



Biblical theology 2
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Leadership in the Holy Scriptures

**Leader of the community
in the biblical history**

Biblical examples

- **Moses dealing wisely with the people**
 - **Miriam recognized national salvation, joined and called them**
 - **Deborah, modest and brave**
 - **Gideon started as a hero, failed**
 - **Nehemiah excellent politician**
 - **The Lord – Good Shepherd**
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Moses' calling (Ex 3:1-4:17)

- **Shepherd's sense (Ex 3:1)**
 - Flame of fire (3:2 ~ tongues, as of fire Acts 2:3)
 - Beyond, aside (Ex 3:1.3)
- **2x “Moses” (3:4)**
 - Identity confirmed; a conversion, a calling
- **God is guarding his holiness and transcendence (3:14):**
- יהוה = “I will be, whoever I will be” (3:14)
 - = future, freedom
- **Moses recognizes:**
- **Barefoot (5), covered face (3:6)**
- **God aware of the situation: seen indeed, heard (3:7)**
- **“came down” ירד *jārad* (3:8)**
- **Redemption: Creation of the people**



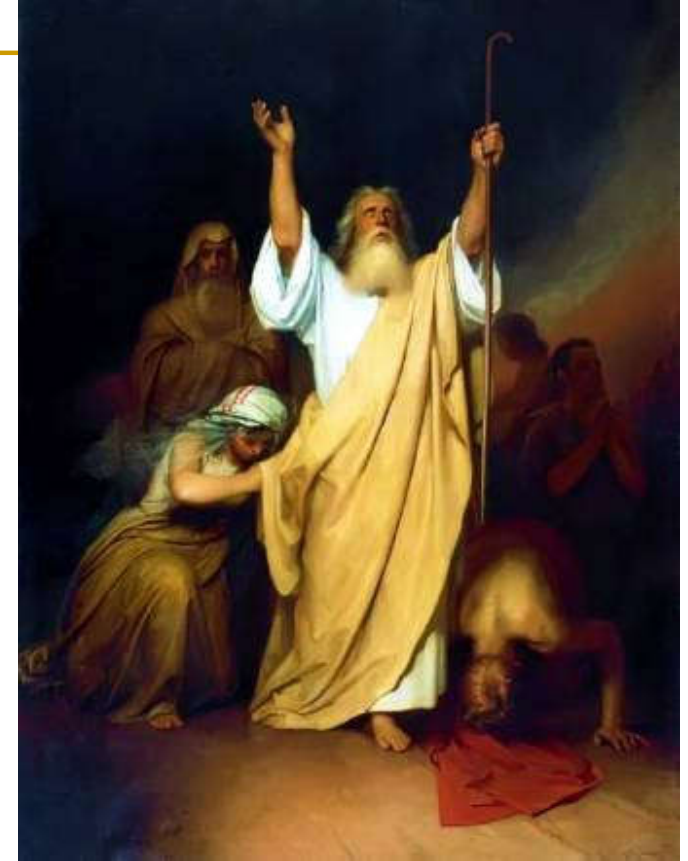
Moses in front of the Sea

- ***Faith* in God and Moses (Ex 14:31 cf. 4:1)**
 - “If they will not believe me?” (4:1)
- **Understandable situation in Ex 14:10**
- **Great fear (יִרָא), cry (צַעֲקָה *ṣā‘aq*)**
- **Perverted into attack (11s)**
 - **Lack of graves in Egypt?**
You have *taken* us away to die in the wilderness (11)
 - **It is better to be slaves (12)**
 - ~ *Cain-like confusion* (cf. Gen 4:12.14)



Wise leader

- **Moses' method in Ex 14:13:**
 - “Do not be afraid!” (ירא)
 - – the root of the problem from v10 (ירא)
 - ⇔ no counterattack, no withdrawal, nor defense...
 - → “they feared (ירא) יהוה” (31)
- **ישע *jāša*’ “to save” – in the water**
 - Moses' experience in Exod. 2
 - “See the *salvation!*” (14:13)
 - יהוה saved Israel (v30)
 - “he has become my *salvation*” (15,2)
- **“Why do you cry out to me!?” (צעק *šā‘aq* 14,15)**
 - Moses to God (like the people in 14,10)



