MOSES

The Birth of a Deliverer - Exodus 1-2



Class 5 - Alone in Midian Exodus 2:15-25

SERIES OUTLINE

1 - The Genesis Foundation	Genesis 15:12-21
2 - Terror in Egypt	Exodus 1
3 - The Birth of a Deliverer	Exodus 2:1-9
4 - A Man Mighty in Word and Deed	Exodus 2:10-15
5 - Alone in Midian	Exodus 2:15-25

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Goals: to realize that these stories are about real people with real struggles, and yet these struggles moulded and shaped the most humble man save the Lord Jesus Christ.

SERIES OUTLINE

4 - A Man Mighty in Word and Deed

4 - A Man Mighty in Word and Deed - Fleeing to Midian

4 - A Man Mighty in Word and Deed

- Fleeing to Midian
- God's Providence

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Core:

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Why:

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Why: did Moses meet Reuel and his family?

A PERFECT TIMETABLE

Everything had *looked* right.

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And Moses had miraculously been saved at birth.

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Genesis 15:1-3 → "what wilt thou give me?"

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Ten years after the promise, Sarah thought she had a solution.

Genesis 17:18-19 - "And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee! And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him."

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cp. Genesis 12:4, 21:5

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The same happened with David when running away from Saul…

…and with Hezekiah when he was struck with sickness.



TO MIDIAN

Not understanding God's plan, Moses ran.



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The record reads as though Moses was just passing through.



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Exodus 2:15

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"and dwelt in the land of Midian"

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TO MIDIAN

Exodus 2:15

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TO MIDIAN

Exodus 2:15

"and dwelt in the land of Midian" = a summary

He sat down by a well, stopping on his way to nowhere.

PRIEST'S DAUGHTERS

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Exodus 2:16-17

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What's up with that?

PRIEST'S DAUGHTERS

Just consider the support of a priest under the law of Moses:

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Ancient societies were the same way!

Being a priest was not just a hobby.

And, priests were leaders in the community!

So, what's happening here?

So, what's happening here?

And why did this priest have his own sheep?

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And why were they being shepherded by his *daughters*…

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Why are his followers *not supporting him?*

GODLY ROOTS

Consider some history.

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Genesis 25:1-2

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Genesis 25:1-2 → "she bare him…Midian"

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notice anything non-pagan about the name?

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it's singular!

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Yet, perhaps the most telling indicator of Reuel's faith comes *after* the Exodus.

Exodus 18:12 - “And Jethro, Moses’ father in law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God: and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses’ father in law before God.”

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And so, the next day, he gave Moses Godly advice…

His advice is said in the way that only a man of God could:

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Exodus 18:19-21 - "Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God: and thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens."

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Perhaps *that* is why Reuel was not supported by the people.


JUSTICE

And so there was Moses.



And so there was Moses.



And he had a strong sense of justice.

And so there was Moses.



And he had a strong sense of justice. Acts 7:24

He couldn’t just stand by and watch.

He couldn't just stand by and watch.

He was a man who had been mighty in deed!

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Exodus 2:17

He couldn't just stand by and watch.

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Exodus 2:17 One man against a group of men!

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Exodus 2:17 One man against a group of men!

And yet, he was going to do more than just rescue the girls.

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Exodus 2:19 → "enough for us, and watered our flocks"

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דָּלָה דָּלָה H1802

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דָּלֹה דָלָה H1802

He *drew a ton!*

Exodus 2:19 YLT - "And they say, 'A man, an Egyptian, hath delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also hath diligently drawn for us, and watereth the flock;'"

Exodus 2:19 YLT - "And they say, 'A man, an Egyptian, hath delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also hath diligently drawn for us, and watereth the flock;'"

This was Moses's character.

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It wasn't important how tired or broken he was.

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cp. Matthew 14:12-14

UNEXPECTED



Moses sat at the well.

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Exodus 2:18-19

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Exodus 2:18-19 These run-ins were a daily occurrence!

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Exodus 2:20

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Exodus 2:20 But Moses was to find much more than a meal.

