The enemy wants you to find your identity in anything but Christ!
Maria Harmon

You cannot disciple a demon, and you can't cast out the flesh.
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Prayer Study #505

MOSES AND THE PATTERN FOR FIGHTING THE FLESH NATURE

Background Information

1. Moses was a prophet, judge, deliverer, record and writer of God's Word, intercessor, military leader, worker of miracles, and shepherd of God's rebellious and unruly people. He is for the Old Testament what Paul is for the new. Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Bible known as the Pentateuch, the Torah, or the Books of the Law. He led as many as 2 ½ million people out of Egypt.

   1st Corinthians 12:31a-*But covet earnestly the best gifts…*

2. The Book of Exodus divides Moses' life into three periods of 40 years each.

   1st 40 years: Moses was educated, as a prince in the royal family, in the country (Egypt) with the most advanced civilization of the known world. Acts 7:21-22: *And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up and nourished him as her own son. And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and in deeds.*

   2nd 40 years: Moses lived as a nobody very much alone on the backside of the desert in Midian where he fled for refuge after murdering an Egyptian. Exodus 2:15: *Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian, and he sat down by a well.*

   3rd 40 years: Moses became the deliverer of God's people and, as such, is a type of Christ figure. He established God's covenant with the Israelites in the Sinai desert and led them to the borders of the promised land. Thus, 2/3rds of his life was a preparation for the final

third. The highlight of this period of Moses' life is when God appears to him and delivers the Ten Commandments as the basis for Israel's Covenant Law. God promises to provide for all Israel's needs and give them the land promised long ago to Abraham if they worshiped Him as their one and only true God. And they were to build a tabernacle, rectangular in shape and containing a tent where the covenant ark was housed. This ark was so sacred that the Israelites were not allowed to see it, and God's presence rested on it. Now the veil separating mankind from the Presence of God has been rent, and our own spirits now tabernacle the Holy Spirit with no separation except our own unrepentant sin which separates us from the presence of a holy God.

Matthew 27:51, Mark 15:38, and Luke 23:45: *And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in the midst.*

Hebrews 10:19-20: *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.*

1st Corinthians 6:19-20: *What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

3. Moses was recognized as a humble man, more humble than anyone on the face of the earth. This may refer to his humility in the service of God but also might refer to his long suffering or tolerance to these nomadic people who often murmured and complained against God and against Moses.

   Numbers 12:3: *(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men who were upon the face of the earth.*

4. Moses was not a perfect man. When the Lord called him, he made excuses, saying that the people would not believe him and that he could not speak well and lacked eloquence.

Exodus 4:1: *And Moses answered and said, "But, behold, they will not believe me nor hearken unto my voice; for they sill say, 'The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.'"*

Exodus 4:10: *And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant; and I am slow of speech and of a slow tongue.*
Furthermore, he once went beyond what the Lord had told him to do, because of all the stress he was under, and this sin kept him from being allowed to go into the Promised Land.

Exodus 20:7-12: *And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Take the rod and gather thou the assembly together, thou and Aaron, thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes, and it shall give forth its water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock; so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink." And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, "Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of the rock?" And Moses lifted up his hand and with the rod he smote the rock twice; and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank and their beasts also. And the LORD spoke unto Moses and Aaron, "Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them."*

C.I. Scofield comments on this passage of scripture: "The gravity of the offense may be seen from these features: Moses (1) took credit to himself for what God had done ("*must we'*) v.10: (2) disobeyed God in not speaking to the rock, v.11; (3) lost his temper (he struck the rock twice when told to speak to it), v. 11: (4) used a harsh expression in addressing the people ("*rebels,"* cp. Ps. 106:33), v. 10; (5) was provoked about their need and resented them ("*must we*"), v. 10; (5) was provoked about their need and resented them ("*must we"*), v.10: (6) was guilty of unbelief, because he did not trust the power of God, as though the power of God needed his help ("*believed me not"*), v.12; (7) failed to glorify God before his people ("*to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel"*), v. 12; and (8) rebelled against

God, v.24. Aaron was with him in this offense, so he suffered the same punishment.

5. At the transfiguration of Chirst, Moses appears with Elijah and Jesus symbolizing the harmony of the Law, the Prophetic and the Gospel.

   Matthew 17:1-3: *And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John, his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain privately and was transfigured before them; and his face did shine like the sun, and his raiment was as white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with him.*

6. The name of Moses occurs frequently in the Psalms and Prophets as the chief of the prophets. In the New Testament he is referred to as the representation of the law and a type of Christ.

   John 1:17: *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*

7. When the Israelites finally encamped in the plains of Moab, ready to cross the Jordan and possess the Promised Land, Moses' work was finished. He spoke to the assembled elders, blessed the tribes, and then ascended to the top of Pisgah and surveyed the land (which he was not allowed to enter), and died there at 120 years old. He is the only one in scripture to my knowledge who was buried by the Lord.

