

(Exodus) Exodus 2:11-15

by J. Vernon McGee

Moses' training in Egypt did not prepare him to deliver the Israelites, and he had to flee to the desert and eventually meet God in order to fulfill his future role as a leader.

Duration: 5:08

Scripture: Exodus 2:11-17, Acts 7:22

Topics: "Moses' Life", "Faith Formation"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker focuses on the first 40 years of Moses' life and how his training in Egypt did not prepare him to deliver the children of Israel. Despite being educated in the Temple of the Sun, a prestigious university, Moses did not look to God for guidance. Instead, he took matters into his own hands and killed an Egyptian who was mistreating a Hebrew. This act led to Moses fleeing from Pharaoh and living in the land of Midian for 40 years. The speaker also highlights the knowledge and advancements of the Egyptians in areas such as astronomy and chemistry.

Transcript

And notice this, verse 11, "...it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, looked on their burdens, and he spied an Egyptian smiting a Hebrew, one of his brethren." Now, we're going to look at that in just a moment. But what I'm trying to do is cover these first 40 years of the life of Moses. Now, he spent them in the court of Pharaoh, and he was being raised there.

Several things I'd like to say about that period that must have been true. He was trained in Egypt, so much so that he looked like an Egyptian, talked like an Egyptian, acted like an Egyptian. And he was recognized as that when he went to Midian, as we shall see.

Now, obviously, he was educated in the Temple of the Sun, the great university of that day. And this Temple of the Sun was a great university, although it didn't prepare him to serve God. There are a great deal that can be said about that Temple of the Sun.

We underwrite the Egyptians in what they knew and what they did. First of all, let me say that this university and the Egyptians knew a great deal more than we give them credit for. For instance, they knew the exact distance to the sun.

Their astronomy is phenomenal, what they knew about the universe that we live in. They did not take the position, as scientists did later on, that the earth was flat. They didn't work on that theory at all.

It's quite interesting. These Egyptians had a real knowledge, and they also knew a great deal about chemistry. That's evident from their, in fact, the way that they embalmed the dead.

We have no process like that today at all. And also their coloring. Now, I looked at some of the colors when I was in the museum in Cairo.

I spent a little time in there, and if I ever go back to Cairo there, the only reason I'd ever want to go back would be to go to that museum. They have a wealth of material. The thing that impressed me was the workmanship, was the coloring, why those colors are brighter today than any colors that we have.

So much so that, very candidly, I'm confident many of these paint companies, Sherwin-Williams Paint Company, give anything in the world. They knew the formula that they used back in those days for colors. They're bright and beautiful and startling and clear.

And that's after about 4,000 years. And I have to paint my house about every four years. I wish I could get some of the paint that they used back in those days.

These people knew a great deal. They had a library that was tremendous. And so this man Moses, we are told, was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians.

That's the thing that you remember Stephen said. I'd like to turn to that, by the way, over in the 7th chapter of Acts at verse 22. Listen to this.

And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and in deeds. Don't underestimate Moses, friends. He was outstanding.

And he was mighty in words and deeds. And when he was full 40 years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by His hand would deliver them, but they understood not.

In other words, all the training in Egypt did not prepare him to deliver the children of Israel. And so he went out, and when he saw one of his brethren being persecuted or being beaten by one of the slave drivers, why, he killed him. And he looked this way and that way.

Trouble of it is, he didn't look up. That's where he should have looked to God. And the Lord would have forbidden him to do a thing like this because Moses is 40 years ahead of God in delivering the children of Israel.

And therefore, God now is going to put him out on the backside of the desert. And when he went out the second day, the old two men of the Hebrews strove together, and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy felon? He said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? Intendest thou to kill me as thou killest the Egyptian? And Moses feared and said, Surely this thing is known. And when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses.

In other words, Moses was a murderer. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian, and he sat down by a well. Now, he spent 40 years in Egypt, and that training did not prepare him for what was to come.

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