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Exodus 2:21-22

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Exodus 2:21-22 Moses married Zipporah and had a son.

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UNEXPECTED

These two verses cover decades of time.



Acts 7:29-30 - “Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons. And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.”

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These weren't teenage boys!

Acts 7:29-30 - "Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons. And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush."

He was there for 40 years!

And at the end of the time, his children still seem to be young!

Exodus 4:20 → "and set them upon an ass"

These weren't teenage boys!

But why does this matter anyway?

Because it helps us to understand their names.

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The name was an acknowledgment that *Moses still believed in the promise!*

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And just as He had delivered Moses from Pharaoh, God could *help* the nation.

Moses gave these names to his children only a few years before the burning bush.

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By no means were these years a spiritual drought.

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This is what we must do when we are broken!


A PSALM

Just to reinforce the assertion of Moses's faith during this period…



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…consider the psalm that he wrote.

The title of Psalm 90 shows that Moses wrote it.

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And some of the details indicate that he wrote it while in Midian.

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These 40 years of exile, Moses was growing.

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He kept his faith, *and* God was working with him.

BROKEN

Thus, for 40 years, God was teaching Moses humility.

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Without it, Moses could not be leader.

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He *knew* that he was talented. He *knew* that he could get what he wanted.

Everything changed on the day that he fled from Egypt.

Moses's faith in *himself* had to be broken.

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Luke 3:8

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Luke 3:8 → "God is able of these stones to raise up…"

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Luke 3:8 → "God is able of these stones to raise up…"

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He became totally reliant upon God. I Samuel 17:37

This was a job that could teach him *true humility*.

IT WAS ALL ABOUT GOD'S GREATNESS!

TRUE HUMILITY

Often when we think about humility, we think about only one piece of it.

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Often when we think about humility, we think about only one piece of it.

We think about breaking our pride.

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But humility is much more!

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TRUE HUMILITY

But humility is much more!

It doesn't simply mean acknowledging that we are nothing.

Biblical humility has two parts:

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2 - An acknowledgment that because of God, we are *something.*

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We are weak and frail, but God can use us mightily.

1 Peter 5:5-6 - "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."

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And so they had to be broken—recognizing that *God* could lift them up.

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2 Corinthians 12:7-9 → "my strength is made perfect in weakness"

Moses had to learn that he wouldn't deliver the people because *he* was mighty in word and deed.

MISUNDERSTANDING

Unfortunately, in Midian, Moses only seemed to learn one aspect of humility.



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He didn't realize that *through God,* he could do all things!

Exodus 3:10-11

Exodus 3:10-11 → "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh?"

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Exodus 4:10

Exodus 3:10-11 → "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh?"

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cp. Acts 4:13

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God hasn't chosen us because of our talents!

God has chosen us *because He loves us.*

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Such is His greatness.

