

# What Does Faith Do?

## Moses: 11 times in Hebrews

- Three forty year periods – Ac.7:23, 30, 36
- Born at time of Pharaoh's decree
- Burning bush; reluctant but successful servant
- Gave Law of God from Mt. Sinai
- Regular / continuous communication with God
- Banned from Canaan. No partiality
- Death, Jd.9
- Transfiguration visit, along with Elijah, Mt.17

## I. Faith of his Parents, 23

Hid him for three months

'By faith': must have heard from God, Ro.10:17

1. Ex.1:1-8, new king; 10, his 'wisdom'

Afflict them  
with hard  
work  
(11-14)

Midwives  
murder boy  
babies  
(15-21)

Citizens /  
Parents  
murder boys  
(22)

## 2. Ex.2:1-2, hid 3 months (3-10): godly women

Midwives, 1:17

Mothers, 1:19

Mother and  
sister, 2:3-9

Pharaoh's  
daughter, 2:7-9

- 1 Co.1:28-29
  - Moses grew up under protection of one who threatened his existence, Ex.2:9-10
  - Did Pharaoh's daughter name him? Ex.2:5, 10. [Ps.18:16]

'By faith': must have heard from God, Ro.10:17

3. Ac.7:17-18...19-21

- Previous Pharaohs knew God's power
- After time / distractions, people forget God

Beautiful (ESV); Lovely (NASB). Ac.7:20

- “Handsome, well-pleasing” – BDAG
- As a baby Moses connects with God
- If Hebrew idiom: ‘he was no ordinary child’
- Gave rise to fictions

## Did not fear command of king

- Ex.1<sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live
- Ex.2<sup>1</sup> Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup> The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months



I. Faith of His Parents, 23

II. Faith of Moses, 24-29

## Refused title 'son of Pharaoh's daughter,' 11:24

- “When I grow up I want to be...?” [a slave??]
- Ac.7:22, educated
- Hb.11:24 – 40 years old: decision of mature man
- Ac.7:23-25 –
  - remembered mother's training
  - defended cause of Israel
    - Joseph used rank to help his people
    - Moses could not enjoy rank while his people suffered

## Chose suffering with people of God... 11:25

- Temporary pleasures (enjoyment) of sin =  
enjoy short-lived pleasures of sin – BDAG
- Hebrews readers face same choices

# Esteemed reproach of Christ greater wealth than Egypt, Hb.11:26

- Reproach: disgrace, insult
- Wealth...
  - What? As Jesus suffered reproach...

Moses chose to share the distress of his enslaved people instead of the riches and prestige of Egypt

- How? Did not merely put up with it – esteemed it. Hb.13:13, bear His reproach?

## Esteemed reproach of Christ greater wealth than Egypt, 11:26

- When Moses suffered, he suffered with Christ – the One that some readers might abandon
- In Moses, faith triumphs over worldliness
- Will our children duplicate our faith? Ac.5:29
  - U.S. has adopted Egyptian policies
    - *Government* is ‘god’
    - *Good* is subjective
    - *Truth* is dead
  - Ac.5:41, rejoiced in suffering

## Focus? He looked to the reward (26)

- Though Moses was rich, he became poor, that his Hebrew brethren might become rich.
- 2 Co.8:9. Hb.10:32-34. Hb.12:1-2

## He forsook Egypt (27)

- Did not fear king's wrath – rather, defied it
  - Ex.2:15, fled to Midian; stranger there, 22
  - Ex.14:10, 13, exodus
- Moses gave invisible God his attention, not a visible Pharaoh

## He kept Passover (28)

- Pharaoh ordered Moses not to approach him again, Ex.10:28-29
- After nine plagues, Moses had not delivered his people from Egypt
  - Remember Gn.6. 1 Co.10:8



## He kept Passover (28)

- God's solution may appear lacking to men; Moses trusted Him –
  - **Sprinkling of blood:** Ex.12:7, 13, 21-23, passover
  - Instituted the memorial before the event
    - So did Jesus: Mt.26:26-29

## He kept Passover (28)

- **By faith:** band of Hebrew slaves leave Egypt for unknown desert to enter unseen promised land as powerful Egyptian army pursues
  - Same faith in same God brings readers eternal blessings
  - Unbelief proves fatal – Hb.10:29; 12:24; 13:11-12, 20
    - True Passover: 1 Co.5:7

## Red Sea (29)

- By faith, Israel passed through ... Egyptians drowned [lit., swallow up]
- Pharaoh, a good politician, had offered compromises. Exodus –
  1. Worship God in the land, Ex.8:25...
  2. Do not go far away, Ex.8:28
  3. Only the men, 10:11
  4. Flocks and herds stay behind, 10:24-26 –
    - NOT A HOOF SHALL BE LEFT BEHIND

## Red Sea (29)

- Moses saved Israel by resisting Pharaoh's compromises
- Contest: God vs *divine Pharaoh* – signified powers of darkness
- Hebrews' audience faces same pressures

## Stephen's summary: Ac.7:36

- 'Moses was greatest figure in OT dispensation, for he was its human founder and as such was a type of Christ, Hb.3:1-6'  
– Edward J. Young
- Miriam, like Pharaoh, learned about Moses' greatness the hard way (Nu.12)
- Moses was a servant in God's house (Hb.3:2,5)

Readers who go back to Moses  
leave the Son for a servant. Mt.17:1-5