three of my Favourite Passages and What They Teach about God:

- Just skimming so no detail here
- Tying into NT so we can see the message remains the same
- Leaving you with a challenge to think about during the week

1. Exodus 19:16-21 – God is the one who carries us:

Context: Two months (50 days) since the exodus and the people of Israel are now at the foot of Mt Sinai. It hasn't been an easy journey and the Israelites have complained bitterly most of the time about living conditions, lack of food and water, etc.

Yet God says to them I carried you on eagles wings.

Deuteronomy 32:11,12 – *Like an eagle that rouses her chicks and hovers over her young, so he spreads his wings to take them up and carried them safely on his pinions. The Lord alone guided them; they followed no foreign gods.*

Isaiah 40:31 – *But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.*

John 15:5 – *Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.*

Before our conversion we were slaves to sin but God is the one who has rescued us. He sent his Moses to find us and rescue us from Egypt. Is that allegorising? Yes, maybe but we see the same sort of idea in Ephesians 2: 1, 4,5 – *Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ... But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)*

2. Deuteronomy 10:12-17 – God is the one who chooses us:

Context: The 10 commandments, re-iteration of the covenant and the privilege of holiness. What does God require of us? To fear the Lord your God and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul.

Everything belongs to God yet he chose your ancestors and he chose you. They did not chose God. Jesus said the same thing – just read John 17 – Jesus gives eternal life to each one the Father has given him (John 17:2). It is God that gives us grace to believe. It is God that brings us back to life. It is God that sanctifies us.

John 17:6 – *I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours.*

Romans 9:10-16 – *For God said to Moses, I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose. So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it or work for it.*

3. Deuteronomy 30:11-20 – So what are you going to do with God?:



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Context: The ratification of the covenant (Ch 27), the blessings for obedience and the curses for disobedience (Ch 28), the covenant epilogue
We can hear the echo of these words in John 3:16-21. And the same challenge remains for us today – do we choose life or do we choose death?

Moses, Paul and Jesus may frame the question differently but the question still remains.

- As an unbeliever – go to God and call on him for mercy
- As a backslider – Do you really want to be cursed
- As a complacent Christian – Rev 3:14-22 – I will spew you out of my mouth
- As one living for Christ – give thanks to God.