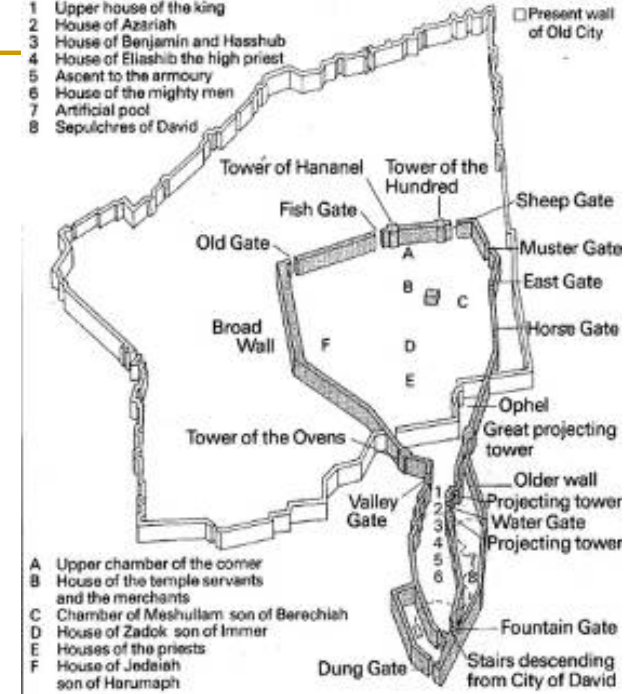
Confidence and entrusting

- **Joshua – the young general (Ex 17:8-16)**
- **In the war against Amalek**
 - Roles (9.10-12)?
- **Joshua is choosing the men (v9)**
- **Moses – praying patron (10-12)**
 - Moses in front of the whole community (Num 27:19; Deut 31:7)
- **Gives the mission to Joshua**
- **“ordination” (Num 27:23; Deut 34:9)**
 - He laid his hands



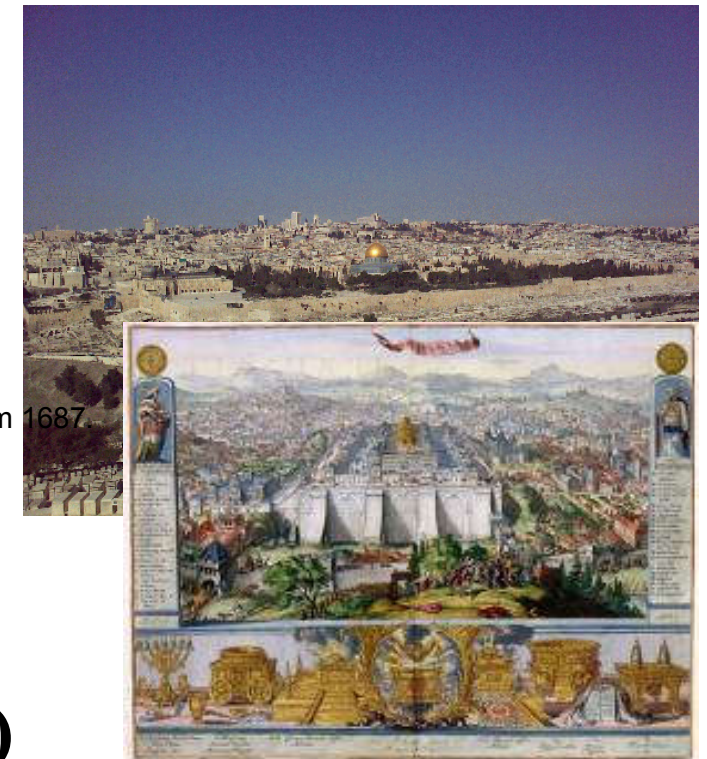
Nehemiah – the restorer

- ❑ Under foreign dominion (Neh 1:1)
- News on great trouble of the Remnant
- First reaction – prayer (Neh 1:5-11)
 - ❑ Before an answer to the king – prayer (2:4)
 - ❑ “Send me!” (2:5), he sent me (6)
- Received the full authorization (2:7s), appointed governor (5,14)
- In Jerusalem got to know the situation by night (Neh 2)
 - ❑ Develops the plan – in secret
- Nehemiah gathers (Neh 3): All the families
- “We were building” (1. Plural – Neh Vg 4:1.6)
 - ❑ “Neither I nor my brothers – ever took off our clothes” (Vg. 4:23)



