

Ch. 6 Review: Abram leaves the comfort of his home and follows God’s will for him to take his family into the wilderness. As he parts ways from his friends, he does not fall for the devil deviating him from God’s adventure or the battles of the world. Can you relate?

**The Jews as unwelcome sojourners and slaves**

The Jewish people are slaves in Egypt and multiply abundantly. They work hard and are successful even though they are strangers in the land. And those that oppose them foster hatred wanting to rid them of their land. What lesson can we take from this?

When such oppression does not break their spirit, pharaoh orders the killing of boys and babies. Why did pharaoh feel threatened?

It is estimated that 1/6 to half children in prehistoric times died. Moses is born into danger. Who else was born into danger?

“The dual parentage motif also dramatizes the fact that with maturity we must cease laying responsibility for the existential conditions of life at the feet of our parents, and assign instead to the broader forces of biology and society.” What does this mean? God the father is the true father & we should transfer our dependency on and allegiance to the heavenly father. Have you done this? Moses must flee Egypt after he kills a fellow Egyptian for beating a Jewish slave. How does God use his exodus from Egypt?

**The fiery tree as revelation of being and becoming**

Pharaoh dies and Moses becomes a shepherd for Jethro’s flocks. He is content in his life with his wife, family, friends, job, and atmosphere. He has become an ordinary adult until one day when he ventures off the path at Mount Sinai to investigate a strange phenomenon. What does this indicate?

**Exodus 3:1-4** – “...and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight-why the bush does not burn up.” When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” What does this tell us about Moses? What does the burning bush symbolize?

“A burning bush is therefore an amalgam of three things:

1. The being that is living
2. The becoming associated with transformation
3. The phenomenon which can be ignored only at great peril and with great effort

Moses, as flawed as he is, is called by God to be a leader and free his people. Our defects and insufficiencies of ability are not accepted by God as an excuse for failure to act. Have you experienced or thought of this in your life?

**Exodus 3:17** – “And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites - a land flowing with milk and honey.” God chooses Moses to help him fulfill His promise.

What is true leadership – true character? - “...always and everywhere means opposition to the tyrant and the slave and, more deeply, to the spirits that animate both. Such movement away from the enticements of power and subjection is, eternally, the journey to the promised land.” Do you recognize leadership and non-leadership in our society today? What do they look like?

**Return to the tyrannical kingdom**

God has told Moses that the resistance of Pharaoh will work for the benefit of the Jewish people and their freedom from Egypt. In Exodus 4, God coaches Moses on how to do three miracles. One, with his staff/rod the power to turn it into a serpent. Second, with his hand showing leprosy and being healed. And third, turning water from the Nile into blood on the ground. What is God doing? Moses is not convinced that he is the man for the job. He pleads with God to use Aaron. What does this tell us about God’s choices?

**Back to the land of doubling down**

**Exodus 4:21-23** – “The Lord said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. Then say to Pharaoh, “This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son, and I told you, “Let my son go, so he may worship me.” But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.”

What does this scripture tell us about God? What lesson is he telling Israel and to us today?

“The authors of this account refused to shy away from the complex oppositions inherent in life: a monotheistic and all-powerful God is behind everything that happens.” Can you see this in scripture and in your life?

“The death of the firstborn is enough to convince even the pharaoh that he is powerless before God. The Egyptians load the Israelites with jewels, gold, silver, and clothing and send them packing. The true leader is precisely the person who offers a destination so attractive that his people are motivated to sojourn forward voluntarily, made enthusiastic – that is, God-inspired-by the visionary revelation of possibility and promise.” Have you seen this in history and in your life?

**The inevitable interregnum of chaos and the guiding spirit**

Interregnum - a period when normal government is suspended, especially between successive reigns or regimes. an interval or pause between two periods of office or other things.

The period after freedom from tyranny and the arrival into the promise land is the period in the desert. Why does God send them there?

The land of Canaan is not far away geographically but it is very far away spiritually. What does this mean? How does it apply here?

The Israelites must overcome the approaching Pharaoh’s army, water shortage and dependency on God to provide, insurrection after two and a half months in the desert, dependency on manna and quail from God, a day’s rations only, an attack by the Amalekites, and to wander in the desert for forty years-for three generations. How were the Israelites able to go on?

**The subsidiary state as alternative to tyranny and slavery**

“Moses’s people remain a disunited, self-centered, faithless, and fractious bunch, unable and, more significantly, unwilling to mediate their own disputes” and take on self-governance. Moses chose wise men to help govern the people. Why was this needed?

**The Commandments as explicit revelation of custom**

God gives Moses the ten commandments for the people to live by. The individual must sacrifice their selfish good for the good of all. The ten commandments gave the Israelites the foundation of law. One nation, under God. Why is this important?