

The Life of Moses

• Lesson One •

From Peril to Papyrus to the Palace

1. A godless Pharaoh sets himself against the Lord
2. The future leader of Israel was trained by Pharaoh himself
3. The Lord continues to frustrate the plans of the wicked

Worship

Psalm 2 is messianic. It points us to the King of heaven and earth, our Lord Jesus Christ. It speaks of the battle waged by temporal kings against our Eternal King. It strengthens us in this truth: Christ reigns as the Victor.

Read Psalm 2

L: Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

G: The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

L: "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."

G: The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

L: Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

G: "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

L: I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father.

G: Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

L: You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

G: Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.

L: Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling.

G: Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

All: Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Prayer: Almighty God, we praise and thank you for the presence of your mighty hand in our world and our individual lives. Satan seeks to devour us. The world desires to silence us. It's a daily battle. Comfort us with your sure promise that you will never leave us or forsake us. We pray in the name of our Savior, who has won the victory for us. Amen.

Introduction

In the early sixteenth century, the authorities tried to silence Martin Luther. Why?

Fifteen hundred years earlier, the authorities had tried to silence Jesus. Why?

Our Lord Jesus prophesied, “All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved” (Matthew 10:22). Why do some still aim to silence Christ’s followers today?

Long ago, an Egyptian king tried to “silence” God’s chosen people by killing them off. But that king was no match for our King.

Studying God’s Word

Many years before, God had promised Abraham, “I will make you into a great nation” (Genesis 12:2). Now God’s promise was being fulfilled. Recall that Abraham’s grandson, Jacob, and Jacob’s family had come to Egypt. The Pharaoh of that day had made Jacob’s son Joseph his right-hand man because God had filled Joseph with wisdom and knowledge and had enabled him to interpret two of Pharaoh’s dreams. When Jacob’s family arrived in Egypt, there were 70 members. Several hundred years later, his family had grown to millions. A “great nation” indeed!

As time passed the fond memory of Joseph faded from the Egyptians’ memory. It is likely that the new king we are introduced to was the first ruler of a new dynasty. The name Joseph meant nothing to him. In fact, the king of Egypt looked at Joseph’s people with fear.

A godless Pharaoh sets himself against the Lord

Read Exodus 1:6-22

1. Why was this new king afraid of the Israelites? (verses 9 and 10)

2. What first step did the king take to calm his fears? (verse 11)

3. How did this first step change the situation? (verse 12)

4. What was the king's final solution to his "problem"? (verses 15, 16, and 22)

His Word in My Life

Oppression of God's people may have begun in Egypt, but it didn't end there. A godless world still gathers against the Lord and the Lord's people. Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble" (John 16:33). First Peter 4:12 states, "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering." What attacks from a godless world do you see against Christianity today?

As we witness the king's command to kill all the Israelite baby boys, we can't help but think of how our society kills unborn children because these unborn children pose a threat. Why has a godless world foisted abortion on society? What can the Christian do?

The king of Egypt intended the midwives to conform and follow his plan. The midwives, however, "feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live" (Exodus 1:17). Give some examples of how a godless society today wants us to "conform . . . to the pattern of this world" (Romans 12:2). How must we respond?

For no real reason, Pharaoh began to persecute God's people. Every attack on Christianity is an attack on God, and God will not let his people be controlled by the powers of evil.

The Lord continues to frustrate the plans of the wicked

1. In Revelation 12:17 we read, “Then the dragon [Satan] was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.” How long will Satan and the godless world gather against us?
2. What is the aim of Satan and the world as they wage this war?
3. What might lead you to think that the devil and the world are winning the war? Are they really winning it?
4. Analyze the following statement: There is nothing in this world that can damage a Christian’s faith.

His Word in My Life

Give an example from your life of when Satan sent some evil or tragedy into your life that God turned around and used to strengthen your faith. How did that experience enable you to comfort someone else who was going through a similar experience?

All temporal authority on earth has been established by God. Since we know this is true from Scripture, how can God’s purposes be served by a wicked, godless government?

Christians can face each day with confidence knowing that the hand of the Almighty holds their hands.

Summary

God sent difficulties into the lives of his people, Israel. Yet he continued to be with them, strengthening them as a nation and protecting the leader he had chosen to lead them out of Egypt. In the same way, when Satan attempts to destroy God's church, God frustrates his plans.

Life with God

Fill in the blanks: Our lesson has dealt with the high points of the Bible's account of this portion of Moses' life. Fill in the blanks by reading Exodus 1 and 2. If you wish, read *Exodus* (The People's Bible commentary) on these chapters. The story of Moses covers the books of Exodus through Deuteronomy. If you wish to read these books as you take this course, begin by reading Leviticus 1–14.

- Day 1: Read Peter's Pentecost sermon, Acts 2:14-41, and relive how God used the hands of wicked men to accomplish his saving purpose.
- Day 2: Make room in your prayers today for those outside God's family. Pray for the Holy Spirit to touch their hearts with the Word of God. Include in your prayers someone in authority who opposes God.
- Day 3: Read Mark 2:1-18. You will see how another king copied Pharaoh's plan 1,500 years after Moses and how the hand of the Almighty foiled that plan.
- Day 4: Look for an opportunity to share the Savior with someone who may not know him. Perhaps you can write a letter to a relative or friend who by all appearances is lost.
- Day 5: Tell someone that you are thankful that your congregation has not been caught up or swept away in the winds of a godless society but by grace has stood on the solid foundation of God's Word.
- Day 6: Review the last week and take note of how the hand of the Almighty has acted in your life.