LESSON 14

Name

Birth and Call of Moses

*Directions*: Read the cited scripture passages and related biblical footnotes to help you to fill in the blanks

for each item.

1. The second book of the Torah, the book of , is the most important of the entire Torah.

It is like the center of a wheel and the other books of the Torah, like the spokes, are pointing toward it.

2. The book of Exodus gets its name from a Greek word meaning .

3. The book of Exodus opens about 400 years after the close of Genesis narrative. There was an upheaval of power in Egypt during that time and the Israelites, because of the new dynasty of kings who were hos- tile to the Israelites, were placed in (Ex 1:11). The Israelites continued to live in the area given to them by Joseph, son of Israel, the land of . (Gn 47:1)

4. The Egyptian Pharaohs who ruled during this time were Ramses I (1309 B.C.E.), Seti I (1309 B.C.E. -

1290 B.C.E.), and Ramses II (1290 B.C.E. - 1224 B.C.E.).

It was during the reign of Ramses II that the Exodus probably took place, making the date for the exo- dus c. B.C.E.

5. The story of the Exodus begins with the birth of the unnamed hero of the story who is saved from the

Pharaoh’s order to . (Ex 1:15-16)

6. This Hebrew baby is saved because . (Ex 2:3-4)

7. When he is pulled from the river by the daughter of Pharaoh, he is named . (Ex 2:10)

8. The story quickly jumps to an incident in Moses’ life where he . (Ex 2:11-14)

9. Because Pharaoh wants to punish Moses with death, Moses flees to the countr y of

. (Ex 2:15)

10. While in Midian, Moses marries (Ex 2:21) and has a son (Ex

2:22). He comes under the protection of his father-in-law named (in the Yahwist source)

(Ex 2:18) or (in the Elohist source) (Ex

3:1). The Exodus story is such an important story in Jewish history that three sources, J, P, and E, are all woven together, not unlike the story of Noah.

11. Moses has his first encounter with God at Mount . (Ex 3:1)

12. This is the Elohist name for that mountain. The Yahwist and Priestly name for this same mountain is

. (Ex 19:11)

13. This appearance of God in the form of fire is an example of theophany, a term which means fire and wind signifying God’s presence. Where in the book of Genesis was this used before?

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14. Because it was commonly believed that no one could see God and live, Moses . (Ex 3:6)

15. It is in this encounter that God reveals to Moses what he wants him to do. God wants Moses to

. (Ex 3:10)

16. To deepen the relationship between them, God reveals to Moses his name. The name which God reveals to Moses is translated as (Ex 3:14). The sacred Hebrew name for God which means “I am who am” is the word (see footnote).

17. Moses, like all great heroes of the Bible, understands the grave nature of the task God has set before him and is humbled before God. Moses is reluctant to take up the task so he offers two reasons why he should not go:

(Ex 4:1)

(Ex 4:10)

18. To help calm Moses’ fear of the task, God gives him three signs to perform to show that he has been sent by God. They are: (Ex 4:3)

(Ex 4:6)

(Ex 4:9)

19. God also instructs Moses that he will have an assistant to speak for him, his brother

. (Ex 4:14)

20. Moses returns to Egypt to confront the Pharaoh and to deliver to him the command of the Lord which is: . (Ex 5:1)

21. To make the Hebrew people angry at Moses and Aaron so that they would not listen to them, the

Pharaoh orders . (Ex 5:6-9)

22. Moses works the first wonder God gave him. Pharaoh’s servants, however, are able to

. (Ex 7:11)

23. The stage is now set for the great conflict between God and the Pharaoh of Egypt, between slavery and freedom, between belief and unbelief. The stage is set for the greatest event in the Jewish scriptures for which this book is named, the .

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