

ALAYTHIA BIBLE CHURCH
BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE AND COMMENTARY
WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2024

TOPIC: MOSES AND THE ISRAELITES' FAITH

TEXT: HEBREWS 11:27-29

SERIES: BUILDING UP YOUR FAITH

INTRODUCTION

We want to continue where we left off late last year in our series 'Building your faith'. The last characters we examined their faith were Moses and his parents, if you have not forgotten. Moses' parents demonstrated their faith in God to hide the child because they believed he was not an ordinary child. Moses' parents, being Levites, trusted God to protect the child and hid him for 3 months, even though the consequence was death. Moses as well demonstrated his faith in God by refusing to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Instead, he chose to identify with his people, the Israelites, even though he had a choice to identify with royalty. We must learn from Moses and be careful of the choices we make in life. Just as Moses refused the pleasure of sin and the treasure in Pharaoh's palace, we must learn from him as well to refuse the pleasure of sin and the ungodly treasure of this world.

MOSES' FAITH IN LEAVING EGYPT

Now we will be taking a step further to study more about the demonstration of Moses' faith and that of the people of Israel, as we have the account in Hebrews, chapter 11, from verse 27-29.

"It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible." (Hebrews 11:27NLT)

Why did Moses leave Egypt, as we find in this account? It was because he had committed murder and had to run for his life. Otherwise, Pharaoh would have him killed. And what did he do? Well, even though we don't find the account of what actually happened in the book of Hebrews, what happened can be found in Exodus, chapter 2, verse 11-15. Moses committed murder because he was angry to see the people of Israel suffer in Egypt and was passionate to free them. But he went about it the wrong way. So, he had to run for his life when pharaoh got to know and attempted to kill him.

Moses was only driven with passion to rescue his people from bondage. But he hadn't been made fit or equipped for this task. Until God equips us or makes us fit to do His work, our effort to do his work will not become fruitful or produce good results.

In any case, when Pharaoh came for Moses, he had to run for his life. And the writer of Hebrews says that was an act of faith. It takes faith to escape death. We could have also said he escaped death by faith. The forces that came against him to have him killed were powerful. So, he needed God' mercy to escape from pharaoh. And God showed him mercy. But if he didn't make effort to run, death would definitely catch up with him. And when he left Egypt, his focus was on God. He kept his eyes on the one who is invisible, that is, God, and He honoured his faith

MOSES' FAITH IN THE PASSOVER

"It was by faith that Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and to sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons." Hebrews 11:28NLT)

When the fullness of time came and when the people of Israel cried out to God to deliver them from their bondage, God had to assign Moses to do this great assignment. By this time 40 years had gone and Moses had become 40 years older. That makes his age at this time to be 80, for he was 40 years old when he left Egypt.

At this time as well, the pharaoh that sought to kill him was already dead. A new pharaoh had emerged. And when Moses got to this new pharaoh and demanded that he let God's people go that they may serve him, he would not let them go, though Moses performed many signs before Pharaoh.

As we see in the account in the book of Exodus, chapter 12 verse 1 to 23, God told pharaoh that he would kill all the firstborn of people and animals in Egypt, so that he would be forced to let the people of Israel go. God said that He would send an angel of death to do this. And for the Israelites to escape this judgment, they needed to kill a lamb or goat and apply the blood on the doorposts of their houses. That way, the angel of death would pass over them.

Now Moses acted in obedience in doing this. And that was faith, taking God seriously! God's instructions to us may not really make much sense at the moment. But if we will obey them and act in faith, it will mean health and salvation to us. Or what do you think would happen to the Israelite that didn't take this instruction seriously, if there was any? Even though he was an Israelite, the angel of death would strike his firstborn child and the firstborn of his animals too. The only thing that could save any firstborn child in this instance was simple obedience, not even prayers.

ISRAELITES' FAITH TO CROSS THE RED SEA

"It was by faith that the people of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground. But when the Egyptians tried to follow, they were all drowned." (Hebrews 11:29NLT)

When pharaoh eventually released the people of Israel to go because of his loss and the loss of every Egyptians, they had to go in the direction of the Red Sea, as instructed by God. God could have taken them through another road, which was even shorter. But He didn't do that because the challenges on that road could make them turn back, especially when they saw war.

"When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, "If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. Thus the Israelites left Egypt like an army ready for battle." (Exodus 13:17-18NLT)

Did you see that? God was the one that directed the people of Israel to go in the direction of the Red Sea. And that must have meant that He already had plans of making them cross over to the other side. But in seeing the Red Sea and the army of Pharaoh charging at them, they were confused, afraid and wished they went back to Egypt. (Cf. Exodus 14:1-22)

When God eventually opened up the Red Sea, it even took faith to take the first step into the Sea. So the writer of Hebrews says it was by faith that the people of Israel marched through the Red Sea on the dry ground.

CONCLUSION

Even if it seems God is leading us towards the Red Sea and behind us are the armies of Pharaoh, charging at us, as we see in the case with Moses, people of Israel, He still wants us to demonstrate our faith in Him because He's in charge. We can always express our trust and faith in Him because He's ever dependable. He will never direct or lead us into destruction.

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