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**APOSTOLIC VERSE BY VERSE BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**“STEPHEN’S TESTIMONY OF MOSES’ HISTORY”**

**Acts 7:29-43**

***Acts 7:29-32***

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

***30 "And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush."***

***31 "When Moses saw [it], he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold [it], the voice of the Lord came unto him,"***

***32 "[Saying], I [am] the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold."***

In the last lesson, the leaders of the temple were questioning Stephen, and in answer, Stephen started relating the history of the Hebrew family as far back as Abraham. We closed out the last lesson where Moses had killed the Egyptian and had been found out. In this lesson, Stephen relates how Moses went to the desert, and walked across it. Fleeing to Midian, Moses encountered God, who appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai. Interestingly, its in Midian, not the promised land, the Lord appeared to Moses. He came as a theophany (a visible manifestation of God) in a burning bush and identified himself as the God of Israel’s patriarchs.

***Exodus 3:1-6***

***3 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.***

***2 And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.***

***3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.***

***4 And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.***

***5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.***

***6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.***

He met Zipporah, Jethro's daughter. Soon after, they were married. Moses spent forty years in Midian near Mt. Sinai. During his stay, he and Zipporah had two sons. This occurred when Moses was eighty years old. This is the burning bush that did not burn up. Stephen is giving to these Jewish leaders an even better detailed happening than, perhaps, even they could have given. He explained to Moses that He was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Stephen, explains, here that Moses was frightened at the sight of God.

***Acts 7:33 "Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground."***

Again, the Lord initiated a relationship outside the promised land. Moreover, the land where God appeared to Moses was holy ground because of God’s presence. Land is only holy if God is present; a church is only holy if Jesus is in its midst. This is one of the most important things for us to remember in our churches today. We take God far too casually. If we want the Lord to be with us in our services, we must keep it a holy place. Wherever God is, is holy ground.

***Acts 7:34 "I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt."***

Here, Stephen is reminding these Hebrews that once before God had heard their cries and sent them a deliverer to take them out of Egypt (type of the world). Jesus was a deliverer, also. Jesus delivers all who will follow Him from a life of sin unto their own promised land (eternal life with Him). He ordered Moses to return to Egypt, to the same people who had rejected him as their deliverer. Twice Stephen referred to the appearance of the Lord as an ANGEL (7:30, 35). The reference, however, was most likely to the visible appearance of the Lord in an angel-like form.

***Acts 7:35 "This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send [to be] a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush."***

We see that Moses was not only to deliver the Hebrews, but was also to rule over them, as well. Moses' power was not his own. He was a very meek man. His power was that of God in him. God empowered Moses to do the things necessary to deliver the Hebrews.

***Acts 7:36 "He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years."***

Even after God confirmed Moses as a prophet through miraculous signs, their ancestors refused to obey him. We remember from our Exodus teaching that God brought them out with a mighty hand. God brought ten plagues on the Egyptians (demoting their worldly gods). Each plague showed the helplessness of an Egyptian god when facing the true God. Three million (approximately) Hebrews walked through the Red sea on dry ground and all of the Egyptians chasing them were drowned. The miracle of the forty years was that God miraculously provided for them. Their shoes did not wear out in forty years. To learn more about this, read the study on Exodus.

***Acts 7:37-38***

***37 "This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear."***

***38 "This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and [with] our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:***

Up until now, these leaders in the temple could not find anything wrong with what Stephen had said, because this is what they had been taught from their youth. Everything Stephen had said so far, was leading up to the next few verses. This, they will not accept. This one, spoken of that would come from their brethren that they were to hear, is Jesus Christ the Messiah who they have rejected. You see, Jesus Christ the Lord was actually the doer part of the Godhead.

***John 1:3, "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."***

In the verse above, we see that it was actually Jesus Christ (Word) who put the ten commandments on the stone. JESUS IS THE WORD. He is the written Word and the spoken Word. Though he did not make the point directly, Stephen quoted the Old Testament to imply a comparison between Moses and Jesus.

***Deuteronomy 18:15 “The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;”***

Jesus was the prophet like Moses whom God promised to send to Israel; just as their ancestors rejected Moses, the current leadership rejected Jesus, the second Moses. Yet like Moses who returned from a 40-year sojourn in the wilderness to rescue his people, so Jesus will return a second time to rescue Israel.

***Acts 7:39-40***

***39 "To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust [him] from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,"***

***40 "Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for [as for] this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him."***

They soon forgot the mighty works of God in bringing them out of Egypt. As we have said so many times, Egypt is a type of the world. Stephen said here that they had turned back to the world (Egypt) in their hearts. Jesus says your heart will be judged. They are guilty of turning from the true God back to a sinful world life style. So many people are like this today. They walk with God, but when He delays His coming, many go back into a worldly life.

***Acts 7:41-42***

***41 "And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands."***

***42 "Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices [by the space of] forty years in the wilderness?"***

This has to do with the Scriptures in Amos, which say, because of their unfaithfulness to God while Moses was on the mountain, God would not accept their burnt offerings to Him. This star, in Amos mentioned, is perhaps, Saturn. This speaks of God's great displeasure with the Israelites worshipping false gods. It, also, teaches against astrology. God allowed them to wander forty years in the wilderness, until the old ones died off and a new generation came on.

***Amos 5:25-27***

***25 Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel?***

***26 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves.***

***27 Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the Lord, whose name is The God of hosts.***

***Acts 7:43 "Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon."***

The children of Israel would not get out of one mess until they were worshipping some other god. Moloch was just one of the false gods they worshipped. This Moloch, here, is the same as Molech in the Old Testament. In Leviticus, we read a direct quote where God told them not to worship Molech,

***Leviticus 18:21 "And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the Lord."***

You see, God is a jealous God. He will not allow His people to worship other gods. We see in **verse 43,** that the very reason they were captured and sent to Babylon was because they worshipped other gods. All that we can find about Remphan is that it was an idol. We may not call our false gods by these names, but there are plenty of them around today, as well. God is still jealous and will not allow us to hold anything or anyone (even ourselves) ahead of Him.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What land did Moses flee to?
2. How many sons were born to him there?
3. What was the name of Moses' wife?
4. Who was her father?
5. How many years did Moses live in the mount?
6. Who appeared to Moses in the burning bush?
7. Who did the voice in the bush say He was?
8. Why was Moses to take off his shoes?
9. What had God heard that caused Him to send a deliverer to His people?
10. What is Egypt symbolic of?
11. In what way was Moses like Jesus?
12. How did Moses bring them out?
13. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Word and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Word.
14. What evil thing did the people talk Aaron into doing?
15. God is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God.