

THE TENETS OF MOSAIC FAITH: WHAT MOSES BELIEVED

From Psalm 90

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From Psalm 90. THE TENETS OF MOSAIC FAITH. WHAT MOSES BELIEVED, #1

MOSES BELIEVED: That God is the common denominator of every and all generation of believers and through all of time.

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations" v.1. This revealed comprehension must be renewed in every generation that appears, lest it be displaced by reliance on human experience.

- The "dwelling place" is an invisible yet present personage; not a set of temporal conditions.
- This is a contradiction to human intuition and its philosophic extension; now called environmentalism. The cosmos of material forces, the earth, and nature are not the real dwelling place of mankind. Moses believed that man and his world both dwell within the dwarfing spiritual dwelling place.
- There are *rules for living in such proximity to God, the "dwelling place"*. The Almighty provides the functions of support and protection. The "dwelling place" is a regulated spiritual environment.

Revelation has the general focus of enabling men to look beyond the apparent world, known by the central nervous system, to the greater spiritual reality that surrounds us all. On this foundation, Moses led the Israelites out of slavery, to the Red Sea, into the waste of Sinai and through the 40 years that followed. One day, many years later and after his death, suddenly, Moses stepped across the threshold between the spiritual and the material at the moment of Jesus' transfiguration. "And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him"-- Matthew 17:3.

Then, this we know. The dead and the living both are still within the supernatural dwelling place. Past generations are right over there; not very far. Not far.

From Psalm 90. THE TENETS OF MOSAIC FAITH. WHAT MOSES BELIEVED, #2.

MOSES BELIEVED: That the prevailing reality is God and therefore not materiality.

"Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God" v.2. The great man believed that time, space and matter are dependencies of God and therefore not pre-existent to the Lord of creation. Matter is

not eternal nor is it all that there is. Moses understood that the presence of matter and energy are not self-explanatory.

By faith, then, true and sufficient explanations for the human state of being are not to be found in the weave of material conditions. Rather, there is a God who "gave birth" to the particles. Nothing comes from nothing. Moses rejected the entire ideology that matter and energy self-organize.

Such a *Mosaic Belief* affects how one prays and how one deals with the human material condition. The world of matter and energy are, therefore, not determinant; they are not the prevailing reality. Yet, when crisis or trouble comes, there is the human tendency to reach for material solutions rather than for the *Mosaic Tenets of Belief*.

The world of particles puts a cap on biblical faith if we are not Mosaic. This child of Abraham confronted the Pharaoh of Egypt with the conviction that time, matter and energy are contexted and controlled by the One who is "from everlasting --> to everlasting".

This Mosaic Tenet puts the world of everyday experience in its place: "You are God." Our experience of the world cannot limit revealed truth.

From Psalm 90. THE TENETS OF MOSAIC FAITH. WHAT MOSES BELIEVED, #3

MOSES BELIEVED: That men in time are purely contingent upon God.

"You turn men back into dust and say, 'Return, O children of men'" v.3. Human existence, my existence, your existence, is a tangible expression of the will of God. And so is death. That is the cost of sin. Both *life and death are manifestations of the reach of the power of God and the will of God*. Both of them are symbols of the eternal intention.

Nothing can bespeak the burning intensity of the Almighty more than these two tangible facts, with which we must contend. The Lord maintains across the passage of time a desire to establish a unity of mind between Himself --> and the human mind.

"Return, O children of men." To what? one may ask. To the eternal, revealed meaning of human life. Revealed meaning is precedential to (that is, it precedes) our temporal existence. And it is to be articulated into our personal thought, speech and behavior.

Mosaic understanding rejects *antinomianism*. This is the ideology that claims there is no moral law, no moral obligation to which men are held accountable by God. This revealed truth of Psalm 90 is of incalculable importance to each one of us as every day, every year turns into personal history. All men, everywhere, are burdened by supernatural constraints and equally accountable to eternal expectations. A day is coming to each of us, like no other.

From Psalm 90. THE TENETS OF MOSAIC FAITH. WHAT MOSES BELIEVED, #4

MOSES BELIEVED: That faith is a battle of perspectives; a struggle, over which perspective will displace the other.

"For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or as a watch in the night" v.4. A man sees things in discrete ways. He cannot see it all. The future is unknown to us as individuals. That is the perspective of a man. But the perspective of God is complete. To Him all of time and everything in it is immediate. ..."a thousand years ...are like yesterday...or as a watch in the night".

