

The University Heights Messenger

November 28, 2010

Moses on Capitol Hill

By Wilson Adams

One of my favorite Bible characters is Moses. His story is one of the most intriguing, inspiring, and moving in all of history. For forty years he was an Egyptian, the adopted grandson of Pharaoh. For the next forty years he played the role of an Arabian shepherd-boy and for the final forty he became known as the great Israelite law-giver and leader. Few men stand his equal.

-He was a man of *fear* as he contemplated his God-assigned task to deliver his people from Egyptian bondage.

-He was a man of *courage* as he accepted the challenge and triumphantly preached and proved Jehovah's power in Pharaoh's courts.

-He was a man of *wisdom* who chose to associate with God rather than align himself with the treasures and temptations of Egypt.

-He was a man of *righteous anger* as he observed the religious rebellion and thankless disposition of the Jews toward Jehovah.

-He was a man of *meekness* who learned the meaning of "strength under control."

-He was a man of *mistakes* who had to pay a price for his sin of weakness--he would stay behind while his kinsman journeyed over Jordan.

-He was a man of *youthful vitality* who never lost his vigor and enthusiasm even in his old age.

-He was a man who loved God until the day that he died.

-He was, in every sense, a **LEADER!**

Is there ever a character like Moses in all of history? A man who went to the mountain and saw the backside of God. A man who witnessed the fingers of Jehovah cutting out the ten commandments. A man who communed

with God concerning the laws for man. And a man who set forth the principles upon which every good law has since been predicated. And yet, a humble man. "*Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was upon the face of the earth*" (Numbers 12:3). Fittingly, Jehovah wrote the final epitaph on the life of Moses in Deuteronomy 34:10. "*Since then no prophet has arisen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.*"

Recently I had occasion to be in the gallery of the House of Representatives in the United States Capitol. The proceedings on the floor were rather uneventful and my eyes wandered a bit making a mental note here and there on articles of interest in the historic chamber. One thing that arrested my attention (and curiosity) were the twenty-three portraits encircling the room. According to the Capitol architectural staff, they represent the people who played a "noted part in the evolution of American law." There, cut out in white marble, were the likeness of greats like Cicero, Seneca, and Caesar of Rome, King Hammurabi of Babylon, Napoleon of France, and American statesmen Jefferson and Mason. And there, about halfway on the back wall was Moses.

The influence of Moses upon American law and order is easily recognized. Our nation was founded upon biblical principles of the Old Testament and our government of law was based upon a reverence for God and respect for one's fellow man which emanated from biblical teaching. The civil laws of Moses' law formed the basis for our laws and Constitution. Dr. Harold O. J. Brown underscored that fact when he wrote in **The Reconstruction of the Republic**: (pg. 19) "*...the Bible has had a tremendous formative influence on people and institutions even when it has not been accepted as the authoritative Word of God. It is perfectly*

correct to say that a substantial measure of American culture, attitudes, literary style, even language and laws and political institutions is biblical in origin and inspiration...the basic source of values in American society is biblical."

Most of these values can be traced directly back to Moses. God has always had a certain code of ethics and values that He legislated in order for man to get along with man. In fact, six of the ten commandments that Moses delivered to Israel refer to man's relationship with man.

Thou shalt not steal...Thou shalt not bear false witness...Thou shalt not murder...Thou shalt not commit adultery...Thou shalt not covet...Honor your father and mother.

As long as this simple code of morality is followed the same result will always be the same--a morally safe and sane society. And it was that code upon which our great nation was founded.

Few men are as widely respected and remembered as the great Jewish lawgiver named Moses. Few men have had so great an influence upon our nation as he. The next time you visit Washington D.C., go to the Capitol and visit the House of Representatives. Look for Moses. He's there and he's one of the reasons we are here.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Jim Edwards had a stint put in early last week.

Jeff Howerton is suffering with a staff infection in his lower leg. He fell victim to yet another infection while at Cardinal Hill. He hopes to be discharged this week. Calls, cards, and visits continue to be appreciated and desired.

Rick Small is in the process of recovering from a painful back strain.

Robin Miller (Jackie's mother) needs our prayers as she continues to deal with various health issues.

Our members: **Glenn Davis, The Tirey's, Glenn Kimberlin, Janet Brundige**

Others: **Vera Howerton, Ann Sego, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Sara Phillips, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Kay Montgomery, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Wes Kidd, Vera Howerton, Gail Stein, Glenn Goldy, Shannon Gilbert, Chuck McDavitt,**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Streaming Bible study every Tuesday at 7. This time Matt and I will be picking up in Mark 3:31. Please remember to tell people about this effort.

The congregational meeting will be today at 5.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Sunday: Jer 18-20, Ps 108, Rom 12-13
Monday: Jer 21-22, Ps 109, Rom 14-15
Tuesday: Jer 23-24, Ps 110, Rom 16
Wednesday: Jer 25-26, Ps 111, 1 Cor 1
Thursday: Jer 27-29, Ps 112, 1 Cor 2-3
Friday: Jer 30-31, Ps 113, 1 Cor 4-5
Saturday: Jer 32, Ps 114, 1 Cor 6-7

SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. "But You Say..." 2
(2 Chronicles 16:9)

Sunday PM. "I appeal to you..." 1
(2 Corinthians 5:20)