

**Monday, March 13, 2023**

**God Leads Like a Shepherd**

*He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.*  
**Isaiah 40: 11 (NLT)**

Through Spirit-empowered leadership of Moses, God led His chosen people out of the lush land of Egypt and into the vast wilderness. The Israelites were totally dependent on both God's provision and His faithfulness in leading them through the dangerous and unknown land.

1. The image of a shepherd is familiar to people living in the lands of the Middle East. As you read the following passages, notice how this image is used to describe God's relationship with His people, especially the manner in which He led them during their years in the desert. Take note of what God **does / provides / and desires** for His flock and what those details reveal about the kind of leader God is.  
**READ: Psalm 23: 1 – 4; Psalm 77: 19 & 20; Psalm 78: 52 – 55; Psalm 100: 3; Isaiah 40: 10 & 11; Jeremiah 31: 10**

2. After the Hebrews marched out of Egypt, God anticipated and met their need for His guiding, protective presence – in much the same way a shepherd would guide a flock. In each of the following passages what specific examples of shepherd-like care did God provide for His people?  
**READ: Exodus 13: 17, 18, 21 & 22; Exodus 14: 19 & 20; Exodus 15: 23 – 27; Numbers 9: 15 – 23; Deuteronomy 1: 30 – 33**

- a. Why do you think it was important for the Israelites to actually see and experience God's leading?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. In what ways do you think these examples helped them to know their God and trust Him as their shepherd?

**Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

**God Chooses Moses**

*He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young. <sup>12</sup> God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."*

1. Moses was nursed by his mother during his earliest years before he began living in the royal household of Pharaoh as his adopted son. During his adult years, which people – Hebrews or the Egyptians – did Moses identify with as his own? **READ: Exodus 2: 10; Hebrews 11: 24 & 25**
  - a. Why do you think Moses made this choice?
  - b. What does this choice reveal about Moses' character and the values that matter most to him?
  
2. **READ: Acts 7: 20 – 28 and Exodus 3: 7 – 12.** These two passages provide very different perceptions of Moses' qualifications and his confidence in their value to the task of rescuing the Hebrews from Egypt.
  - a. From **Acts 7: 20 – 22** what qualifications for success do we know Moses possessed?
  - b. **READ: Acts 7: 23 – 25.** What confidence did Moses have in his earthly qualifications, and for what purpose did he seek to use them?
  
3. As you read the following passages, write down the values and character you see expressed by God and by Moses:

**Characteristics of God**

Exodus 2: 24 & 25; 3: 7 – 9; 4:31;  
Deuteronomy 16: 20; Ezekiel 9: 9 & 10

Exodus 12: 12,13 & 29

Psalm 23: 1 & 2

John 3: 16; Romans 5: 4 – 9

1 John 1: 9

**Characteristics of Moses**

Exodus 2: 11 – 13

Exodus 2: 15 – 17

Exodus 5: 19 – 23

Exodus 32: 7 – 14

Exodus 32: 30 - 35

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

**Lead as I Lead**

1. **READ: Exodus 2: 11 – 19; Acts 7: 23 – 29.** Although Moses desired to identify with the Hebrew people of his birth and had compassion for them in their suffering, the fact is he grew up in Pharaoh's palace. What are the indications that the Egyptian worldview including Pharaoh's brute-like style of leadership – may have become more a part of Moses than he realized?
  
2. **READ: Exodus 3: 1 – 11.** When God first met Moses at the burning bush and commissioned him to speak to Pharaoh and lead the Hebrews out of Egypt, how did Moses respond?
  - a. Is this the same response you would have expected from Moses before he spent forty years tending sheep in the desert? What do you think changed?
  - b. Why do you think Moses responded this way?
  
3. **READ: Exodus 3: 13 – 20; 4: 1 – 9.** What similarities do you see between the way a shepherd guides a flock – leading by walking ahead of them and calling to the sheep to show them the way – and the way God instructed Moses to confront Pharaoh and lead the Hebrews out of Egypt?
  - a. What was the primary way Moses was to lead on God's behalf?
  - b. When was Moses to take action and demonstrate God's power?
  - c. How was Moses' staff (the symbol of a shepherd's leadership) to be used, and whose power did it represent?
  
