

BIBLE MYSTERY AND BIBLE MEANING OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 5 MOSES

The story of Moses begins well after the Patriarchs. In our last lesson Joseph settled his brothers in Egypt after the loss of their father Israel (Jacob). Moses enters our continuing saga, and what we will learn is that every stage of Moses' life carries spiritual meaning; this story is completely metaphysical.

The life of Moses was divided into three periods of 40 years each, the number 40 means *an indefinite but completed period of time*.

FIRST PERIOD—MOSES IN EGYPT

Moses was placed in an ark and floated at the edge of a river. He was found, by the Pharaoh's daughter, and was nurtured and educated in the royal tradition, receiving a diverse education that included military training. This child was given the name Moses, which is clearly Egyptian and means "the child," while the Hebrew meaning is, "drawn out of water." Both definitions are correct. Water is movement in consciousness and this water was standing still, so when our child is ready for growth we are removed from the still waters. Growth begins by moving through the physical consciousness in preparation for the spiritual consciousness. We are moving through an established level of comfort in our lives, and a new thought begins to stir. We are now being pulled from the still waters of our consciousness.

This story is a journey from bondage to freedom. Egypt represents the physical environment, and this can be a comfortable place to reside. We can have all the physical luxuries that we desire, as did Moses living in the royal household. He was given all the advantages, the education, the lavish lifestyle that came while living at this level of bondage. Let us be clear about this aspect of our life; God does not want us to go hungry or live in misery, but our comfort is a by-product of our realization of our oneness with God. We should not allow ourselves to become a slave to the physical pleasures of this world.

There is a way to move from the bondage we have placed ourselves within; we must overcome the Egyptian consciousness. It is this consciousness that holds us in slavery. Moses sees an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave and kills the Egyptian. Once we have taken this stand, we must move with a sense of urgency toward freedom. There is no longer any security for us within Egypt, *physical*. Pharaoh represents our ego, and our Pharaoh must be subdued from time to time. There is no turning back, for we are on a path of Truth

SECOND PERIOD—MOSES IN MIDIAN—

Moses fled to the Midianites, where he became a member of the household of Jethro. Jethro was both the head of the clan of Kenites as well as their high priest. The Kenites were a

colony of Jewish people, descendants of Abraham through his last wife, Keturah. Even though Moses was brought up as an Egyptian, he was able to speak the Jewish language as well.

Jethro was not only a king, *a ruling state of consciousness*, but also a priest, *spiritually inclined*. Moses chose to settle and live with this tribe; this is a big step for Moses for he is emerging from his bondage into a path of spiritual enlightenment. Our spiritual growth usually happens in stages and over a period of time. At this point we are in a religious stage.

Jethro gave his youngest daughter Zipporah to Moses. To their union was born Gershom. Moses realizes “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land!”. He is in the middle. He can no longer accept the Egyptian consciousness of ignorance and darkness that come in physical realm. Yet there is a definite realization that there is more he must complete. We need to allow ourselves time to grow spiritually when we find ourselves in Midian.

Moses found himself taking Jethro's sheep to the slopes of Mt. Sinai. Sheep *signify truths, spiritual thoughts and spiritual ideas*. To take sheep towards a mountain is to begin to ponder spiritual matters, and yet these were Jethro's sheep. Moses spent the first forty years working from an Egyptian consciousness, and the second forty years working with a Jethro consciousness. This is our choice; whether we continue to stay in a worldly consciousness or, as Moses, begin to work with the spiritual awareness. We see that Moses took these spiritual thoughts and entered into the discipline of daily reflection. We are allowing ourselves the opportunity to realize our connection to God; and when we choose to give our attention to that which is Spiritual, our result is Spiritual.

One day, on the mountain while he was contemplating a Truth he beheld a bush as if it were on fire. Yet the bush did not burn, it was not consumed by fire. A Voice said to him, “Take off your shoes from off your feet for the place whereon you stand is holy ground.” Fire that does not burn is a purification process, a cleansing. We all have certain beliefs that are no longer valid, and so we have a cleansing in mind, in understanding, in consciousness. Feet signify understanding so to remove our shoes means that we are beginning to remove those obstacles that stand in the way of a new understanding. Our obstacles can be very rigid ideas, concepts of life or religious superstitions. Regardless of our past beliefs, right where we stand in our understanding it is holy ground. At all times and in every place we are in a position to receive illumination, *a cleansing of the mind*.

The Voice that comes out of the fire is an understanding, a knowingness or clarification that comes from a Spiritual experience that often reveals itself as something we refer to as an inner prompting or intuition, and yet it is far more than this. It is a direct communion with something that is truly amazing that we have not experienced in a long, long time. It is a direct knowing, an experience of at-one-ment with Wisdom and Understanding, when the Voice gives us the sacred name of God. Not having the words to explain this union and communion with a facet of Spirit we say that a Voice gave something, and yet nothing was given. It is at this point that we begin to absorb in Understanding and “know.” Not unlike saying that the sun gives us light and warmth. The sun does no such thing, the sun is light and warmth and we simply bask in its presence.