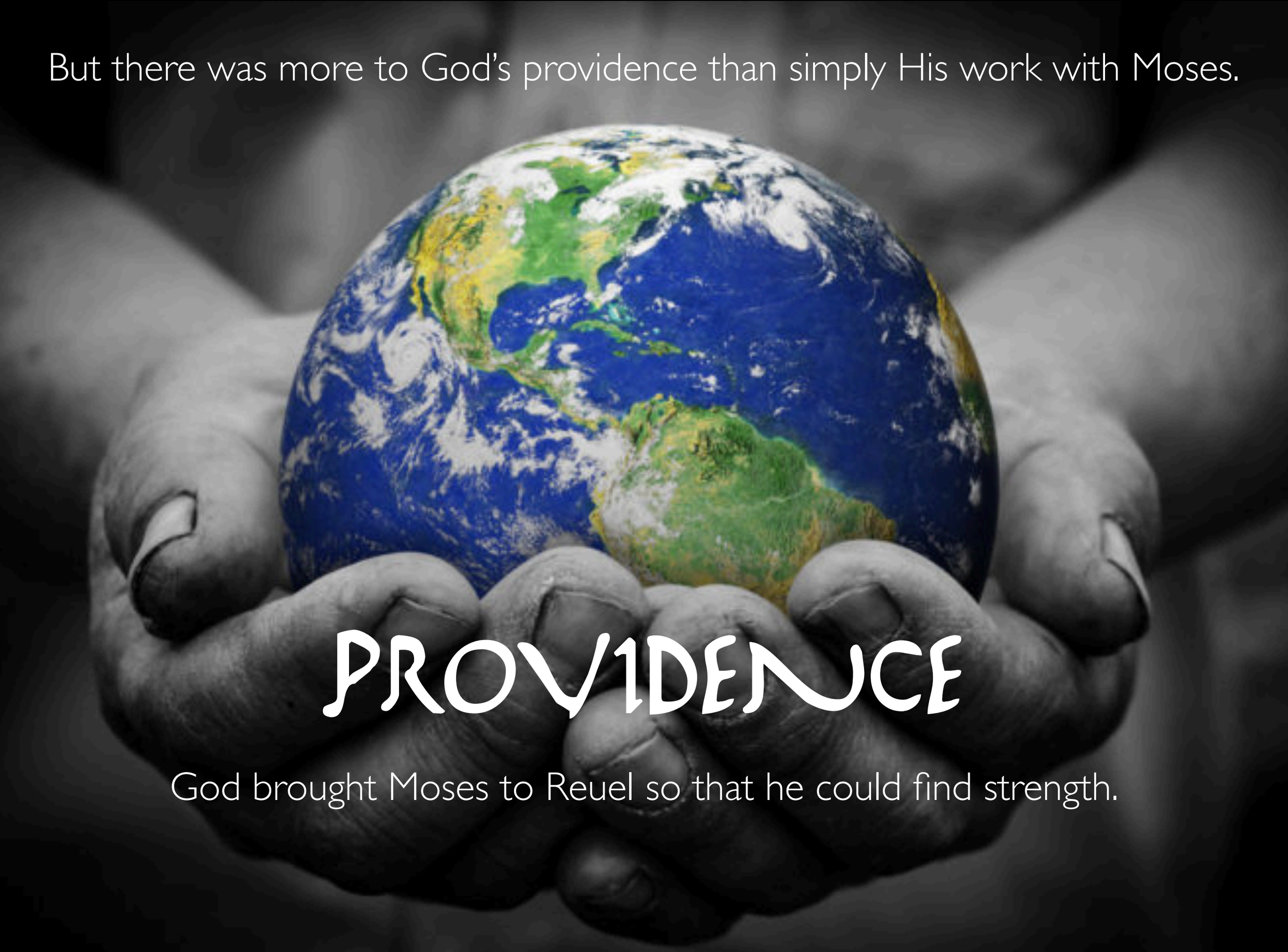
PROVIDENCE

But there was more to God's providence than simply His work with Moses.



