

Contagious Faith

Hebrews 11:23-29; Exodus 1-14

The faith of Hebrews eleven is highly contagious. If you are listening to the sound of my voice, you are vulnerable, susceptible and in grave danger of catching it. Watch out lest you be swept away by it. The contagious faith of Moses was caught from Joseph who caught it from Jacob who caught it from Abraham who caught it from Noah who caught it from Enoch who caught it from Abel who caught it from Adam who caught it directly from God Himself.

I. THE CONTAGIOUS FAITH OF JOSEPH.

- A. On his deathbed he made mention of the exodus. Heb. 11:2; Gen. 50:24-26
- B. But listen to perhaps the most profound words in the Genesis record. Gen. 45:5

II. THE CONTAGIOUS FAITH OF MOSES' PREDECESSORS.

- A. Three and one half centuries have lapsed since the Genesis account.
- B. The promise to Abram is complete. Gen. 12:2; 15:5; Ex. 1:7, 12, 20;
- C. The midwives (Shiphrah and Puah) are infected with the faith of Joseph. Ex. 1:1, 21
- D. Amram and Jochebed, Moses' parents had already caught the faith and were not afraid. Ex. 2:1-3
- E. Miriam, Moses's sister was contagious as well. Ex. 2:4; **Heb. 11:23**
- F. God providentially presses Moses' own mother into service to raise her son Moses in the faith. 2:9

III. THE CONTAGIOUS FAITH OF MOSES IS BLIND IN THE EARLY DAYS.

- A. **"He refused to be called the Son of Pharaoh's daughter"**(actually Prince elect). **Heb. 11:24**; Ex. 2:11
- B. **"He chose rather ill-treatment with the people of God."** **Heb. 11:25**
- C. **"The passing pleasures of sin"** included every vice known to that world as a member of royalty.
- D. **"He considered the reproaches of Christ greater than the treasures of Egypt."** **Heb. 11:26**
- E. **"He was looking for eternal rewards"** as were those who taught him to have faith. Heb. 11:10, 16

IV. THE CONTAGIOUS FAITH OF MOSES FLUCTUATES AT FIRST.

- A. His leave of absence as it were, did not render him faithless but still very much infected.
- B. **"By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king;"** **Heb. 11:27a**
 - 1. The first time he left Egypt, he did so by fear (Ex. 2:14), but now, 40 years later it is by faith.
 - 2. He is 80, his brother is 83; they team up to confront the most powerful king in the world.
 - 3. On the back side of Mt. Horeb (Sinai), God visits Moses via a burning bush and instructs him to plunder the Egyptians (2:22). A series of miracles (performed by the first human) climaxing with the death of Pharaoh's first born will finally convince him to "let my people go." (Ex. 4)
 - 4. We can see the activity of Satan is involved. There is a constant tension between faith and fear.
 - a. Moses' faith wanes momentarily, God threatens his life and his faith is restored. (4:24)
 - b. The peoples' faith seems to be on an all-time high. (Ex. 4:31)
 - c. Moses demonstrates great faith as he confronts Pharaoh personally. Ex. 5:1ff
 - d. But the peoples faith bottoms out (Ex. 5:20-21) and eventually so does Moses'.(Ex. 5:22-23)

V. THE CONTAGIOUS FAITH OF MOSES SOARS AS PHARAOH'S FAILS.

- A. **"For he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen"** (Heb. 11:27b)
- B. Moses proclaims each and every plague with courage and boldness.

- C. The 10 Plagues of Egypt are Natural Phenomena
1. Water Turned to Blood - Nile was the supreme god.
 2. The Plague of Frogs - Neut and Nut were frog gods.
 3. The Plague of Lice - gnats.
 4. The Plague of Flies - scarab (dung) beetle - god Khepri
 5. The Plague of Murrain - Cattle Plague - Apis and Mnevis were sacred bulls.
 6. The Plague of Boils - produced by Moses from the lime kilns or iron kilns (wealth originated). Their priests could not have boils or lice.. sent both
 7. The Plague of Hail - destroyed some of the crops.
 8. The Plague of Locusts - destroyed the rest of the crops.
 9. The Plague of Darkness - was worshiped but the sun “Ra” was the biggie.
 10. Death of the Firstborn - Pharaoh himself thought of himself as god and his first born was a priest.

Their gods were proven incompetent, no priests, no sacrifices, no harvest

- D. The Miraculous use of Phenomena.
1. Intensification
 2. Prediction
 3. Discrimination
 4. Orderliness and Increasing Severity
 5. Arrangement to Accomplish Divine Moral Purpose

VI. THE CONTAGIOUS FAITH OF MOSES EXCELS AS HE METICULOUSLY INSTITUTES THE PASSOVER.

- A. **By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them. Heb. 11:28**
- B. Abib 10th (Nisan) choose one year old male lamb/kid of a goat without blemish. Abib 14th it shall be killed at twilight. The Elders were to dip hyssop into the blood and apply it to the lintel and both doorposts of each Jewish house. And they were to remain in that house. Moreover they were to eat the flesh after roasting it whole. Eat it in haste, with unleavened bread and herbs, fully clothed with staff in hand anxiously awaiting the signal of your redemption. Ex. 12. “The people worshiped.”

VII. THE CONTAGIOUS FAITH OF MOSES INCITES THE MARCHING ARMY OF GOD.

- A. They journeyed NE toward the promised land to Succoth and Etham and suddenly turned South.
- B. 600,000 foot-men or two million Jews along with thousands of various animals. Ex. 12:37
- C. 430 years to the day had passed. He led them by a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night.
- D. They stopped momentarily and “Moses took the bones of Joseph with him.”
- E. 600 select chariots (a driver a 2 armed soldiers) and all the other chariots and officers pursued.
- F. The peoples’ heart sank (14:12) but Moses “**sees Him who is unseen,**” and says, “Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord.” (Ex. 14:13)
- G. **“By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through dry land;”** as Moses stretches out his hand over the sea and God parts. Thus **and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea...”** 1 Cor. 10:2
- H. Pharaoh and his army pursue but their chariot wheels are caused to swerve which make them sense God is against them **“...and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned. Heb 11:2b**
- I. Not one survives as they all lay dead on the shore under the very feet of God’s people, amazing.

J. And so our sin lay at our feet and not one remains when we are “baptized into Christ for the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.”