

# Moses And The People

**Intro:** Moses had delivered the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. He leads them to Mount Sinai where they are going to receive God's message. Upon arriving at Mount Sinai, Moses goes up unto God for an initial message from Him. Upon hearing that message, Moses comes down from the mountain. It then records in Exodus 19:7-8 <sup>47</sup> "And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. <sup>8</sup> And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD." Let us consider this from the standpoint of Moses and the people.

## I. MOSES' OBEDIENCE

### A. He told them all that God had said.

1. He laid before them all the words the Lord had commanded.
2. Paul was like that: Acts 20:20, 27 <sup>20</sup> "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house... <sup>27</sup> For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."

### B. So many refuse to state all that God says.

1. We are to teach all that Jesus commanded; Mat. 28:19-20 <sup>19</sup> "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."
2. Paul stated it was coming; 2 Tim. 4:1-4 <sup>1</sup> "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; <sup>4</sup> And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."
3. Many refuse to teach all God says about being saved.
  - a. Grace only
  - b. Faith only
  - c. Sinner's prayer
4. Many refuse to teach all God says about the church.
  - a. Only one (its uniqueness)
  - b. Its organization
  - c. Its worship
  - d. Its work
5. Many refuse to teach all God says about morality.
  - a. Marriage, divorce, and remarriage
  - b. Fornication and adultery
  - c. Drinking alcoholic beverages
  - d. Impure speech
  - e. Modest apparel

## II. THE PEOPLE

### A. Their affirmation:

1. They would do all that God said.
2. Their affirmation also included any future commands from Yahweh.

3. Yet, their total failure was quickly seen.
  - a. Making a golden calf; Exo. 32.
  - b. 1 Cor. 10:5-10 <sup>5</sup>But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. <sup>6</sup>Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. <sup>7</sup>Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. <sup>8</sup>Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. <sup>9</sup>Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. <sup>10</sup>Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.”
  - c. Mat. 23:32-38 <sup>32</sup>Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. <sup>33</sup>Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? <sup>34</sup>Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: <sup>35</sup>That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. <sup>36</sup>Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. <sup>37</sup>O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! <sup>38</sup>Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.”

#### **B. Good beginning does not assure good endings.**

1. Bible examples:
  - a. Demas
    - (1) Paul identified him as a fellow worker; Phm. 24 <sup>24</sup>Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.”
    - (2) Yet, forsook Paul; 2 Tim. 4:10 <sup>10</sup>For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.”
  - b. Judas
    - (1) Chosen by Christ as an apostle.
    - (2) Spent about 3 ½ years with our Lord.
    - (3) Yet, betrayed Jesus.
  - c. Many say they will do things, but never carry through; Mat. 7:20 <sup>20</sup>Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”

#### **C. Good beginnings that fail, but repentance takes place.**

1. Peter
  - a. An apostle of Christ, thus spending over 3 years with Him.
  - b. Peter proclaimed he would never be offended; Mat. 26:33 <sup>33</sup>Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.”
  - c. Yet, he denied our Lord three times; Mat. 26:69-75 <sup>69</sup>Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. <sup>70</sup>But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. <sup>71</sup>And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. <sup>72</sup>And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. <sup>73</sup>And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. <sup>74</sup>Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. <sup>75</sup>And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.”
2. All the apostles
  - a. All the apostles said what Peter said; Mat. 26:35 <sup>35</sup>Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.”

- b. They all forsook Jesus; Mat. 26:56 <sup>56</sup> “But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.”
- 3. Simon the sorcerer.
  - a. He obeyed the Gospel; Acts 8:13 <sup>13</sup> “Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.”
  - b. He then sinned; Acts 8:18-20 <sup>18</sup> “And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup> Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. <sup>20</sup> But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.”
  - c. He repented; Acts 8:24 <sup>24</sup> “Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.”
- D. There are many today who have a good beginning.**
  - 1. They obey the Gospel.
  - 2. But in time they fall away.
    - a. The reasons are varied.
    - b. The parable of the sower;
      - (1) Three soils received the Word with joy.
      - (2) Two of the three fell away.
      - (3) Luke 8:13-14 <sup>13</sup> “They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. <sup>14</sup> And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.”
  - 3. A wonderful beginning does not assure us of a good ending.
    - a. We must strive to enter in.
      - (1) Luke 13:24 <sup>24</sup> “Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.”
      - (2) Luke 9:23 <sup>23</sup> “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”
    - b. We must endure to the end to be saved.
      - (1) Mat. 10:22 <sup>22</sup> “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”
      - (2) 1 Cor. 15:58 <sup>58</sup> “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

**Conclusion:** After Israel’s failure, they learned an important lesson that God will forgive and even use their failure for good; Exo. 32:14 <sup>14</sup> “And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.” After Peter’s failure, he learned the same lesson by Jesus; John 21:15-17 <sup>15</sup> “So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. <sup>16</sup> He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. <sup>17</sup> He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.” When we do fail and commit sin, God will forgive and wash away those sins; 1 John 1:9 <sup>9</sup> “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” If you have not started that beginning, do so now; if you have continued that beginning, repent and return to that way.