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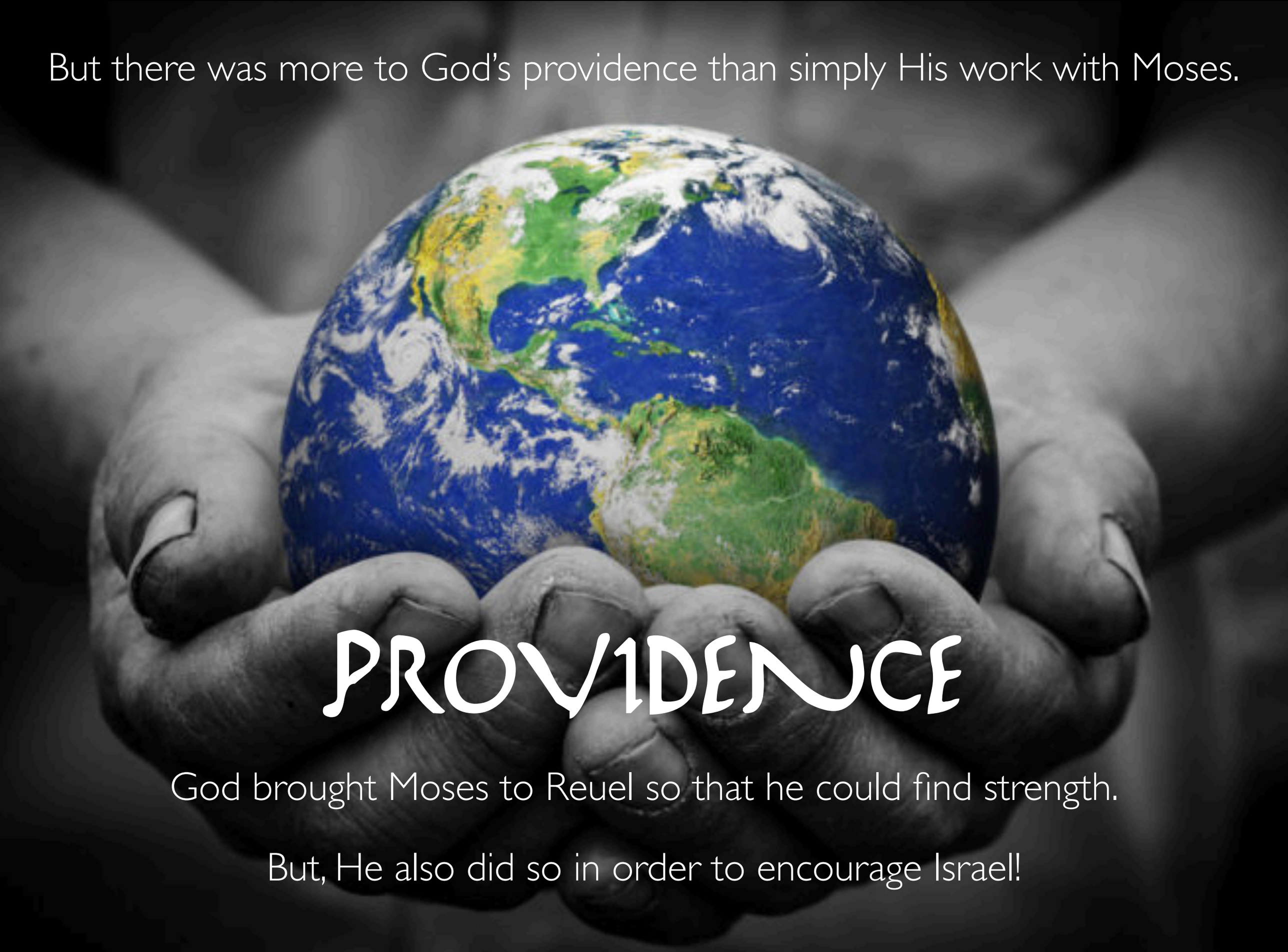
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But, He also did so in order to encourage Israel!

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They dwelt with Israel, in the midst of Judah!

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So, Jeremiah does:

Jeremiah 35:6-7 - "But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever: neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have any: for all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers."

And what did the Rechabites do?

Jeremiah 35:8-10 - "Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters; nor to build houses for us to dwell in: neither have we vineyard, nor field, nor seed: but we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us."

And Judah should have done the same.

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Jeremiah 35:13-14 - "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will ye not receive instruction to hearken to my words? saith the LORD. The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, that he commanded his sons not to drink wine, are performed; for unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's commandment: notwithstanding I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye hearkened not unto me."

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…God used Reuel's descendants to teach His people.

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God works thousands of years in the future.

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Your suffering could be for your sake.

Or it could also be for the sake of someone who hasn't yet been born.


A SHADOW

And ultimately, again, God was shaping Moses to show a picture of His son.



A SHADOW

Moses drove away the wicked shepherds.

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Ezekiel 34:10-11 - "Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them. For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out."

And in driving away the wicked shepherds, he rescued gentiles.

At that point, he drew water for them and their flocks.

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John 4:10 - "Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water."

And most of all, it was through these experiences that he learned to be a *true deliverer.*

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Hebrews 5:8 - "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered."

For us, perhaps, that is the strongest lesson.

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Because true humility acknowledges that God can work in us mightily