

Reckless Redeemer

Long Beach Alliance Church • May 23rd, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

But he said, “Who made you a prince or a judge over us? Are you intending to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and said, “Surely the matter has become known.”

~Exodus 2:14 (NASB)

1) Moses The Deliverer

- A) With the miracle of Moses’ birth story (Exodus 2:1-10) fresh in the mind of the reader, we quickly learn that Moses has, in a note of certain irony, “grown up” (2:11).
- B) Moses is nearly forty years old (cf. Acts 7:22-29) and very well educated in “all the learning of the Egyptians,” which would have included hieroglyphic (pictures) and hieratic (cursive script) writing.*
- C) It is clear that Moses has some sense that he is supposed to be a “deliverer” or “savior” for his ethnic people, the Israelites (cf. Acts 7:25). Like a champion, Moses came out from the comforts of his Egyptian upbringing with good intentions in an effort to rescue his people from oppression (Exodus 2:11, see also Hebrews 11:23-26).

* Historically speaking, in addition to his writing and formal “royal court” communication skills, the 18th Dynasty of Egypt (of which Moses was a “prince” within Egypt) was well known for sports such as archery and horseback riding. Because of the extensive number of Hebrew slaves in Egypt, Moses was probably well versed in the languages of Canaan. Collected from John J. Davis, *Moses and the Gods of Egypt*, ©1986, BMH Books.

- D) In observing first-hand the oppression of a fellow Israelite (2:11), Moses defends and kills the Egyptian oppressor in an act of violent vengeance (2:12).
- E) The text seems to indicate that Moses’ actions were not simply out of justifiable rage, but were a self effort to establish himself as a redeemer of his own people (2:12).
- F) Clearly though, the Israelites did not understand Moses’ leadership in the same fashion (2:13-14)! Rather, they are antagonistic toward “prince Moses” and fearful of him.
- G) Despite being “grown up” in Egypt, Moses’ actions reveal immaturity as a follower of God and as a Godly leader! His efforts toward being Israel’s redeemer are soon left in a shambles as the “secret” of his murder go public (2:14-15).

2) Run Moses! Run!

- A) Soon thereafter, Pharaoh hears of Moses’ liberation efforts and tries to kill Moses (2:15). Moses flees from Egypt and settles in Midian (East of Egypt) where he helps the daughters of Reuel, a Midianite priest (2:16-18).
- B) Reuel’s hospitality kicks into high gear when he hears that “an Egyptian” has helped his daughters, and invites Moses to dinner (2:19-20), but soon has more in mind.
- C) The text seems to indicate that Reuel asks Moses to remain on with his family (2:21), to which Moses concedes. Moses marries one of Reuel’s daughters, Zipporah (2:21) and she births their first son, Gershom (2:22).
- D) Events in Egypt change over time, and we are reminded that God has not forgotten His people (2:23-25).