



SHARING SCRIPTURE

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New Weekly Feature

The Center for Creative Ministry is proud to introduce the new video series *Amazing Transformations in Christ*.

This series presents inspirational messages from various thought leaders, the latest news from the Adventist world, beautiful music, and some familiar faces. It is our hope that this weekly feature may be used to enrich your Friday evening worships, add value to your personal devotions, and catalyze thoughtful discussions with your family and friends.

Amazing Transformations in Christ updates on [our website](#) and [Facebook page](#) every Friday.

To see the latest editions, please click the button below. We know you won't want to miss them!

Blessings,

Paul Richardson
Executive Director

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Moses' History Lesson

For use: October 3 - 9

Texts: Deuteronomy 1-3; Exodus 32:29-32; Numbers 14; Ephesians 3:10; Genesis 15:1-16; John 14:9

When Abraham Lincoln began his Gettysburg Address, he astonished his audience with a radical reinterpretation of history. [1] With the introduction, “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation,” he challenged the conventional wisdom that the nation began in 1787 at the Constitutional Convention. By pinpointing the Declaration of Independence in 1776 as the birth of our nation, he emphasized the notion that the nation was “conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal” as the true intent of our founding fathers. In other words, Lincoln changed the narrative and we then began to recognize July 4, 1776, rather than 1787, as the birthdate of America—an assumption that we all accept without question today.

Why is this important? Most Americans at that time considered the Constitution to be the founding document of our nation. The Constitution, tied to 1787, allowed slavery, and slavers appealed to the Constitution for the authority to claim ownership of fellow human beings.

Lincoln, through that simple two-minute speech, reframed the purpose of the Civil War as not only a fight to preserve the Union, but also a struggle to live up to the founding fathers’ ideal of equality for all people. Lincoln used a radical reinterpretation of history to introduce a new perspective. This shaped the nation’s future, and it informs who we are as a people today.

Moses also gave his interpretation of history as he stood before God’s people on the borders of the Promised Land. In his final message to his people, recorded in Deuteronomy, he began his history lesson from the time they left Mt. Horeb. Though the history of Israel goes back to Abraham, Moses emphasized that this was their 40th year of national existence—it had been 40 years since God first gave them their laws in Exodus and Leviticus.

It was also 40 years earlier when Israel failed to enter the Promised Land at Kadesh Barnea. Moses’ purpose in recounting their history was to remind them of that fiasco and to rally them to meet the challenge this time. Moses also recounted how God miraculously led them through those 4 decades wandering in the wilderness. God gave them victories against Sihon, king of Heshbon and Og, king of Bashan. God can and will lead them to victory again.

Moses even reinterpreted the Sabbath commandment in Deuteronomy 5:15 which, rather than commemorating Creation as in Exodus 20, emphasizes God’s deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery.

Moses’ history lesson reminded Israel how God led them out of oppression, and encouraged them to grasp the promise that God will lead them all the way to paradise.

~Chuck Burkeen

[1] <https://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/gettysburg-address>

For Reflection

Connecting: How does your understanding of your ancestry affect your sense

of identity today? Are there elements of your background that you tend to emphasize over other historical details that you'd sooner forget?

Sharing: Since the Israelites lived the history that Moses recounted, why was it necessary for him to give this history lesson?

1. Israel demonstrated repeatedly that they had a short attention span when it came to God's providence, and they needed this reminder to move forward
2. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we forget our past history and God's leading in it
3. Though we prefer to forget the unpleasant incidents in our past, we can learn key life lessons from them
4. Many of the Israelites in attendance hadn't been born when several of these events occurred
5. It was Moses' chance to lash out at them one last time—he still blamed these stiff-necked people for his not being able to enter the Promised Land
6. Other:

Applying: What can you learn from the elder members of your congregation? Find opportunities to interview some of them to learn how God has led your church in its mission in your community. Learn what some of the challenges are facing your church, and how the church adapts to face those issues.

Valuing: How well do you know the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church? If you'd like to get a deeper appreciation of God's leading in our history, ask your pastor for recommendations on resources that give a simple, yet honest overview of our story.

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