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
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 See

- 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 (ירא צצעק, $\text{ṣāʿaq}$)
- 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) (31)
  - – the root of the problem form v10 (ירא)
  - ⇔ no counterattack, no withdrawal, nor defense…
  - → “they feared (ירא) (31)

- יושע, “to save” – in the water
  - Moses’ experience in Exod. 2
  - “See the salvation!” (14:13)
  - יוהו saved Israel (v30)
  - “he has become my salvation” (15,2)

- “Why do you cry out to me!??” (ませצן) sā‘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)
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