

The Man Moses- A Hero of Faith

The life of Moses is very important in the eyes of all Israelites for his deeds of liberation of Israel with power and wonders from the Egyptian's oppression. From the parting of the Red Sea to showers of quail, from striking of the rock to provide water to satisfy the thirst of the people to fight with Amalek, he shone God's power through all the history of his people. No man has ever had a relationship with God to the point of speaking to God "mouth to mouth" as he did. No man has ever experienced a mountain blazing with fire, with smoke ascending like that of a furnace, and the mountain quaking greatly, and the trumpet blasting louder and louder at the descending of God to it; even in that experience Moses spoke to God and He answered him. No one interceded for his people the way Moses did, when the people had sinned greatly against the Lord by making a god in the form of a calf, while he had been with God for forty days and forty nights to receive the Law written by God in tablets. After coming back he returned to the Lord and said, Oh, these people have sinned a great sin and have made themselves gods of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin- and if not, blot me, I pray You out of Your book which You have written (Exodus 32: 31-32)! He was even willing to take upon himself the punishment. When he requested to see God's glory, God said, Behold, there is a place beside Me, and you shall stand upon the rock, and while My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away My hand and you shall see My back; but my face shall not be seen (Exodus 33:21-23).

When Miriam and Aaron talked against Moses, God came down in a pillar of cloud, and stood at the Tent door and called Aaron and Miriam ... and said, Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make Myself known to him in a vision and speak to him in a dream. But not so with My servant Moses: he is entrusted and faithful in all My house; with him I speak mouth to mouth clearly and not in dark speeches; and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses? And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them, and He departed (Numbers 12: 5-9). Moses, the servant of the Lord was protected and no one could touch His anointed without the consequences. From the water to the palace, Moses lived a comfortable life. However, he saw the burdens of his brethren, and because of that he killed an Egyptian, for beating a Hebrew. He rejected the delicacies and the worldly life style Egypt offered him; he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, because he preferred to share the oppression and bear the shame of the people of God rather than to have the fleeting enjoyment of a sinful life, for he considered reproach for the sake of the Messiah to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since his attention was on the reward. By faith he left Egypt behind, not being afraid of the king's anger, for he persevered, as one who sees Him who is invisible (Heb. 11:24-27). He never looked back to the comfort of Egypt, but went to live in the land of Midian, where he took refuge from Pharaoh. While in Midian, he married Zipporah, one of the daughters of Jethro.

The span of his life is divided in three periods of forty years: Forty years in the palace, forty years in the land of Median, and forty years in the desert leading Israel to the Promised Land.

While keeping the flock of his father-in-law, after forty years since he had left Egypt, Moses had an encounter with God at Sinai- the Mountain of God. He appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush and called him to warn him not to come near, and told him to take off his shoes for the place where he stood was holy ground (Exodus 2:15-23; 3:1-5). God had a special assignment to give him at that moment. After forty years in the desert, Moses had gained experience that would serve well to accomplish the Lord's call. Moses would no longer be a shepherd leading the flock; his task now was to lead a multitude to the Promised Land of Cana. God said, Moses, come now, therefore and I will send you to Pharaoh, that you may bring forth My people – the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 3:10). To go back to Egypt, from where he had fled for his life, was not an easy task. However, after forty years many changes had happened including a new Pharaoh. Moses somehow had to deal with the unresolved matter of long ago the right way. When he heard he had to go back to Egypt, he asked God, Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt? He gave the Lord an excuse why he should not be the one for the task. He said, O Lord, I am not eloquent or a man of words, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and have a heavy and awkward tongue; but the Lord told Moses, Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the dumb, or the deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and will teach you what you shall say (Exodus 4:10-12). That should have been enough for him to answer the Lord's calling, but he still refused to go by suggesting someone else to do the job. God gave Moses, his brother to help him and he agreed to go. We see here that God does not choose the strongest to do His work, for it is in the weakness of man that His strength is manifested. The Lord delights not in the strength of the horse, nor does He take pleasure in the legs of man; the Lord takes pleasure in those who reverently and worshipfully fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy and loving-kindness (Ps. 147:10-11); and no king is saved by the great size and power of his army; a mighty man is not delivered by [his] much strength; a horse is devoid of value for victory; neither does he deliver any by his great power (Ps. 33:16-17).

Moses showed weakness of confidence. Perhaps he carried the guilt of having killed an Egyptian, and remembered how he had lost the respect of his own people for that reason. Now he had to face the reality of going back to Egypt to confront the authorities for the release of his people, and this time not as a killer and a coward, but as a leader empowered by God with signs and wonders. Moses was destined to make history that brought the reality of God's holiness, His love, faithfulness and power. A great leader he became for forty years, when finally he died at the age of one hundred twenty at the presence of God after He showed him the Promised Land he was heading to for forty years. At the end of his life he went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah and the Lord showed him all the land. And there he died before the Lord as He had told him. God Himself buried him and no one knows where his tomb is. That must have been the most beautiful funeral ever performed on earth. Moses was 120 years old; his eyes were not dim nor his natural force abated; and there arose not a prophet since in Israel like Moses whom the Lord knew face to face (Deut. 34). A meek and humble man above all the men on the face of the earth (numbers 12:3). It is so sad to know that after these many years sojourning to the Promised Land, he did not have the privilege to set his feet on it, because of disobedience. The Lord had told him to speak to the rock to give

forth its water; but Moses lifted up his hand and with his rod he smote the rock twice in anger. So the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, Because you did not believe in Me to sanctify Me in the eyes of the Israelites, you shall not bring this congregation into the land which I Have given them (Num. 20:8-12). Our God is so holy that not even a man like Moses escaped punishment for his sin. There is no exception of sin in our Lord's eyes. Sin is sin, and must be dealt as sin.

At the mount of transfiguration when YAHSHUA was transfigured before His disciples, Moses and Elijah, who represented the law and the prophets who had foretold of His death, appeared in splendor and majesty and brightness to converse with YAHSHUA about His exit from the earth (Luke 9:28-31). In the person of Elijah, the prophets could now understand what had been prophesized about YAHSHUA the Messiah, as they took part on the conversation. No longer had Moses to go up the mountain to talk to God, but this time it was God who had to go up the mountain for prayer and have this meeting with Moses and Elijah. There, the nation of Israel witnessed prophecy being fulfilled in YAHSHUA the true Messiah, Who had come into the world to fulfill all what had been written about Him and the law; Moses witnessed the law being perfectly fulfilled in YAHSHUA!