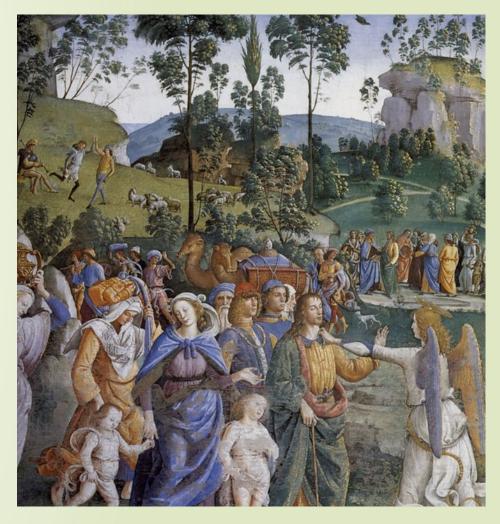
What does going home mean to you? Where is home?

THE EXODUS

Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet

Not alone...

- Exodus 4:27-28 And the Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and kissed him. 28 So Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had sent him, and all the signs which He had commanded him.
- Based on Exodus 4:27-28, who has been your companion in the work of the Lord? How has having a partner helped you?

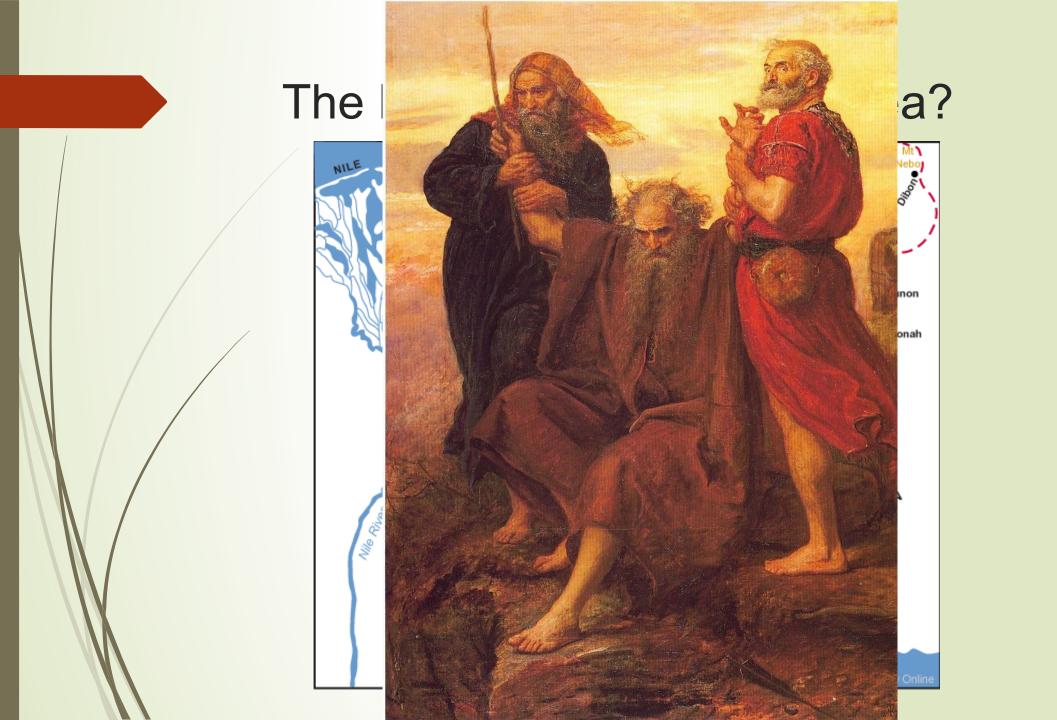


Detail from *Moses Leaving to Egypt* by Pietro Perugino, c. 1482. (Sistine Chapel)

Moses Chapter 3: The Exodus Video

- Exodus 5:22-23
 - So Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You have sent me? 23 For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all."
- Exodus 6:1
 - Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."





God's Satire...The Plagues?

- Satire: The Pharaoh, an eloquent speaker and leader of the greatest army on Earth vs. Moses, a stuttering 80 year old shepherd! What a laugh!
- Reality: The God of Israel vs the gods of Egypt! YES!
- Numbers 33:4 For the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn, whom the Lord had killed among them. Also on their gods the Lord had executed judgments.

Death of the Pharaoh's Firstborn Son. Lawrence Alma-Tadema, 1872.

More Satire...

- Exodus 8:13-15 So the Lord did according to the word of Moses. And the frogs died out of the houses, out of the courtyards, and out of the fields. 14 They gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. 15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the Lord had said.
- Exodus 9:11-12 And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians. 12 But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the Lord had spoken to Moses.



Pharaoh's Hardened Heart

Passover: The Defining Moment

- The 10 Plagues of Egypt
 - The Plague of Blood
 - The Plague of Frogs
 - The Plague of Gnats
 - The Plague of Flies
 - The Plague of the Death of Livestock
 - The Plague of the Boils
 - The Plague of Hail
 - The Plague of
 - Locusts
 - The Plagues of Darkness
 - The Plagues of the Death of the Firstborn



What are our defining moments as Christians?

A Mind-boggling Happening

- Exodus 14:8 And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand.
 - 600,000 men from the ages of 20 to 60; at least 2 million people overall
 - Pursued by an army of 600 light "tanks" the fastest chariots of the day
 - Hot pursuit prevented Pharaoh from recognizing the threat of defeat
 - The Israelites erupted into spontaneous joy upon seeing the closing of the waters over the Egyptian army.
 - Faith and Hope erupted...
 - Yet...at times the Israelites would want to return to Egypt because of the hardships that befell them.

Out of Trouble...

- No one likes trouble...but what opportunities do troubles provide for us?
- What *plagues* exist today in our world?
- What keeps us strong or firm in our faith?
- How does the story of the Exodus reflect the grace of God's love?

The Israelites Passing through the Wilderness, Preceded by the Pillar of Light. William West, 1845.