There is a kind of faith that seeks to reconcile the two perspectives, but there is no reconciliation possible. Mosaic Faith does not seek to reconcile the perspective of God and the human perspective. Rather Mosaic Faith pursues a course of *displacement*. The faith of Moses was on display as he led the Israelites for 40 years. Through every trying moment and every exhausting ordeal, Moses had to displace trust in his limited personal human perspective in favor of confidence in the perspective of the Lord.

He waited on the Lord. Not an easy thing to do.

Mosaic Faith is, perhaps by many, considered to be unnecessarily radical. Such a faith is counterintuitive and not derived by human rational ability. Walking by Mosaic Faith looks risky in the light of a lesser faith. Mosaic Faith, however, is the higher pursuit. No faith put in the Almighty should be anything less than Mosaic.

From Psalm 90. THE TENETS OF MOSAIC FAITH. WHAT MOSES BELIEVED, #5

MOSES BELIEVED: In the truth of the teleology (the progress of something toward a goal or end) of degeneracy.

"You have swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep; in the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew" v.5. Disobedience to the word of God leads to increasing levels of degeneracy in individuals and therefore in the general society. It is the Almighty who alone defines the meaning of degeneracy and puts the consequences to it. And degeneracy is a path of thought, speech and behavior that leads to a bad and inescapable end (the telos).

Mosaic Faith is able to recognize the judgment of God upon men in time. In the days of Noah, people had rejected the sovereignty of God over human behavior. They chose the teleology of degeneracy. The time of the telos was finally reached. "You have swept them away like a flood". Without understanding, Egypt's charioteers plunged into the sea floor and were "swept away" (Exodus 14).

Mosaic Faith comprehends the revealed truth that being proximate to God is inherently dangerous. We have to watch our step. Many things to which we give natural explanations, are not natural at all. National decline, for example, is not a function of time. Decline is the applied

power of God to sin, degeneracy. We can track the teleology: "In the morning it flourishes and sprouts anew; toward evening it fades and withers" v.6. The writing is on the wall.

From Psalm 90. THE TENETS OF MOSAIC FAITH. WHAT MOSES BELIEVED, #6

MOSES BELIEVED: In the big translation. There is this inescapable factor; that the will of God translates into circumstances and conditions in the temporal world. In this case it was the anger, wrath and the fury of the Lord.

"For we have been consumed by your anger" v.7; "and by your wrath" v.7; For all our days have declined in Your fury" v.9.

Human behavior is not secluded from God. Secret behavior does not exist. *Much of human history is a direct translation of the anger of the Almighty against us.* What the Lord thinks, how He represents our thought, speech and behavior, are not without consequences in time. "You have placed our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence" v.8.

A rationalistic reading of Scripture insists that one's behavior on earth is noted by the Lord but that He defers judgment until the end of time. Mosaic Faith knows better. Moses lived through the big translation more than once in the 40 years he led Israel (Numbers 13, 14). Here, on earth and in time, the fact is, that the will of God can translate --> into being totally overcome, "consumed", "dismayed" and brought to a state of material "decline" v.7, 9.

It is wise to calculate one's behavior so as to avoid the disapproval of the Lord. We must remember that our sins are not abstract to God; they are objective. Those of the Mosaic Faith want to live "in the light of Your presence" v.8. The Almighty can affect our psychology. Still many look for understanding in that which also bears the marks of the big translation.

From Psalm 90. THE TENETS OF MOSAIC FAITH. WHAT MOSES BELIEVED, #7

MOSES BELIEVED: In the revealed significance of the chronologic limitation.

"As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away" v.10. Mosaic Faith comes to the realization that the few years we have here, on earth and in time hold great importance and meaning. It is here, of course, that life begins. In other words, temporal existence is just the merest introduction to the entire phenomenon of life.

We, as individuals, have no control over how many years we are granted. And there is the common human experience of all those years. In general, they are filled with "labor and sorrow". Then comes the appointed end of our temporal chronology; "and we fly away".

The clock is ticking. The purpose of the 70 or 80 is not to accumulate things, not to follow our dreams, not to achieve personal fulfillment; now called happiness. The importance of these few

years is to sort things out. The point is to reach a state of understanding regarding the seen and the unseen. *In other words, the point is to determine what we are going to believe.*

From Psalm 90. THE TENETS OF MOSAIC FAITH. WHAT MOSES BELIEVED, #8

MOSES BELIEVED: In spiritual ultimates.

"Who understands the power of Your anger and your fury, according to the fear that is due You?" Mosaic Faith is grounded upon *the ultimates*. There is a God. He is to be feared. As the Ultimate Ruler of the universe He is offended by those who despise His authority and disparage His leverage over man and time.

