

STUDY #4: MOSES AND THE GREATER SIGNS, PART 1

Review: Sign 3 focused on how God demands a blood sacrifice to receive His Mercy.

Ta Ha (20):9-76

(9) **(1) Has the story of Moses reached thee?**

(10) Behold, he saw a fire: So he said to his family, "Tarry ye; I perceive a fire; perhaps I can bring you some burning brand there from, or **(2) find some guidance at the fire.**"

(11) But when he came to the fire, a voice was heard: **(3) "O Moses!**

(12) "Verily I am thy Lord! therefore (in My presence) put off thy shoes: thou art in the sacred valley Tuwa.

(13) "I have chosen thee: listen, then, to the inspiration (sent to thee).

(14) "Verily, I am Allah: There is no god but I: So serve thou Me (only), and establish regular prayer for celebrating My praise.

(15) **(4) "Verily the Hour is coming - My design is to keep it hidden - for every soul to receive its reward by the measure of its Endeavour.**

(16) "Therefore **(5) let not such as believe not therein but follow their own lusts, divert thee there from, lest thou perish!**"..

(17) "And what is that in the right hand, O Moses?"

(18) He said, **(6) "It is my rod: on it I lean; with it I beat down fodder for my flocks; and in it I find other uses."**

(19) **(7) (Allah) said, "Throw it, O Moses!"**

(20) He threw it, and behold! It was a snake, active in motion.

(21) (Allah) said, **(8) "Seize it, and fear not:** We shall return it at once to its former condition"..

(22) "Now draw thy hand close to thy side: It shall come forth white (and shining), without harm (or stain),- as another Sign,-

(23) **(9) "In order that We may show thee our Greater Signs.**

(1) The question seems to imply that this is a very important story. As we study let's seek why it is important and what it means to us today.

(2) Guidance from a fire seems strange, but this is showing how Moses saw something miraculous and wanted to see what God could teach him through it. (*Exodus 3:1-3*)

(3) God not only knows our name, but calls us by it.

(4) The coming of "the Hour" means that something very big is about to happen. God has kept his plan hidden, but is now about to reveal something new. This new thing that God is revealing is going to affect every human being. What is it? Answer in verse 23.

(5) If this new revelation is not believed the person will face judgment and die.

(6) The staff wasn't just a tool, but it represented Moses' work and security. It is similar to what David wrote in Psalm 23:4 "Your rod and your staff protect me and comfort me"

(7) God is asking Moses to lay down what makes him successful and safe and make sure Moses only relies on Him.

(8) This is what we should do every time God tells us what to do, even if we are scared and it doesn't make sense.

(9) The signs, or miracles, that God demonstrated to Moses were but a taste of what God is going to do. God was about to demonstrate his Greater (or Greatest) Signs to Pharaoh, Egypt and the world. These are going to be the new thing that God said he is going to reveal in verse 15. So what are these great signs?

(24) **(1) "Go thou to Pharaoh, for he has indeed transgressed all bounds."**
 (25) (Moses) said: "O my Lord! expand me my breast; *(or, "Oh Lord, open my heart")*
 (26) "Ease my task for me;
 (27) "And remove the impediment from my speech,
 (28) "So they may understand what I say:
 (29) "And give me a Minister from my family,
 (30) "Aaron, my brother;
 (31) "Add to my strength through him,
 (32) "And make him share my task:
 (33) "That we may celebrate Thy praise without stint, *(or "glorify you much")*
 (34) "And remember Thee without stint: *(Or "remember you much")*
 (35) "For Thou art He that (ever) regardeth us."
 (36) (Allah) said: **(2) "Granted is thy prayer, O Moses!"**
 (37) **(3) "And indeed We conferred a favour on thee another time (before).**
 (38) "Behold! We sent to thy mother, by inspiration, the message:
 (39) "'Throw (the child) into the chest, and throw (the chest) into the river: the river will cast him up on the bank, and he will be taken up by one who is an enemy to Me and an enemy to him': **(4) But I cast (the garment of) love over thee from Me: and (this) in order that thou mayest be reared under Mine eye.**
 (40) "Behold! thy sister goeth forth and saith, 'shall I show you one who will nurse and rear the (child)?' So We brought thee back to thy mother, that her eye might be cooled and she should not grieve. Then thou didst slay a man, but We saved thee from trouble, and We tried thee in various ways. Then didst thou tarry a number of years with the people of Midian. Then didst thou come hither as ordained, O Moses!
 (41) **(5) "And I have prepared thee for Myself (for service)"..**
 (42) "Go, thou and thy brother, with My Signs, and slacken not, either of you, in **(6) keeping Me in remembrance.**
 (43) "Go, both of you, to Pharaoh, for he has indeed transgressed all bounds;
 (44) "But speak to him mildly; perchance he may take warning or fear (Allah)."
 (45) They (Moses and Aaron) said: "Our Lord! We fear lest he hasten with insolence against us, or lest he transgress all bounds."
 (46) He said: **(7) "Fear not: for I am with you: I hear and see (everything).**

(1) Just like God knew exactly what the situation for the children of Israel was, so God knows exactly what our situation is also.

(2) Upon hearing that Moses was to go back to Pharaoh, something he was probably very afraid of, he asked for help in several ways and God granted him his requests.

(3) The Lord remind Moses of all the ways that he has cared for him in the past. Thus, when considering God's protection in the past Moses was supposed to believe that God would be with him just as powerfully in the future.

(4) This is the third covering mentioned thus far. The first was a covering of righteousness or mercy (7:26) and a covering of shame (11:39 *Yusif Ali*)

(5) God didn't just randomly select Moses, but prepared him for this task from long ago.

