

God's Providence in God's People

Contra Costa Gospel Church
Adult Sunday School

MOSES (Part 2)

Moses' calling to be the leader of Israel is one characterized by reluctance. His reluctance to obey the Lord comes across over and over again as he continually refuses to serve as the Lord's ambassador to the people of Israel. But this is nothing new as it concerns God's servants throughout the Pentateuch (the name referring to the first five books of the Old Testament). We have seen time and again how each of God's servants has some kind of glaring weakness, and yet is used in tremendous ways by the Lord. That essentially leads the reader to conclude two things: 1) If God desires to use them and is able to use them, then it stands to reason that He desires to use us and is capable of using us despite our own shortcomings, and 2) We will know when the true Messiah comes because He will be better than all of us; He will not be like us with our faults, but will be One who demonstrates His fitness to serve as the Messiah by His overarching quality.

- 1) Moses presents several objections to the Lord's calling of him, indicating his reluctance to perform the duty of leading Israel. Let's take a look at these and the Lord's responses to them.

- a. Objection 1 (3:11):

The Lord's response:

- b. Objection 2 (3:13):

The Lord's response:

Why is this objection from Moses particularly unnecessary (see 3:6)?

- c. Objection 3 (4:1):

The Lord's response:

d. Objection 4 (4:10):

The Lord's response:

e. Objection 5 (4:13):

The Lord's response:

- 2) After reading these objections from Moses, what can we say about how the Lord deals with Moses? How is the Lord characterized through these events?
- 3) In what way is Moses like us? How do Christians today present roadblocks to the Lord in our own reluctance to serve Him?
- 4) In 4:24-26, we have this short interlude in which Moses is almost killed by the Lord. There are very few details about what the scenario was in these verses, particularly why Moses was under judgment from the Lord. Based on Zipporah's actions (immediately circumcising Moses' and her son; 4:25), what can we guess was Moses' violation?

Why was this such a heinous violation warranting death?

Why do you think Moses would include these few verses here? How does this "advance" the story?

- 5) Just before Moses goes to Pharaoh to lay out the demands of the Lord in 5:1, the chapter ends with Moses and Aaron going before the Israelites to introduce themselves (4:27-31). What does this conclusion tell us about Moses' concerns and the Lord's responses?