

Ponderings in Hebrews

The following is a Messianic Study on

Hebrews 11:23-30 Moses

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Brit Chadashah (*the New Covenant*) is a Messianic Fellowship in Sydney. We meet together fortnightly for Bible studies from a Messianic Jewish Perspective. We are a unique fellowship made up of Jewish and Gentile people who are believers in Yeshua as the promised Messiah of Israel. Brit Chadashah is part of a worldwide Messianic Jewish movement of hundreds of fellowships.

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If you don’t know Yeshua as your Messiah, we encourage you to search out the Scriptures for yourself. God promised in the book of Jeremiah, “*You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*” (Jeremiah 29:13)

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Celebrate Messiah has been sharing the love of Messiah with Jewish people in Australia since it was founded in 1995 by Lawrence and Louise Hirsch. Lawrence is a Jewish believer in Yeshua (Jesus) and the current Executive Director of Celebrate Messiah.
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Hebrews 11:23-30 by faith Moses

Moses' parents: Amram and Jochebed

Hebrews 11:23

²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

His *parents Amram and Jochebed* (Exodus 6:20) hid Moses, because of the edict of pharaoh to drown the Jewish babies (Exodus 2:2-10) not doing so would have been certain death for Moses. They hid him for two reasons; they were not afraid of the edict, if discovered their disobedience would have been certain death for them. But secondly and curiously it says they saw that “the child was beautiful”, the same word is used in Acts 7:20 where it is translated as “lovely” or “*exceeding fair*”. The overwhelming majority of parents think of their child as beautiful! So is this about two proud parents praising a peculiar beautiful boy? Let's read the words spoken by *Amram and Jochebed* in Exodus 2:2 about *Moses*. There his parents think Moses is טוב (tov) good.

The Hebrew is insightfully explained by Rabbi Beno Jacob טוב, *tov* is also used in the creation account “and God saw that it was good,” (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 17, 21, 25, 31). Rabbi Jacob noted: “*She looked upon her child with a joy similar to that of God upon His creation (Gen 1:4ff.)*” (Rabbi Beno Jacob: *The Second Book of the Bible: Exodus*, p25).

Just as God had purpose in creation, so by faith his parents understood that he was going to do some good. And so by faith took steps to save his life despite danger to their own.

Moses

Hebrews 11:24–28

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ considering the reproach of messiah greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them.

Moses was no longer a child but 40 years old (Acts 7:23) when he became aware of the travail of his people. It is then that Moses decides to stand with the Jewish people by refusing to be called *the son of Pharaoh's daughter*. The prince of Egypt choosing to be mistreated, his choice had consequences, understanding a life with God is better than earthly pleasures. Moses perceived that to be part of the Covenant People you must turn from sin and even endure (suffer) ill-treatment (affliction).

Verse 26 “considering the reproach of Messiah” Moses could not have known all the details of the life of Messiah, though it is possible that he like Abraham had been given a revelation of Messiah (John 8:56). If the verse speaks of Messiah which most commentators think, it is based on the connections in their lives; Messiah had left His majesty and glory in heaven

when He came to earth to save His people, so too Moses had to leave his majesty and glory bestowed by Egypt to save his people. As such Moses rejected the worldly pleasures as he was looking for the reward from God.

In sole contrast Messianic Jewish scholar Dr Arnold Fruchtenbaum points out "... the Greek word, "Christ," used here refers to Israel as the anointed nation (Ps. 89:50-51). Moses chose to suffer reproach with *the people of God*." (Arnold Fruchtenbaum: Messianic Jewish Epistles p162-3) the word *anointed* translated into Greek is Christ or Hebrew is Messiah and note that in the text it does not say The Messiah, so perhaps it is lower case referring to the 'anointed' nation, rather than the Anointed One, the Messiah Himself. And Moses indeed suffered reproach with the nation called, anointed by God.

Moses left Egypt twice, first in fear of his life (Exodus 2:14-15) but in the second leaving when he leads the people of Israel out of Egypt he was filled with faith and not afraid of the anger of the pharaoh (Exodus 10:28; 12:50-51). For Moses had perceived Him who is invisible (Exodus 33:11; Numbers 12:8) was able to deliver him and the nation. It is therefore in faith he kept the very first Passover and commanded regarding the sprinkling of the lamb's blood in the door post (Exodus 12:21-23), so that death might not touch them that night (Exodus 12:23, 29).

Moses' People

Hebrews 11:29-30

²⁹ By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though *they were passing* through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

The final reference is not to Moses himself but to the nation that come out with him out of Egypt, it was by faith the people of Israel crossed the Red Sea as on dry land (Exodus 14:22–29), but their enemies the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned (Exodus 14:30). It is by faith that they left and by faith the city of Jericho come under their control (Joshua 6). Even though at times they lacked faith (Hebrews 3:16) here is the moment of faith.

Friends, the apostle Paul wrote: "So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17 (NKJV) in light of what the author of Hebrews had to say about Moses' parents, Moses himself and about his people; let us delve into the word of God, and hear about the faith of these men and women, that they may inspire us to be strong and courageous, not to be frightened, nor dismayed, about his or that, for the unseen God is with us wherever we go. They all faced trials and tribulations and they all by faith stood firm, so let us be inspired to stand strong looking to Yeshua the author of our salvation (Hebrews 12:2).

*Hope this illuminated your understanding
Blessings in Messiah Yeshua
Paul & Sue Cohen*