

Moses, Arguing With God

Deut 32:7-14; Num 14:11-24

The life of Moses can be divided into 3 different 40-year sections. Egypt – trained in the wisdom of Egypt, Exile – desert training; Exodus – leadership of exodus generation. Ex Num 12:3 we read that Moses was the most humble man on the earth. Ex 33:11 – God spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks to a friend. When we last saw Moses, he was arguing with God about his mission – unsuccessfully. Tonight we will see Moses having grown and at his best, arguing effectively with God through prayer.

1. Ex 3-4 marks the end of the exile period for Moses. We find him in an argument with God, seeking to avoid his mission. We saw in our last study that 40 years earlier he had set out to deliver his people in his own time and through his own strength. The result was total rejection by the Hebrew people. Moses didn't want to return to Egypt and be rejected and humiliated all over again.
2. Between Ex 4 & Ex 32 Moses experienced incredible growth in his understanding of God's Person and God's plan.
 - Challenges of the mission; confrontations with Pharaoh; plagues
 - Adversities of the mission; grumbling of the people
 - Total dependence on God; personal time with God
3. Moses grew to understand the A/C and what God was doing in it. Ex 32:7-14; Num 11:4-17; Num 14:1-24
4. Moses built spiritual logic/wisdom that he effectively applied in his relationship/God
 - Rationales (RBT) – combining principles to develop spiritual logic that becomes the basis of spiritual application
 - Moses hungered to know God, His promises & His ways Ex 34:12, 18
 - God revealed Himself to Moses as a man speaks with a friend Ex 34:7-12
 - Moses understood God's character – knew what God wanted & was doing
 - Moses aligned himself with God and His purposes – on God's side

Num 32:7-14 – An appeal for God to display His goodness

32: 7-10 – God is angry about the spiritual adultery of the exodus generation

The people you brought out of Egypt; turned away from my commands; stiff necked; I will destroy them and make a great nation out of you

32:11-13 – Moses makes an effective intercessory argument for the people

Why burn against your people that you brought out of Egypt; power & might; why allow the Egyptians to ascribe evil intent to you – delivered them to destroy them; turn from your anger; Remember the promise you made to Abraham, Isaac & Israel;

32:14 – God relented and did not destroy them

- These are your people – I now know it is not my job to deliver them - humility
- Egypt (Satan) argues that you are evil – says you created him to destroy him
- God's purpose is to reveal His grace to the world – love & Justice in harmony
- Reminds God of His own promise – relates to God based on His word

Father, I am your child and believe your promise to provide all of my needs. I know you did not create me to destroy me but to bless me. I surrender myself & align myself with you and your purpose to reveal your grace & mercy to the world. I believe your promises to bless me and I wait expectantly for you to complete your promise.

Num 11:4-17 – A humble prayer of need

11:4-9 – the rabble craves & complains

The rabble craves meat and complains about God's provision; remember the meats of Egypt – w/out cost; we are sick of this manna

11:10-15 – Moses makes an argument to the Lord

People weeping/wailing; Lord is angry; Moses is troubled – caught in the middle

Why have you brought this trouble on me? Did I do something to displease you?

Did I conceive/give birth to them? Why must I carry them to the land you promised in my own arms? Am I able to provide meat? They constantly complain!

I am overwhelmed by this burden – too heavy; If this is your plan then please let it end now or I will fold under this pressure.

- Moses is deeply discouraged and honestly shares his heart with the Lord
- What sounds like blame is an appeal to God's Sovereignty – you are in control
- These are your people Lord & I trust your promise to provide for them
- Lord I am about to fold up and disgrace myself & you – I am helpless

Father, I feel overwhelmed by my responsibility and the complaining of the ungrateful. I know you are the Sovereign Lord and in control on my life. I know those in my charge really belong to you, not me. I ask you to meet their needs as you have promised. Please intervene in my/their lives or I feel that I will fail and disgrace you and myself.

Num 14:1-17 – An appeal for God to display His power

14:1-4 – Exodus generation weeps and rebels against God

14:5-9 – Moses, Aaron, Joshua & Caleb try to encourage the people

14:10 – The people discuss stoning Moses, Aaron, Josh, Caleb

14:11-12 – The Lord is angry – kill them and start over with you

14:13 – Moses appeals to God's power and reputation

Egyptian will hear about it and say you were not able to fulfill your promise; May your power be displayed; Lord is patient, abounding in love & forgiveness yet perfect in His Justice (grace); Because of your love, forgive them as you have from the beginning

- Moses discusses the ministry of God revealing His grace to the world
- Egypt (Satan) will say they have evidence that you are not omnipotent
- They will say you don't have the power to do what your word has promised
- They will say you killed them because you were unable to deliver them
- Please reveal your power, patience, love & justice - Grace

Father, I know your purpose is to reveal your grace to the world. I know you have the power to do what you promised. I want to see your power displayed in my life and in the lives of those I love. I long for the day that your enemies are defeated and made a footstool for your feat. Please treat me with patience, love & grace, having satisfied your justice on my behalf through the death, burial & resurrection of your Son. Please, based on your character, be merciful to my loved ones and me.