

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO EXODUS

APRIL 20, 2011

OVERVIEW

- . The Pentateuch
- . Moses
- . The land of Egypt at the time of Moses

THE PENTATEUCH (FIVE-VOLUMED BOOK)

- . Jews and Christians refer to the first five books of the Bible as the Pentateuch
 - . These books are best studied as a continuous narrative from Creation through to the completion of the 40 years of Israelite wandering in the Sinai
- . Breakdown of our study of the Pentateuch
 - . Primeval history – Genesis 1:1 – 11:26
 - . Patriarchal history – Genesis 11:27 – 50:26
 - . Divine redemption and deliverance from Egypt – Exodus 1 – 18
 - . Israel at Sinai – Exodus 19 – Leviticus 27
 - . The march toward Canaan – Numbers
 - . Moses final days – Deuteronomy
- . Authorship of the Pentateuch – two schools of thought
 - . Moses
 - . Long held traditional view amongst Jews and Christians
 - . The Bible itself suggests Mosaic authorship of Genesis
 - . Christ references Moses as the author of these five books
 - . Mark 12:26
 - . The multi-authorship theory
 - . Over the last 300 years, some biblical scholars have developed the theory of four possible underlying sources behind the Pentateuch
 - . J (the Jahweh/Yahweh Source)
 - . E (the Elohim Source)
 - . D (the Deuteronomic Source)
 - . P (the Priestly Source)
 - . Each of the sources is thought to have its own characteristics and its own Theology
 - . Often times they will contradict each other
 - . This theory looks at the Pentateuch as a patchwork of stories
 - . This theory has never been supported by conclusive evidence
 - . The Bible has but one true author, God – 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - . The (human authors of scriptures) spoke from God as if they were carried along by the Holy Spirit – 2 Peter 1:20-21

MOSES

- . The story of Moses is told in the last four books of the Pentateuch
- . Moses is referred to 700 times throughout scripture 783
- . Moses is referred to 37 times in the gospels 78
- . Born of Hebrew parents (Levites), Moses life of 120 years is broken down in to three 40 year segments
 - . First 40 years living as a member of Egyptian royalty being educated and molded according to Egyptian culture
 - . Next 40 years in the Sinai wilderness being molded by God
 - . Last 40 years leading the Israelites through the wilderness
- . Character of Moses
 - . Faith – the first of his outstanding characteristics – Hebrews 11:24-28
 - . It required faith to make the costly personal choices he made
 - . It required faith to continue to trust God when circumstances seemed against him
 - . Prayerfulness
 - . Moses was a man of great prayer who turned to God in time of need
 - . He prayed while trapped between the waters of the Red Sea
 - . He prayed when his people rebelled against him in the desert
 - . One of the greatest prayers in all of scripture is when he prayed for his people and offered to forfeit his own salvation
Exodus 32:3-32
 - . Humility
 - . Moses was a humble (meek) man, who choose not to use power and prestige to rise in position
 - . When attacked, instead of physically defending himself, he laid the matter before God and waited for God's vindication
 - . Courage
 - . Moses courage is best exemplified by his interaction with Pharaoh
 - . Moses did not fear standing up to the most powerful human on the planet at that time
 - . Moses did not start out as a man of great courage, but learned these things as he walked with God

THE LAND OF EGYPT AT THE TIME OF MOSES

- . Egyptian chronology
 - . Egyptian chronologies list thirty/thirty-one dynasties from the early beginnings (opinion ranges from 5500BC - 3100BC) to Greek domination (332 -323BC)

- 3 - 2630-2611
A 2613-2472
5 2465-2458
6 2181
- . The Early Period and Old Kingdom – Dynasties 1-6
 - . During this period the great pyramids were built
 - . The Pharaohs reigned from Memphis and had unlimited control 3-6 2611-2181
 - . The First Intermediate Period – Dynasties 7-10
 - . Period of upheaval when local rulers gained power at the expense of central government 2181-2055
 - . The Middle Kingdom – Dynasties 11-14 11-13
 - . Period in which country is ruled from Thebes, several hundred miles south of Memphis 2055 1650
 - . Literature and arts flourished
 - . The Second Intermediate Period – Dynasties 15-17 14-17
 - . Egypt ruled by invading people, known as the Hyksos (chiefs of foreign lands)
 - . **Long thought that this is when the Israelites entered Egypt**
 - . The New Kingdom and the Rameside Period – Dynasties 18-20 18 1550-1292
 - . Beginning of the period of greatest Egyptian influence 19 1069
 - . Empire spread to Euphrates River
 - . **Period of the Exodus** 20 1187-1064
 - . Two theories as to the actual date
 - . 1446BC – based on 1 Kings 6:1
 - . 1290BC – based on mention of Rameses in Exodus 1:11
 - . The Period of Decline – Dynasties 20-24
 - . The Late Period – Dynasties 25-26
 - . The Persian Period – Dynasties 27-30 THIRD INTERMEDIATE 1070-664
 - . Egypt at the time of Moses
 - . Fertile
 - . The Nile ran through the heart of the empire
 - . The Nile overflowed its banks every year, depositing rich new layers of topsoil
 - . Rich soil, abundance of water, ideal temperatures made Egypt an extremely fertile growing area
 - . The Egyptian fields produced two fertile crops every year
 - . Wealthy
 - . Egypt was rich in natural resources
 - . Abundance of fish and game
 - . Delta region rich in Papyrus, providing fiber for paper, baskets, Clothing
 - . River mud provided an inexhaustible supply of clay
 - . Sandstone and limestone for buildings
 - . Copper and gold for weaponry, jewelry and barter
 - . Well protected
 - . No natural enemies because of desert borders
 - . Sophisticated
 - . Literature – hieroglyphic texts date back 1000 years before Moses
 - . Fine Arts – culture excelled in art and music

- . Science and Mathematics – engineering skills held in awe today
 - . The Great Pyramid of Giza was 1000 years old at the time of Moses
 - . The square base of the pyramid was 13 acres in size and reached a height of 481 ft. (roughly 32 stories)
 - . Pyramid contains approx. 2.5 million blocks, each weighing more than 2 tons
- . Pagan culture
 - . Despite the sophistication, Egypt may have been the most ignorant and polytheistic nation of the ancient world – Romans 1:21-23
 - . Gods were depicted as animals: bulls, birds and snakes

NEXT LESSON IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2011: EXODUS 1