Through this illuminative experience, God gave Moses the divine commission to deliver His people from Egyptian bondage. He was to bring them “to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.” Moses was instructed to tell the Hebrew people EHEYAH ASHER EHEYAH had sent him which translates I AM THAT I AM. “I” is our point of identification and we take this with us wherever we go. There is a tremendous power in the word “I,” especially when voiced with conviction. In the book of Genesis, Adam was told to give a quality or a nature to the things that came to him, and we continue to do this every day by giving ourselves a quality or a nature of being. What is the quality we claim for ourselves? Do we say “I am miserable,” or “I am sick”? This is a denial of the Truth of our being. The “I” of man is Divine, and should always be lifted up to the highest point of our understanding.

We are always one with God and yet, immediately; Moses stated “I am slow of speech.” Our knowledge does not always bring change immediately our growth is in the experience. Moses accompanied by Aaron returned to Egypt.

THIRD PERIOD—MOSES IN THE DESERT

Moses returns to Egypt, and with Aaron they go to the Pharaoh to bargain for the freedom of the Israelites. A great deal of uncertainty surrounds them. The Pharaoh can’t make up his mind, he says “yes” one day and “no” the next, and so we have a series of plagues. This is what happens when we can’t make up our minds; I want to go back to school and continue my education, but my job, or more important my paycheck—what am I to do? We have invited the plagues into our midst, for we have created a divided house. Our plagues manifest as misery, unhappiness, fear, and confusion. In this Pharaoh consciousness there is no stability, no focus, no center, and when we do make a decision there is a sense of peace. A burden has been lifted, for the decision itself is the major obstacle to a sense of our well-being.

Moses unites the children of Israel (In spiritual thoughts and ideas) and they begin their escape from Egypt. This is that period in time when we begin to take charge of our thoughts, the point in our unfoldment when we begin to realize that if we want to change our lives for the better, we need to pay attention to the activity taking place within our own minds.

We come to the Red Sea or that section that is called the sea of reeds in our escape. Water, even if it’s only 3 inches deep still represents movement in mind, and this water may have some cattails, some murky water that we need to deal with to get through. Moses represents the expression of truth and insists that we not look to the left or to the right, but remain centered. There are still areas that can stimulate us, give us pleasure emotionally, but that does not mean it is Spiritual. We must get through all of the humanness and into a realm where nothing of the human is found. It is getting to a point of awareness where we can say, “God is.” Period! “I am and beside me there is none else.”

“And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.” “Ye have brought us into the wilderness to kill us with hunger.” The Lord said unto Moses, “I will rain bread from heaven, the people shall gather every day.” There are two kinds

of bread in Scripture, one is Spiritual and the other is material. The first bread is “daily bread,” this is another word for manna. It is answered prayer. Whatever the need, this bread meets it, and whatever the hurt this bread dissolves it. “It knows what you have need of before you ask.” Manna is not about money, it is much more than that. It is that Invisible Substance that manifests as Answered Prayer. It can manifest as strength, courage, peace of mind, or the right idea; it is always the right substance for the moment.

We do have the second bread; it is the material or our supply. It can be the food we eat, human companionship, human love, understanding, and forgiveness. There is nothing spiritual about any of these qualities. We cannot live by this kind of bread alone, because it doesn't last.

TEN COMMANDMENTS

Moses in presenting the Ten Commandments, reminds us in multiple ways that the knowledge of the One Cause that gets us out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage. The Ten Commandments, are an expression of the laws of mind, with each commandment viewing the truth of our being from a well-defined but different angle. When understood the phrase “thou shalt not” in fact means “thou cannot. Our lives are determined by the beliefs we hold in consciousness, this is the law of life. Everything that happens in our lives is an out picturing of exactly what we thinking. The commandments reinforce that there is only One Truth, God is All.

Given to the depth of the Ten Commandments we have decided to have an entire lesson on the Ten Commandments in our next lesson.

THE CLOSING DAYS

Though Moses reached the age of 120, “his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated.” (Deut. 34:7) Nevertheless, there came to him a definite realization that his work was completed. He had been given an important task to complete in his life, this, he accomplished it with dedication and love. He followed all the instructions given to the best of his ability. Above all else Moses knew that the “promised land” is not a place, but a level of consciousness that he had already achieved.

SUMMARY

Moses might be considered Israel's creator from the human perspective. He took a group of disheartened, uneducated slaves, and left them a strong, hardy nation, capable of functioning as a free people on a daily basis, and capable of winning a home and settling the land.

Moses represents an understanding of God as Law. Indeed the spiritual universe is one of Principle and not chaos. In presenting the Ten Commandments, he gave definite form to basic principles so that the general public could comprehend and follow them in a practical sense. Moses had a spiritual vision of a Promised Land which transcends the geographical image in which it is placed. In this vision, humanity, through spiritual realization, comes into the consciousness of All Good.

Moses was a prophet, seer, lawgiver, leader, deliverer, and judge. His courage, wisdom, and devotion, and unwavering faith in God made him one of the outstanding figures of all time. Every lesson we enter is a part our growth, and eventually we be able to step back and view our life as a beautiful tapestry, full of color and beauty and spirit.

The story of Moses is about our trip from the physical bondage, which we have placed ourselves in, to a spiritual freedom. We all enjoy a comfortable, pleasing environment and it easy to allow ourselves to place that comfort first; our relationship to God is always first in our lives, no exception.

Assignment

1. Describe the spiritual state of "Moses in Egypt".
2. Moses took Jethro's sheep towards a mountain. Explain metaphysically this statement.
3. Define IAM. Define I am.
 - a. How are they as One?
4. Define "Daily Bread".