

Life Church Sunday July 12, 2020

Pastor Eva

Acts Chapter 7:17-34 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷ “As the time drew near for God to fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt had greatly increased. ¹⁸ Then ‘a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt.’^[a] ¹⁹ He dealt treacherously with our people and oppressed our ancestors by forcing them to throw out their newborn babies so that they would die.

²⁰ “At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child.^[b] For three months he was cared for by his family. ²¹ When he was placed outside, Pharaoh’s daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. ²² Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

²³ “When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites. ²⁴ He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. ²⁵ Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not. ²⁶ The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, ‘Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?’

²⁷ “But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, ‘Who made you ruler and judge over us? ²⁸ Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’^[c] ²⁹ When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons.

³⁰ “After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai. ³¹ When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to get a closer look, he heard the Lord say: ³² ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.’^[d] Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look.

³³ “Then the Lord said to him, ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. ³⁴ I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.’^[e]

Acts Chapter 7 – Part 2

- Review of Part 1:
 - Stephen is falsely accused of speaking against this holy place and against the law – Acts 6:13
 - Holy place means the temple, the law meaning the traditions and customs that had been handed down from Moses.
 - Stephen notes the Israelites destructive patterns, which lead to them rejecting and killing the prophets.
 - Stephen gives the big picture of what God is doing
- Stephen has been preaching about Jesus and promoting the good news of the kingdom. In this passage, Stephen argues that his teachings about Jesus are not against the traditions dating back to Moses but are consistent with them.
- God promised that all nations would be blessed through Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, who was the father Jacob (name changed to Israel), who was the father of 12 sons (Joseph and his brothers). Joseph had been sold into slavery by his jealous brothers but was given a position of authority in Egypt and later saved his family and people from starvation during a famine. The Israelites have increased in number in Egypt and a new king unfamiliar with Joseph has come to power.
- Threatened by the population growth, the new Egyptian king orders all the newborn Hebrew babies to be thrown into the river to die. Moses is delivered from this fate.
- God raised Moses up for a purpose. He was well educated in the Egyptian system. God chose Moses for a task.
- Moses was rejected by his people. Moses was 40 years old when he killed an Egyptian that was beating a Hebrew man. But when he confronted two Israelites that were fighting, they rejected him and he was forced to flee to Midian.
- Moses was 80 when he was called to return to Egypt. God continues to call us throughout our entire lives. Never too late.
- Burning Bush / Holy Ground – God revealed himself in a new way. God is consistent with rescuing his people as he has done time after time, but does it in a new way. Exodus Chapter 3:
 - God called Moses.
 - Moses answered “Here I am”
 - God said take off your sandals for the place where you are standing is holy ground
 - God says He has seen the misery of his people, heard them crying out, is concerned about their suffering and has come down to

rescue them, bringing them out of Egypt into a land flowing with milk and honey.

- God says to Moses – Go now, I am sending you. I will be with you.
- God reveals himself as “I am who I am”.
- God chooses us for tasks and raises us up as well.
- God uses true prophesy to confirm his word.

Discussion Questions:

- Stephen reviewed destructive patterns that resulted in the Israelites having a history of persecuting and killing the prophets. How can we deal with destructive patterns in our lives?
- How does Stephen explain how Jesus and his teaching about Jesus are consistent with their traditions around Moses
- Moses upbringing, training and experiences uniquely qualified him for the task that God called him to. In what ways have your upbringing, training and experiences uniquely qualified you?
- In what ways can you identify with any of Moses’ experiences of 1) being raised in a system that oppressed his people, 2) being rejected by his people, 3) running for his life, and 4) being called to go back to Egypt at the age of 80.
- Discuss what it means the God is “I am who I am”.