

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

Moses was a special individual that was preserved from death and prepared by God for great things as the future deliverer of Israel. As a prince in Egypt, he was taught leadership skills that would assist him in leading the Exodus of God's people from the Egyptian bondage.

When Moses was forty years old, he assumed it was time to identify with "his brethren" and consequently, deliver them from Egypt.

Ex. 2:11 And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that **he went out unto his brethren**, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren.

12 And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that *there was* no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.

13 And when **he went out the second day**, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow?

14 And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.

15 Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.

❖ Stephen, before his death, gave historical testimony of this occasion which we will include.

I. DETERMINING THE WILL OF GOD, 2:11-12

A. The Perception in Determining God's Will

Ex. 2:11 And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto **his brethren**, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting **an Hebrew, one of his brethren**.

Acts 7:23 And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.

- ❖ Moses knew his destiny and decided to examine the situation with his brethren.
- ❖ As Israel's deliverer, Moses perceived that it was his place to intervene when "he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren."

B. The Problem of Disrupting God's Will

Ex. 2:12 And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that *there was* no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.

Acts 7:24 And seeing one *of them* suffer wrong, he defended *him*, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian:

25 For **he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.**

- ❖ Moses did not seek God's will regarding the situation.
- ❖ Moses "he looked this way and that way." But he didn't look up!
- ❖ God did NOT tell Moses to kill the Egyptian. Moses' timing was not God's timing.
- ❖ After Moses killed the Egyptian, he "hid him in the sand."

Prov. 28:13 **He that covereth his sins shall not prosper**: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.

- ❖ Moses anticipated that “his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.”
(Acts 7:25)

II. DISCOVERING THE WAITING BY GOD

A. The Persistence in Forcing God's Will

Ex. 2:13 And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him that did the wrong,

Acts 7:26 And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?

- ❖ Moses “went out the second day” and discovered two Hebrews striving together.
- ❖ Moses rebuked the one “that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow?”
- ❖ Moses’ leadership character was to resolve the problem.

B. The Problem in Forcing God's Will

Ex. 2:14 And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.

Acts 7:27 But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?

28 Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday?

- ❖ The offending Israelite questioned Moses' authority – “Who made thee a prince (ruler) and a judge over us?”
- ❖ The malcontent Israelite then smarted off by asking Moses, “intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian?”

III. DELAYING THE WORK OF GOD

A. The Timing in Doing God's Work

- ❖ Moses' perception of God's will for his life was accurate, but his timing was off.
- ❖ Moses "supposed" (Acts 7:25) Israel was ready for deliverance, but "supposed" wrongly.
- ❖ The killing of the Egyptian was outside the will of God, as well as Moses' attempt to hide the body in the sand.

Num. 32:23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and **be sure your sin will find you out.**

B. The Tragedy in Delaying God's Work

Ex. 2:15 Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But **Moses fled** from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.

Acts 7:29 **Then fled Moses** at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons.

- ❖ Moses “fled” from the place and people that was the will of God for his service.
- ❖ Moses ended up “in the land of Midian” and stayed for forty years before returning to Egypt to fulfill the will of God for his life.

Moses Moves to Midian





Summary

- ❖ Moses knew the will of God for his life but was not willing to wait for God's timing.
- ❖ God's timing is as important as knowing God's planning and purpose.

Est. 4:14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace **at this time**, *then* shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom **for such a time as this**?

Gal. 4:4 But **when the fulness of the time was come,**
God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made
under the law,

5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we
might receive the adoption of sons.

- ❖ When Moses arrived in Midian, “he sat down by a well.” (Ex. 2:15)
- ❖ Fleeing from the will of God must be countered by returning to the “well” of God and getting refreshed.

Conclusion

Psa. 46:10 **Be still, and know that I am God:** I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.
11 The LORD of hosts *is* with us; the God of Jacob *is* our refuge. Selah.

- ❖ The Rest – “Be still...”
- ❖ The Realization – “and know that I *am* God...”
- ❖ The Reign – “...I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”
- ❖ The Reassurance – “The LORD of hosts *is* with us...”
- ❖ The Refuge – “...the God of Jacob *is* our refuge.”