4. Even though Moses had a sensitive, compassionate heart that longed for justice, he did not learn overnight how to lead as God leads. That took time – not just time spent as a shepherd, but time spent observing God's example, time spent listening for God's voice, time spent getting to know God and his ways. Read the following passages and note the characteristics of Moses' relationship with God that would have helped him to know God and become a shepherd like him. **READ: Exodus 4: 19 & 20; Exodus 5: 22 – 6: 1; 17: 4 – 6; Exodus 33: 7 - 11 & 13; Deuteronomy 34: 10; Psalm 77: 20**

Thursday, March 16, 2023

**TRUST: The Lesson of the Desert**

*“The LORD did not set his heart on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations! <sup>8</sup> Rather, it was simply that the LORD loves you, and he was keeping the oath he had sworn to your ancestors. That is why the LORD rescued you with such a strong hand from your slavery and from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt.*

**Deuteronomy 7: 8 & 9 (NLT)**

1. From the beginning of the exodus experience, even before the Hebrews left Egypt, they were learning what it meant to trust God. This was true for Moses and Aaron, as well as for the flock they led. As read the following passages, notice how the stakes kept rising as the Hebrews were pushed to trust “a little more” each time.

**The Progression of the Hebrews’ Trust in God:**

- a. **Exodus 5: 19 – 21; 6: 6 – 6**
  - b. **Exodus 7: 19 – 21; 9: 8 – 10**
  - c. **Exodus 9: 22 – 26 & 33**
  - d. **Exodus 10: 12 – 15; 18 & 19**
  - e. **Exodus 10: 21 – 23**
  - f. **Exodus 14: 21 – 28**
  - g. **Exodus 16: 4, 5, 22 – 26**
  - h. **Exodus 17: 10 – 13**
2. **READ: Deuteronomy 8: 2 – 5.** God says that He took the Hebrews into the desert to humble them, test them and know their hearts...NOT enticing them to do wrong, but providing them the opportunity to prove the quality of their character through experience.
    - a. What was the desert like? **READ: Numbers 20: 4 & 5; Deuteronomy 1: 19; 8: 15 – 18; Jeremiah 2: 6**
    - b. In what ways do you think life in the desert would reveal the quality of a person’s character?

Friday, March 17, 2023

## The Shepherd Who Would Come After Moses (Part 1)

*‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities<sup>a</sup> of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”*  
**Matthew 2: 6 (NLT)**

Moses matured to become a great godly leader. He developed an intimate relationship with God, and patiently, lovingly led the Hebrews as they struggled free from their bondage to Egypt and its ways. Although Moses stands out in biblical history as a leader like no other, he still was sinful and could not remove or pardon the Israelites’ sins, much less the sins of all humankind. God would later send the Messiah – the sinless Shepherd – to give the ultimate sacrifice.

1. **READ: Exodus 34: 29 & 30; Numbers 12: 3 – 8; Deuteronomy 34: 10 -12; Jeremiah 15:1; Matthew 17: 1 -3**  
What sets Moses apart as a great man of God?
  - a. What was it about Moses’ action that was such a great offense against God?
  - b. Do you think God still considered Moses to be a successful “shepherd” of his “Flock”? Why or why not?
3. **READ: Deuteronomy 18: 15, 17 – 19.** What did Moses say about the prophet who would come after him?
  - a. **READ: Luke 7: 16; John 1: 21 & 25; 6: 14; 7: 40.** What impact did Moses words still have on people during Jesus’ time?
4. **READ: John 10: 11 – 16.** What metaphor did Jesus use to describe himself and to what extent did it also describe Moses?
  - a. **READ: John 1: 17 and Hebrews 3: 3 – 6.** What set Jesus apart from all other shepherd leaders, including Moses?

Saturday, March 18, 2023

## The Shepherd Who Would Come After Moses (Part 2)

*'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities<sup>of</sup> of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'*  
**Matthew 2: 6 (NLT)**

1. **READ: Acts 13: 38 & 39 and romans 10: 5 – 13.** Why was it necessary for Jesus to come to earth?
2. **READ: John 1: 1 – 14.** Shepherds lead and teach by speaking the word and being an example of the word. What is the relationship between Moses, who taught the Hebrews to live by the word of God and Jesus the Messiah?

*Be careful to obey all the commands I am giving you today. Then you will live and multiply, and you will enter and occupy the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors. <sup>2</sup> Remember how the LORD your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands. <sup>3</sup> Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.*  
**Deuteronomy 8: 1 – 3 (NLT)**

3. By what extent did Jesus live by these words and teach them to others in His speech and action? **READ: Matthew 13: 1 – 9; Luke 4: 18 – 21; 5: 1; 8: 21; 11: 28; 19: 45 & 46; 24: 27, 44 & 45**