   Deuteronomy 34:5-68: *So Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD, and He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor, but no man knoweth of his sepulcher unto that day.*

   Deuteronomy 34:10: *And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.*

   Jude 1:9: *Yet Michael, the archangel, when commending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, daring not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke thee."*

8. Moses is the only person in the Old Testament to whom Christ likens Himself.

   John 5:45-47: ***Do you think that I accuse you to the Father; there is one that accused you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me; for he wrote of Me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe My words?***

Moses as a Type or Shadow of Jesus from Herbert Lockyer's *All the Men of the Bible*

Both were saved from infanticide (Exodus 2:2-10 & Matthew 2:14-15).
Both withstood temptation (Exodus 7:11 & Matthew 4:11).
Both fasted for forty days in solitude (Exodus 34:28 & Matthew 4:2).
Both had power to control the sea (Exodus 14:21 & Matthew 8:26).
Both fed a multitude (Exodus 16:26 & Matthew 14:20-21).
Both had a radiant face (Exodus 34:35 & Matthew 17:2).
Both endured murmurings and complaints (Exodus 15:24 & Mark 7:2).
Both were discredited at home (Numbers 12:1 & John 7:5).
Both were mighty intercessors (Exodus 32:32 & John 17).
Both spoke as the oracles of God (Deuteronomy 18:18 & John 7:46).
Both had seventy helpers (Numbers 11:16-17 & Luke 10:1).
Both established memorials (Exodus 12:14 & Luke 22:19).
Both appeared after death (Matthew 17:3 & Acts 1:3).

This is not to suggest that Moses is on an equal level with Jesus. He was just a forerunner type and shadow of the Christ that was to come. Moses was a mortal man not without sin. Jesus is God and without sin.

EXODUS 17:8-16

Victory over the Amalekites

8 *Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.* ***9*** *And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand."* ***10*** *So Joshua did as Moses said to him,*

and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. ***11*** *And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.* ***12*** *But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.* ***13*** *So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.*

14 *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven."* ***15*** *And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-Lord-Is-My-Banner;* ***16*** *for he said, "Because the Lord has sworn: the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."*

<u>Why Study the Old Testament?</u>

The Scriptures themselves give us insight into what is happening around us and help us interpret themselves. 1st Corinthians 15:46 tells gives us the principle, *First the natural, and then the spiritual*. In other words, what happens in the natural world is the Father God's way of showing us what is going on in the spiritual. A nation suffering a drought in the natural, for example, may be God's way of telling us that that nation is spiritual dry. We understand this and really *get it,* when we see so many examples of this in the Old Testament.

Also, Paul specifically tells us in 1st Corinthians 10:11 the Old Testament was written as an example to us of what to do and not to do:

6 *Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from*

setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ***7*** *Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry."* ***8*** *We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.* ***9*** *We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes.* ***10*** *And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.*
11 *These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.*

Finally, we can really understand the New Testament and the New Covenant we are under without some understanding of the Old Testament. The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed. The Old Testament in the New Testament is revealed. And the Jesus of the New Testament is the Jehovah God of the Old Testament.

In this particular passage of scripture, the Israelites were in the wilderness. They had miraculously passed over and through the Red (or Reid) Sea from Egypt into the promised land. This types leaving the world (Egypt), which is under the control of Satan (Pharaoh), and being baptized by the Holy Spirit in the blood of the Lamb into the Body of Christ, and thus being born again. [This is done in the Spirit and is the baptism that is spoken of in Ephesians 4:4-6: There is one body and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Paul means that you are not a Christian unless you have experienced this one and most important Baptism. There are, however, other baptisms as you walk the Walk. These include Water Baptism; the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, which is separate from the new birth; the Baptism of Fire: and the Baptism into His Sufferings. Since there are more than one baptisms, but only one Baptism into the Body of

Christ, the scripture in Hebrews 6:2a, which refers to the doctrine of *baptisms,* does not contradict Paul's writing in

Ephesians 4, when he says *one baptism*. The Egyptian warriors (demons) pursued the Israelites (the children of God, now washed in the blood and born again), and tried to follow suit and cross the dry bed of the sea, but the waters did not hold back for them and came crashing down on them and thus drowning and destroying the Pharaoh's army. We know this sea as the Red (i.e. the color of blood) Sea, although it is also known as the Reid Sea.

Next the Israelites entered the wilderness. At some point of your walk with Christ, you must go to the wilderness. This is a place of testing, dying to self, and preparation. It is not a fun place to be, but it is very necessary for you to mature and grow into a faithful follower of Jesus.

The first battle, the first time the Israelites engaged in warfare was with Amalek. Amalek was a descendent of Esau. Amalek was his grandson. Esau's descendents were also called in scripture Edomites. Esau and Amalek symbolize the flesh nature in the Word. The Amalekites laid wait for the Israelites attacking the rear part of the 2 ½ million people group. This was where the feeble, the old, the women and children were.

