

# **Sunday School Lesson**

**January 23, 2022**

**JUSTICE, JUDGES AND PRIESTS**

**Deuteronomy 16:18-20, 17:8-13**

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**1**

# Questions for Us Today

How do you define justice?

2

When you hear Moses' name mentioned, what do you think about?

# **Sunday School Lesson Objectives**

- 1. To review points of information in the life of Moses.**
- 2. To see some of what the Lord directed Moses to tell the Israelites, just before they entered the Promise Land.**
- 3. To understand God's justice requirements for the Israelites – and for us.**

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments**

**1. Points of Information: Moses**

**2. Lesson Context**

**3. Lesson Text**

## **Points of Information – Moses**

**The importance of Moses in Scripture cannot be overstated. Moses is mentioned almost 800 times in the Bible. The final reference to him is in Revelation 15:3, where he is called “the servant of God.”**

**5**

**The first five Books of the Bible are known as the Pentateuch (the Torah): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These Books are attributed to the hand of Moses. Jesus confirmed the writing of Moses in John 5:45-47.**

## Points of Information – Moses

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At the time of the birth of Moses, the Israelite population had grown astronomically. Therefore, the Pharaoh was fearful of these people in Egypt and he declared that all newborn Hebrew baby boys were to be thrown into the water to drown.

Exodus 1:8-10, 22.

## Points of Information – Moses

Moses' mother, fearing for the life of her baby, put the boy into a tiny basket and cast him on the river. Moses' sister watched this and saw that the daughter of Pharaoh had the baby plucked from the water. The sister's suggestion that the birth mother of the baby be the nursemaid was accepted. Pharaoh's daughter named the infant "Moses," which means "drawn out of the water."

Exodus 2:2-10.

## Points of Information – Moses

Moses (thus) grew up in the palace as the son of the Pharaoh's daughter, although his mother was able to instill in him his Hebrew background.

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When he saw one of his Hebrew fellows being beaten by an Egyptian, Moses killed the Egyptian. Then, as he saw two Hebrews fighting and tried to intervene, one of them told him that they knew of the murder he had committed. Fearful of being punished for this, Moses fled to the land of Midian.

Exodus 2:11-15.



# Points of Information – Moses

After marrying a daughter (Zipporah) of the priest (Jethro) in Midian and after the Pharaoh whom he knew had died, Moses had his first direct encounter with God, Who appeared in a burning bush. The Lord directed Moses to go and lead the Israelites out of their bondage in Egypt.

9

Exodus 2:21, 23; 3:1-10.

## Points of Information – Moses

Initially, Moses was a reluctant spokesperson for the Lord. He (Moses) complained that he was not a good speaker. God had a powerful plan for his life nonetheless. Exodus 4:10-16.

10

Moses experienced a theophany – a face-to-face encounter with God – on more than one occasion. Deuteronomy 34:10. Exodus 33:11 shows the close relationship between God and Moses: “The Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.” (NKJV)

# Points of Information – Moses

Moses' life and accomplishments are briefly summarized in the Biblical Chapter often known as the "Hall of Faith:" Hebrews 11:23-29.

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In Acts 7:20-44, Dr. Luke wrote that Stephen (in a sermon just before he was stoned to death) spoke extensively about the life, mission and ministry of Moses.

# Points of Information – Moses

12

Moses lived for 120 years. Deuteronomy 34:7. His life can be divided into three periods of 40 years each: 1) In Egypt, as one of favor and ultimately as a prince in the palace of Pharaoh; 2) in the Midian desert, as a shepherd; and, 3) in the wilderness, as the leader of the Children of Israel.

Moses is the only person in Scripture whom God Himself buried. Deuteronomy 34:5-6.

# Points of Information – Moses

13

Jesus was observed – by His three closest Disciples (Peter, James and John) – talking with Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration.  
Matthew 17:1-3; Mark 9:2-4; Luke 9:28-30; 2 Peter 1:16-18.

# Justice, Judges and Priests

## Context – Part 1

In the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses presented and reiterated the Law from the Lord to a new generation of Israelites.

14

Moses started off being the judge for the Israelites.

In Exodus 18:13-26, Jethro (Moses' father-in-law) told Moses to lighten his load by appointing other judges over the people. Moses did so and then advised the people to appoint judges and officials (to support the judges) in every town of the new nation.

# **Justice, Judges and Priests**

## **Context – Part 2**

**15**

**Throughout the earlier Chapters of the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses reminded the Israelites of all that God had done for them – especially in delivering them from the Egyptian captivity under the Pharaoh. And, Moses told the people they must obey the Commandments of the Lord.**

**Moses told the people to remember God's promises to the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) and to prepare themselves to enter the Promise Land (which he describes).**

# **Justice, Judges and Priests**

## **Context – Part 3**

**16**

**As the Israelites were coming out of the wilderness and just before they entered the Promise Land, Moses told the people explicitly that God was providing them with the potential for both blessings (for obedience to the Lord) and curses (for disobedience). Deuteronomy 11:26-28, 31-32; 28:1-68.**



# **Justice, Judges and Priests**

## **Context – Part 4**

**The Lord had very specific instructions for Moses to give to the people, as to how they were to conduct themselves, deal with enemies, what (and what not) to eat and (in today's text) how justice was to be administered.**

# **Justice, Judges and Priests**

## **Lesson Text:**

**Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 17:8-13**

## **Deuteronomy 16:18 (NRSV)**

**You shall appoint judges and officials throughout your tribes, in all your towns that the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall render just decisions for the people.**

## Deuteronomy 16:19

**You must not distort justice; you must not show partiality; and you must not accept bribes, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of those who are in the right.**

## Deuteronomy 16:20

**Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, so that you may live and occupy the land that the Lord your God is giving you.**

## Deuteronomy 17:8

If a judicial decision is too difficult for you to make between one kind of bloodshed and another, one kind of legal right and another, or one kind of assault and another – any such matters of dispute in your towns – then you shall immediately go up to the place that the Lord your God will choose,

## **Deuteronomy 17:9**

**where you shall consult with the Levitical priests and the judge who is in office in those days; they shall announce to you the decision in the case.**

## Deuteronomy 17:10

**Carry out exactly the decision that they announce to you from the place that the Lord will choose, diligently observing everything they instruct you.**



## Deuteronomy 17:11

**You must carry out fully the law that they interpret for you or the ruling that they announce to you; do not turn aside from the decision that they announce to you, either to the right or to the left.**

## Deuteronomy 17:12

**As for anyone who presumes to disobey the priest appointed to minister there to the Lord your God, or the judge, that person shall die. So you shall purge the evil from Israel.**

## Deuteronomy 17:13

**All the people will hear and be afraid, and will not act presumptuously again.**

## Remember this:

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV).

## Remember this:

**When the Lord tells us to do something, we should...**

**Remember this:**

**JUST DO IT!**

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