The Lord has, at His disposal, ultimate power that is absolute over man, space, time and human circumstance. Moses thought that very few people sufficiently appreciated the ultimate nature of God. His capacity for circumstance-changing "anger" and "fury" were not duly recognized.

Revelation from the ultimate was not a functioning set of rules. There is a kind of faith that under-estimates the revealed truth; which is, that finally the spiritual ultimates cannot be resisted. But, the Mosaic Faith is focused on and fixed on every revealed, sacred truth to be found in the word of God.

"So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom" v.12. That is the ultimate teleology (the purpose). Since God is the ultimate power and since our days are so few, let us lay hold of the ultimate purpose of life on earth and in time. "A heart of wisdom" is the ultimate state of being for us during those 70 or 80 years of life.

This, then, must be the ultimate goal of a Mosaic Faith. A heart of wisdom is an achievement of ultimate dimension. It alone is able to grasp the ultimate relation between God --> and time, between the mind of God --> and the mind of a man.

A lesser faith does not pursue ultimates. It conflates interests in this world with the ultimates of revealed truth. Israel, in the days of Moses did just that.

So, what is this temporal life all about? Mosaic Faith has found the answer. It is all about pursuing a shared conditionality with the Lord: "a heart wisdom". Today, this day, can carry us toward that ultimate prize. "So teach us", O Lord.

From Psalm 90. THE TENETS OF MOSAIC FAITH. WHAT MOSES BELIEVED, #9

MOSES BELIEVED: In the final and undeserved recompense.

"Do return, O Lord", "O satisfy us in the morning", "Make us glad according to the days You have afflicted us" v.13-15. Mosaic Faith holds full confidence that our sorrows, sacrifices and "afflictions" will not be forgotten by the Almighty. Mosaic Faith maintains its trust in the

revealed character of God even in *the morbidity of experience*, when nothing goes right and everything goes wrong.

Mosaic Faith does not look to the composition of circumstance for encouragement. Rather it turns to the *power of reflection*. It reflects on the word of God and the promises of the Lord about a "morning" that is coming, filled with "Your lovingkindness" and wherein "we may sing for joy and be glad all our days" v.14.

Mosaic Faith believes in the power of God to roll back all temporal effects upon the mind and soul. Depression as a psychological state of being is temporary and doomed. We must remember that. That affliction nor any other can outrun the will of God and the stoutness of soul commanded by Mosaic Faith.

Every believer will experience "the years we have seen evil" v.15. This is inevitable and the Lord is in on it. There will be the "days You have afflicted us" v.15.

Moses, as an infant, was born under a death sentence (Exodus 1, 2). Later other attempts were made to extinguish his life (Exodus 2). He bore the burden of Israel for years of disappointment and frustration. The promise of undeserved recompense from the Lord fuels Mosaic Faith with a kind of relativism. Our battle scars incurred here will be a cause for celebration on an expected yet unknown day. Shall we press on?!

From Psalm 90. THE TENETS OF MOSAIC FAITH. WHAT MOSES BELIEVED, #10

MOSES BELIEVED: That God will affirm Mosaic Faith.

"Let Your work appear to Your servants, and Your majesty to their children" v.16. Moses appealed to the Almighty for direct affirmation of His involvement in temporal events. He believed that the Lord reaches into personal human conditions and redeems them.

Such affirmation, from textual indications, simply stated, *appears*. Mosaic Faith trusts in that which cannot be seen. It resolutely holds to the revealed truth.

But, resolute faith must, eventually, be affirmed. Moses called for "Your work", "Your majesty" to appear in time and circumstance. There comes a time when the appearance of affirmation brushes aside any natural or reasonable objection to it. The Lord manifests Himself; suddenly, perhaps dramatically.

There must be a correspondence between the anticipated affirmation --> and prayer, between affirmation --> and continued trust and obedience. If Mosaic Faith is not gripped by that anticipation, then, one will turn to the natural order and put aside the confidence that God still works in human circumstance.

Many, in the contemporary church are doing just that. *The fact is that no one can live by Mosaic Faith, in this world, without the help of the power of God.* If we are to survive Mosaic Faith, then the Red Sea must open; the manna from Heaven must suddenly appear, water from the rock must be there, beyond all natural explanation, to nourish us. Mosaic Faith prays for, depends upon and is willing to risk its neck, that the power of God cannot be resisted.

And so: "Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and confirm for us the work of our hands; yes, confirm the work of our hands". Moses wanted to know: "Are we on the right track?!"