Warren e. Berkley and Jon W. Quinn in *Expository Files* say this about Esau:

"In ancient times, the birthright was a very important and sacred thing. It belonged to the firstborn. The family name and titles were to pass along to the eldest son. He would also receive a chief portion of the inheritance. But it was more than just a title to the physical assets of a family. It was also a spiritual position, and in the case of the people of God, God would lead the family through patriarchs, or fathers (Hebrews 1:1-2). Additionally, in the special case of

Esau and Jacob, that meant the one to whom belonged the birthright was the one through who the covenant promise

made to their grandfather, Abraham, would be realized. Ultimately, the Messiah would come through the holder of the birthright and bless the nations of the earth. Esau was the firstborn, and the birthright was his. But like many, he failed to appreciate its value and sacredness."

"...When Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished; and Esau said to Jacob, 'Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished.' Therefore his name was called Edom. But Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' Esau said, 'Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?' And Jacob said, 'First swear to me"; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright."
(Genesis 25:29-34).

"There you have it. For a pot of stew, poor, hungry Esau sold his birthright. Such crass behavior would be a little like selling your wedding ring for a hamburger cause you had not eaten all day, only worse. It tells of Esau's attitude toward the things of God; His purpose and His will. It shows a lack of reverence and respect. It shows the same thing we see in too many people today when it comes to how little they regard the Lord."

Rephidim is a place of rest. We have to fight the flesh, when we don't stay vigilant and on top of our game, when we rest and quit being faithful to daily prayer and Bible

reading. There is the rest of God that we are told to enter

into, but this does not mean we quit interacting with the Holy Spirit. Israel could not overcome Amalek, the flesh nature, by their own efforts, nor can we! We must rely on the Holy Spirit to help us. Paul says in Galatians 5:17 that the Spirit and the flesh are constantly against one another. He goes on to explain what the works of the flesh are:

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery (*unfaithfulness in marriage), fornication* (sex of any kind outside of marriage), *uncleanness (lewd and impure), lasciviousness* (lustful), *idolatry, sorcery* (drugs or the power gained from the assistance or control of evil spirits), *hatred, strife, jealousy, wrath, factions, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings* (partying), *and the like; of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past. That they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God* (Galatians 5:19-21).

The Message Bible puts Galatians 5:19-21 this way:

19-21 *It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on.This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this*

way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.

As long as Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed and was winning the battle. When he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. The raised hands are a universal sign of surrender- Moses was surrendering on behalf of his people to the Lord; the raised hand means you know the answer, and the answer for the world today is Jesus!; and a child raises his hand for his father to pick him up.

Moses became tired and could not continue without some help. He sat on a stone and had Aaron and Hur lift his arms. The stone represents Jesus Christ. He is the stone that the builders rejected in 1st Peter 2:6: *Wherefore, also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious; and he that believed on Him shall not be confounded.* Aaron and Hur represent the intercessory prayer ministry, which undergirds or holds up the hand of the leader by interceding for him in prayer.

There are three primary enemies of the Christian:

a. **The World**, which is overcome through faith, according to 1st John 5:4-5: *For whatever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*
b. **The Flesh**, which is overcome through dying, according to Romans 8:13: *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye, through the Spirit, do mortify* [or kill] *the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*
c. **The Devil,** who is overcome through resisting, according to 1st Peter 5:8-9: *Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

THE APPLICATION OF THIS SCRIPTURAL PASSAGE

1. Satan will use the flesh to bring about a Christian's defeat every time if he is able to do so.
2. You must be under the authority of the man with the rod of God in his hand, the man standing on the mountain, which types the Kingdom of God. Spiritual authority is extremely important, especially in this day marked by great rebellion against the things of God.
3. Don't be a lone ranger. You cannot win the battle without the Spirit's help and without the intercession and ministry of others. Hebrews 10:24-25: *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*
4. You must be seated with Christ, resting your entire self on Him and His word. Luke 6:46-49: ***"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things I say? Whoever comes to Me and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like; He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against the house and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently, and immediately it fell. And the ruin of the house was great."***
5. The fight goes on until the going down of the sun. I hate to tell you but the battle with the flesh last the entire duration of the Christian life.
6. If you don't slay Amalek, Amalek in the end will rise up and slay you. Saul disobeyed God by not slaying all the Amalekites, and in the end an Amalekite slew Saul after Saul attempted suicide (2nd Samuel 1:7-9).
7. You shall know the Truth and the Truth will set you free by taking every thought captive and meditating on the Word.
8. Christians are to steadfastly resist Satan's efforts by keeping their eyes, their attention, their thoughts fixed on the things surrounding the coming kingdom of Christ.