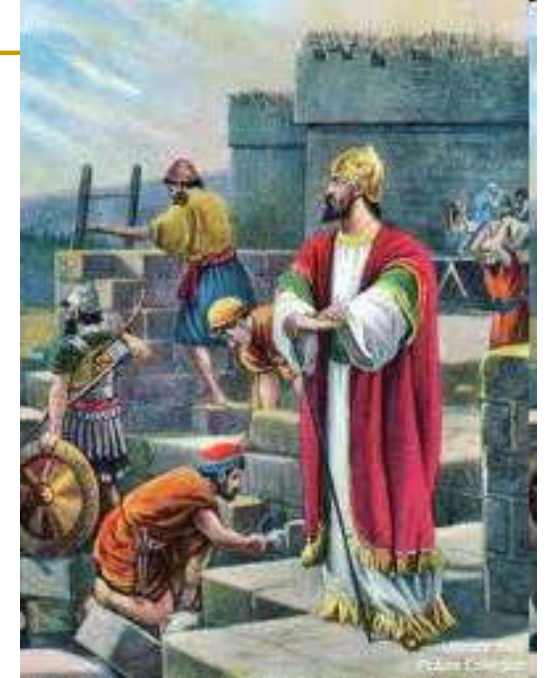
The enemies of the restoration

- Mocking (Neh 3:34 Vg. 4:2):
- Miserable, feeble Jews
- A fox stronger than wall (35 Vg. 4:3)
 - Nehemiah's reaction (36 Vg. 4:4):
- “Hear, our God!”
 - Good result:
- Wall to half its height (38 Vg. 4:6)
 - Second phase of the attack (4:2 Vg. 4:8):
- Battle against Jerusalem (4:2 Vg. 4:8)
 - Before they heard (2:10.19; 3:33) and mocked (2:19; 3:33)
- “we cannot rebuild the wall” (4:4 Vg. 10) – people
- “we shall come into their midst” (*undercover*) (4:5 Vg. 11) – enemies



Nehemiah's answer

- He is listening wisely to both sides
- Second motivational speech (4,8 Vg. 14 cf. 2,17):
 - Keep in mind the Lord
 - The aim: family and home
- Builders and defenders:
- Working with one hand, holding a weapon with the other (4,11 Vg. 17)
- The enemies wanted to cause confusion in the work (4,2 Vg. 8)
 - ⇔ God confused their plan (9 Vg. 15)
- Inner crisis (Neh 5)
 - Nehemiah lending free of charge (10), renounced royal salary (14)
 - After restoration is finished (from Neh 12:27):
- Consecration of Jerusalem city walls



“My shepherds” and “my sheep” in Ez 34

- **Shepherds pasturing themselves (2.10)**
 - Lack of a shepherd (8)
- **Direct dialogue: you eat, you clothe yourselves, you slaughter (3)**
 - The weak, the sick, the injured, the strayed, the lost (=the doomed) sheep
 - Shepherds neglected (4)
 - ↔ God will shepherd them (16)
- **Rescue from the mouth of the shepherds (10), ferm where they are *scattered* (12)**
- **Judging the sheep too (17.20.22)**
 - Trample the pasture, foul the water with their feet (18)
 - *Scattered* due to pushing shoulders and horns (21)
 - I will pasture my sheep in Justice (15s)
 - – in NT living person performing it



Christ – the leader (Matt 23:1-12)

