Jesus Lopez

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English 115

Outline

A. Exploration

I wanted to look at the character arc of Moses and his life as a spokesperson for God. I also wanted to examine the relationship between the two.

B. Text

 **God thinks that Moses bears responsibility.**

1. Exodus 32.7-8 “The Lord said to Moses, ‘Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I have commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’”

The use of “your people” puts the responsibility on Moses to have better control over the Israelites. This shows that God is entrusting Moses to not only be their physical guide but also their spiritual one as well. This shows that God has faith in Moses to become the leader that he thinks he can be.

**Moses sasses God and shows a lack of faith**

2. Numbers 11.10-12 “Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, ‘Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have you not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors’?” (14-15) “I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once,”

By questioning God and his reluctance to ease the burden show that there are some weaknesses on Moses’ part. That Moses doesn’t trust that he can handle this task as God has commanded him to shows that he doesn’t have full faith in God’s plan.

**Moses steals God’s thunder**

Numbers 20.10 Moses said, “Listen, you, rebels, shall we bring water out for you out of this rock?”

The use of “we” is probably intended to include God, but because it is physically Aaron and Moses standing at the rock, the people may take it to mean that it is they that are performing the deed. This takes glory from God.

**Strike three… errr… two?**

Numbers 20.12 “But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ‘Because you did not trust in me, to show my holiness before the eyes of the Israelites, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.’”

By hitting the rock twice and not trusting that God would do as he promised, it takes away from the glory of God and leads Moses to be denied access to the promised land.

**Redemption for Moses**

 Deuteronomy 34.4 “The Lord said to him, ‘This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.’”

As he is about to die God allows Moses to see the land that he is denied entry to. It shows that there is a level of respect/appreciation for all that Moses has done for the Israelites.

C. Understanding

I was able to gain a better understanding as to why Moses was denied access to the land with my readings as there wasn’t one minor transgression but a few. The moments where Moses lacked faith are what eventually cost him, but it was all of his work leading the Israelites that maintained his favor with God.

D. Conclusion

With my initial reading of the book I found God to be a little intolerable, however, after reading it a little more closely I see that there were instances where Moses faltered and that is what led to his exclusion. At the end there is a bit of redemption for Moses as he is allowed to cast his eyes on the land that he worked so hard to get to. It shows that Moses wasn’t a blind servant as he had some run-ins with God but that he ultimately followed most of the tenets of God that made him one of the most revered characters in the Bible.