(6) Moses needed to remember: 1. Who God is, verse 12; 2. The signs God has shown him, verse 19-22; 3. How God had prepared him since he was a child, verses 39-40.

(7) This should Give Moses (and us) confidence as we follow the Lord.

(47) "So go ye both to him, and say, 'Verily we are messengers sent by thy Lord: Send forth, therefore, the Children of Israel with us, and afflict them not: with a Sign, indeed, have we come from thy Lord! and **(1) peace to all who follow guidance!**

(48) "'Verily it has been revealed to us that the Penalty (awaits) those who reject and turn away.'"

(49) (When this message was delivered), (Pharaoh) said: **(2) "Who, then, O Moses, is the Lord of you two?"**

(50) He said: "Our Lord is He Who gave to each (created) thing its form and nature, and further, gave (it) guidance."

(51) (Pharaoh) said: **(3) "What then is the condition of previous generations?"**

(52) He replied: "The knowledge of that is with my Lord, duly recorded: my Lord never errs, nor forgets,-

(53) "He Who has, made for you the earth like a carpet spread out; has enabled you to go about therein by roads (and channels); and has sent down water from the sky." With it have We produced diverse pairs of plants each separate from the others.

(54) Eat (for yourselves) and pasture your cattle: verily, in this are Signs for men endued with understanding.

(55) From the (earth) did We create you, and into it shall We return you, and from it shall We bring you out once again.

(56) And We showed Pharaoh all Our Signs, but he did reject and refuse.

(57) He said: "Hast thou come to drive us out of our land with thy magic, O Moses?"

(58) "But we can surely produce magic to match thine! So make a tryst between us and thee, which we shall not fail to keep - neither we nor thou - in a place where both shall have even chances."

(59) Moses said: "Your tryst is the Day of the Festival, and let the people be assembled when the sun is well up."

(60) So Pharaoh withdrew: He concerted his plan, and then came (back).

(61) Moses said to him: Woe to you! Forge not ye a lie against Allah, lest He destroy you (at once) utterly by chastisement: the forger must suffer frustration!"

(62) So they disputed, one with another, over their affair, but they kept their talk secret.

(63) They said: "These two are certainly (expert) magicians: their object is **(4) to drive you out from your land with their magic, and to do away with your most cherished institutions.**

(64) "Therefore concert your plan, and then assemble in (serried) ranks: He wins (all along) today who gains the upper hand."

(65) They said: "O Moses! whether wilt thou that thou throw (first) or that we be the first to throw?"

(66) He said, "Nay, throw ye first!" Then behold their ropes and their rods-so it seemed to him on account of their magic - began to be in lively motion!

(1) Whether it's confronting Pharaoh or receiving God's Mercy for the first time, God will give peace to all who follow His guidance.

(2) Pharaoh is questioning who God is, so Moses responds with telling and showing him.

(3) This is the same question that was asked of Noah in The Faithful (23):24. The answer is the same in that both Prophets pointed to a sign of God, verses 54, 56.

(4) Pharaoh rejected God's truth for the love of his land and an institution. We therefore need to watch out if our love for possessions or traditions keeps us from receiving God's truth and revelations.

(67) **(1) So Moses conceived in his mind a fear.**

(68) We said: "Fear not! for thou hast indeed the upper hand:

(69) "Throw that which is in thy right hand: Quickly will it swallow up that which they have faked what they have faked is but a magician's trick: and the magician thrives not, (no matter) where he goes."

(70) **(2) So the magicians were thrown down to prostration: they said, "We believe in the Lord of Aaron and Moses".**

(71) (Pharaoh) said: "Believe ye in Him before I give you permission? Surely this must be your leader, who has taught you magic! be sure I will cut off your hands and feet on opposite sides, and I will have you crucified on trunks of palm-trees: so shall ye know for certain, which of us can give the more severe and the more lasting punishment!"

(72) They said: **(3) "Never shall we regard thee as more than the Clear Signs that have come to us, or than Him Who created us!** so decree whatever thou desirest to decree: for thou canst only decree (touching) the life of this world.

(73) "For us, we have believed in our Lord: **(4) may He forgive us our faults,** and the magic to which thou didst compel us: for Allah is Best and Most Abiding."

(74) Verily he who comes to his Lord as a sinner (at Judgment),- for him is Hell: therein shall he neither die nor live.

(75) But such as come to Him as Believers who have worked righteous deeds,- for them are ranks exalted,-

(76) Gardens of Eternity, beneath which flow rivers: they will dwell therein for aye: such is the reward of those who purify themselves (from evil).

(1) Moses began to forget what God told him to remember, but even in that weak state the Lord spoke to him and reminded Moses that He is in control. We need to remember that God is always in control even when things don't go the way we imagine they will.

(2) Moses' magicians saw the truth of God and became believers.

(3) As evidence of their new faith, while under threat of being tortured and crucified these men refused to give up on their new faith.

(4) The magicians were depending on God's Mercy to be made right with him.

Main Points of the story:

1. The Lord spoke to Moses and showed him some signs. Moses thus believed that God would use him to deliver his people from the hand of Pharaoh by demonstrating even greater signs.

2. Pharaoh had the opportunity to repent but did not believe the clear signs that Moses showed him. Instead he accused Moses of:

1) Bringing new information about God that their ancestors didn't have, verse 51

2) Driving Pharaoh from his land, verse 63

3) Destroying Pharaoh's beloved institutions, verse 63

3. After seeing God's signs the magicians responded with:

1) Believing in the one true God, verse 70

2) Submitting to the one true God, verse 72

3) Relying on the provision of mercy from the one true God to forgive them of their sin, verse 73, 74

Next week: So what are the Great Signs???

Exodus 1-12