

Worksheet 4

Moses

Answer Sheet

In Exodus it says that “the Israelites were fruitful and multiplied.” What does this line echo back to?

- This line echoes the original blessing God gave at creation:
 - “Be fruitful and multiply.”
- It also recalls God’s covenant promises to:
 - Abraham
 - Isaac
 - Jacob
- Even in slavery, God’s blessing is still at work among the Israelites.
- Their growth in number is a sign that:
 - God has not forgotten his covenant
 - God’s promises are continuing to unfold

What happened to Moses after he was born, and why did he have to flee into the desert when he became an adult?

- Pharaoh ordered the Hebrew male infants to be killed.
- To save him, Moses’ mother:
 - Placed him in a basket
 - Set him among the reeds of the Nile
- Pharaoh’s daughter found him:
 - Took pity on him
 - Adopted him
- In God’s providence:
 - Moses’ own mother cared for him as his nurse
- There are important parallels with Noah’s ark:
 - The same Hebrew word is used for Moses’ basket and Noah’s ark
 - Both were coated with pitch
 - In both stories, God saves through water
- When Moses grew older:
 - He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew
 - He killed the Egyptian
 - He hid the body
- When this became known:
 - Moses fled to Midian
 - He escaped Pharaoh’s punishment
 - He began life there as a shepherd

When Moses encounters God in the burning bush, why does God identify himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

- God is showing Moses that he is the same faithful God who spoke to the patriarchs.
- He is the God who:
 - Called Abraham
 - Gave Isaac as the child of promise
 - Watched over Jacob

- By using these names, God reminds Moses that:
 - He is faithful to his covenant
 - The story of Exodus continues the story begun in Genesis
- The rescue from Egypt is part of the same saving plan.
- God is now acting to fulfill the promises made to the patriarchs.

The angel of death struck down the firstborn of Egypt but spared the Israelites. What is the annual remembrance of this event called?

- This annual remembrance is called Passover.
- Passover remembers how:
 - God passed over the homes of the Israelites
 - The blood of the lamb marked their doorposts
 - Their firstborn were spared
 - They were delivered from slavery in Egypt
- Passover is still a holy feast in Judaism.
- Passover is also important for Christians because:
 - Jesus celebrated Passover at the Last Supper
 - Jesus brings Passover to its fulfillment
 - Jesus is the true Paschal Lamb
- Passover points forward to:
 - Christ's sacrifice
 - The Eucharist

What did Moses do at the Red Sea, and what happened to Pharaoh's army after the Israelites crossed?

- At God's command, Moses:
 - Stretched out his hand over the sea
- The Lord then:
 - Drove the waters back with a strong wind
 - Made a path of dry land
- The Israelites:
 - Crossed safely through the sea
- Pharaoh's army:
 - Pursued them into the sea
 - Was overwhelmed when the waters returned
- This event is one of the great saving acts of the Old Testament.
- It also foreshadows Baptism:
 - Israel passed through water and was delivered from slavery
 - In Baptism, we pass through water and are delivered from slavery to sin
 - In Baptism, we are brought into new life in Christ

Why was God so specific about the Tabernacle and the Ark? What was in the Ark?

- God's detailed instructions show:
 - The holiness of his presence
 - The importance of right worship
- The Tabernacle was:
 - The sacred place where God chose to dwell among his people
 - A sign that God had not abandoned Israel

- A visible sign of God's glory and covenant presence
- The detailed instructions also teach that:
 - Worship is not something merely invented by human beings
 - God himself teaches his people how to worship him
- The Ark of the Covenant contained sacred reminders of God's relationship with Israel:
 - The tablets of the covenant
 - A jar of manna
 - Aaron's rod that budded
- These signs point to:
 - God's law
 - God's provision
 - God's chosen priesthood
- The Tabernacle and later the Temple also foreshadow Christ:
 - Jesus is the true Temple
 - In him, God dwells among his people in the fullest way
- Catholic tabernacles today remind us of God's holy presence:
 - Especially in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist

What did Moses bring down from the mountain, and what happened when the Israelites made the golden calf?

- Moses came down from Mount Sinai carrying:
 - The two tablets of the covenant
 - The Ten Commandments
- These commandments were:
 - Given by God
 - Part of Israel's covenant life
 - A way of forming Israel into a holy people
- While Moses was on the mountain:
 - The Israelites made a golden calf
 - They worshiped it
- This was:
 - A grave act of idolatry
 - A direct violation of the covenant
- Their sin showed:
 - How quickly they turned away from God
 - How weak they were even after being delivered from Egypt
- Moses then interceded for the people:
 - He appealed to God's saving work
 - He appealed to God's covenant promises
 - He appealed to the honor of God's name
- This shows the importance of intercessory prayer.
- Moses also foreshadows Christ:
 - Moses intercedes for Israel
 - Christ is the perfect mediator and intercessor for his people

Key Points to Remember

- God's blessing in Exodus echoes:
 - Creation
 - The promises to Abraham
- Moses is saved through the waters:
 - This foreshadows God's saving work later in Exodus
- The burning bush shows:
 - The God of Exodus is the same covenant God of Genesis
- Passover points forward to:
 - Jesus, the true Paschal Lamb
- The Red Sea foreshadows:
 - Baptism
- The Tabernacle shows:
 - God dwelling among his people
 - A foreshadowing of Christ and the Eucharist
- Moses' intercession after the golden calf foreshadows:
 - Christ's perfect mediation for us