- ❑ The exaltation of man in Mt 23:12?
- **God's deed**
(passive voice – Mt 23:12)
- = lifted up, he draws everyone to himself (John 12:32)
 - ❑ On the cross, from the grave, to the Father
 - ❑ “God highly exalted him and gave him the name” (Phil 2:9)
- **Do and observe the *words!* (Mt 23:3)**
 - ❑ Obedient to the point of death (Phil 2:8)
- **Show yourself! – to the Father who sees in secret, not to the others (Mt 6:4.6.18)**
 - ❑ He has looked upon lowliness = *humility* (Mt 23,12; Lk 1,48)



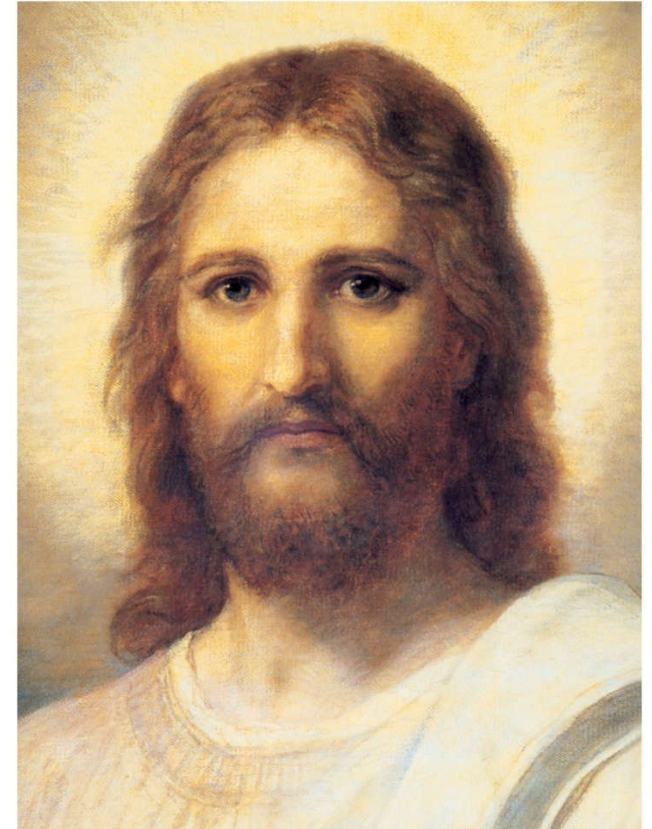
False exaltation

- **By human power – “who exalt themselves” (Mt 23:12)**
- **By means of *speaking* (3)**
 - They preach, do not practice (3) – a painful cleft
 - Weak *shoulder*, withered *finger* (4)
 - Deeds for the “theatre” for *men* (θεαθῆναι 5)
- **Clothing, prayer-equipment, sacred inscriptions (5b)**
- **Battle for the front seats (6)**
- **Titles, greetings (7)**
- **→ Frustration**
 - humiliation (12), yeast of the Pharisees (16:6)



A request to the “subordinates”

- ❑ What do I expect from the authority, how do I call him?
- ❑ Title and attitude (Mt 23:7s):
- **Rabbi (7s): “The Great of mine”, honorable, reverend**
 - ❑ Master is Jesus (8) – the Great one, the respectable
- **“you are brothers” (8) – family**
- **Heavenly Father (9) – perfect and immense**
 - ❑ No human authority is God
 - ❑ Call no one on earth *God* (cf. Mt 23:9)



Christ's Image, by Heinrich Heilmann, painting © Hansson Conroy Co., Inc.

There is one leader



- **The shepherds failed**
 - **the good shepherd came**
 - *One* leader (Mt 23:10): against division
 - **He is calling: “Follow me!” (Mt 8:22; 9:9; 19:21...)**
 - **How to be great (Mt 20:26)? – Serve! (cf. Mt 23:11)**
 - **The Lord and Master washes the feet (John 13:5)**
 - **Bent down close to the sinner condemned to death (John 8:6.8), did not tempt nor condemn, dedicated himself to the lost sheep: to Thomas (Joh 20), to Peter (John 21)**
 - **He humbled himself (Phil 2:8)**
 - **My burden – light (Mt 11:30): he took the cross onto his shoulders**
 - **Learn from me! (Mt 11:29) – the heart is important**
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