

God Is Government

Isaiah 33:22

“For the LORD is our judge, the
LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD
is our king; he will save us.”



THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MANKIND

PART FOUR

In this Part Four we are going into the Bible and look at two individuals – Moses and Abraham. The Bible gives us an interesting perspective of these two and the types of sovereignty God chooses to show us how He provides sovereignty to mankind. Let’s take a look!



The Waters of Meribah

Moses gives us an interesting perspective in this discussion. In Numbers 20, we read about Moses and the waters of Meribah. The Israelites gathered against Moses and Aaron because there was no water to drink. This is not a trivial problem. They have more than a million people and there is no water. Moses and Aaron fall on their faces before God over the matter, and the LORD tells Moses to go and speak to the rock so that water would come out for the people. This is slightly different than the previous time God had Moses bring water out of a rock. At Horeb in Exodus 17:6, God told Moses to strike the rock. This time, God tells Moses to simply speak:



7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 8 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 his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

Numbers 20:7-8

This seems simple enough, but we see in the next few verses that Moses disobeys God’s order. Now one could say that this was no big order like the movie “A Few Good Men” when Tom Cruise was questioning Colonel Jessup played by Jack Nicholson about whether or not those under him could make the decision as to which orders they could follow.

Moses was frustrated, and he has great crowds of people haggling hi and wailing about what they do not have, still not trusting God after all this time. He is upset and not a little irritated, and he does not think that

words are good enough. Instead of speaking as God said, Moses strikes the rock two times with his rod. Water comes gushing out.

Now looking back at Moses life, he has had forty years in Egypt and forty years herding sheep in Midian. He led the Israelites through the plagues and the Exodus. He acted as their leader through the better part of forty years in the wilderness. He is tired. He is frustrated at the continuous complaining from the children of Israel. Instead of speaking to the rock, he whacks it a couple of times. It is understandable, but God has words for Moses:

And the LORD spake 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.

Numbers 20:12

We think this is not such a big transgression. We can understand Moses' frustrations, and it seems like God is overreacting. Moses has been faithful to God with this massive responsibility on his shoulders. He has led these troublesome people for decades, and he makes one screw up and he is in the penalty box – big time. Because of this incident, Moses is denied entry into the land of promise. He is allowed to see it from a mountaintop, but he is not allowed to go in. He dies before they go to possess the land, and Joshua takes over the leadership.

This seemingly small act of disobedience is quite a big deal for a lot of reasons. We can make an entire study of it. There is a whole list of subtleties involved here, and we won't go through them all because we have a different purpose here. However, a few things stand out.

First, Moses misrepresented God to the people of Israel. He gave the impression that God was upset, and God was not upset. That alone should give us pause. How many of us have been guilty of misrepresenting God? How many of us have failed to speak up when we should have, or have treated people roughly when God would have been gentle? Those of you who are parents how many times have you been so angry with your children you could strangle their neck? I bet you even said those exact words. Consider how many times you have done the same thing to God! The Third Commandment: Thou shalt not take the name of the

LORD thy God in vain; is all about representing God well. We took His name and we stood under His banner. The challenge of our lives is to live by His Spirit, and by His Spirit to bear good fruits. The Challenge is for us to reflect Him.

We also see in Numbers 20 that Moses took some credit for the water, Saying in verse 10, “Hear now, ye rebels, must we fetch you water out of this rock?” Wait a minute. Who is fetching the water? Moes and Aaron are not. God is the One providing the water for the people.

I appreciate it when people offer encouragement to our ministry and let us know they have been blessed by it. However, there are times it makes us nervous. It is vital we remember that any fruit from this ministry is produced by the Spirit of God. We word hard, but it is God who does the real work that has lasting importance. We can do a lot of damage if we think we are the reason for any of it.

There is another dimension in Numbers 20 that can be overlooked, and I think it is the most important issue here. If Moses had done what God asked him to do, if he had spoken to the rock rather than striking it, he would have offered us a model of the First and Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Christ is the Rock from which living water springs, as Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:4. Jesus was only struck on His first appearance on earth. When He comes again, he will be the King. It is my personal presumption that had Moses done it the way God wanted to, it would become a type, a picture of Jesus. Moses blew the type, thought, because he did not do what God wanted him to do.

God did not foreordain Moses to blow the type. He did not purpose Moses to disobey Him. God had a picture planned, and Moses smudged it. We are only able to see it because Moses had the humility to include the whole story when he wrote the book of Numbers.

The Mountains of Moriah

We find a contrasting example of Genesis 22. There, God asked Abraham to offer his son Isaac on a mountain in Moriah and Abraham did exactly what God wanted him to do. Mount Moriah was foreshadowing Christ crucifixion because Mt Moriah is Mt Clavary where Christ hung from the cross. God didn't let Abrahams go through with the sacrifice of his child; God stopped him and provided a ran in Isaac's place. However, Abraham was ready to go through with the sacrifice of his precious son, and he

knew it. He names the place Jehovah Jireh, “the LORD see” saying, “In the Mount of the LORD it shall be seen.”

We know that 2000 years later Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, was sacrificed on the very same spot. Genesis 22 clearly and intentionally models what God had prophetically in mind. Abraham was faithful to do exactly what God had asked of him. That is significant.

We see here two different instances in which God directed His servants to do something specific. In one case, the case of Abraham, the servant did precisely as he was directed, and in the other case, the case of Moses, he did not. Because God’s orders to Moses are recorded, we can see where they were going, but God had to make it clear that Moses’ transgression was not a small one.

Did Moses go to Heaven? We know he did. He did not lose his salvation because he disobeyed God, but his disobedience did have earthly consequences for him.

The decisions we make to obey God in everything or not does not affect your salvation because it is sealed. However, disobedience cause judgment and judgment will always be to remove part of our inheritance of God’s Kingdom of Heaven here on earth. In all cases, we have our sovereignty but that sovereignty if not used correctly will result in the total opposite of that which we seek.