

EXODUS Lesson 03

Exodus Chapter 3

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Memory verses for this week: Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Introduction: We continue our study on Exodus this week. In last week's lesson, we studied about the birth of Moses and how he was found in the ark of bulrushes by Pharaoh's daughter who adopted him by the sovereignty of God. Moses' real mother was hired to take care of him, and he was raised in the palace of the king and given a great education.

At the age of 40, Moses killed an Egyptian that was oppressing one of the Jews, and when the king found out about this, Moses fled to the back side of the desert. Here he met Jethro, who was to become his father in law as he took Zipporah to be his wife. For the next 40 years, Moses learned patience as he worked as a shepherd attending the flocks.

I. The Burning Bush and Moses' Call

Exo 3:1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

Although Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and deeds, nevertheless, he was not ready to lead Israel out of Egypt. He spent 40 years in the desert keeping the flock, before he was put in charge of God's flock.

Acts 7:23 "And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel."

Exodus 7:7. In the desert he had time for meditation and communion with God.

There was a interval of forty years between chapters two and three. We all need to learn that God does things in His time, not ours.

Isaiah 28:16 "...he that believeth shall not make haste."

God does not call the lazy and indolent. He calls busy people.

In verse 1, we find Moses as the shepherd. Sometimes for us to be trained in the work of God, a person must go to the backside of the desert. Sometimes being alone and quiet will allow us to grow and be taught to depend on God.

As a shepherd, Moses is a type of Christ.

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

- i. As a "good shepherd" Moses leads his flock.
- ii. He led them to Horeb the "mountain of God." HOREB (ho'reb, drought, desert), the mountain where Moses received his commission (Exodus 3:1); where he brought water out of the rock (Exodus 17:6); where the people stripped off their ornaments in token of repentance (Exodus 33:6). This mountain was eleven days' journey from Kadesh-barnea.

Elijah fled to the mountain of Horeb in 1 Kings 19:8. It is geographically indistinguishable from Sinai.

Exo 3:2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

Exo 3:3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

God appears to Moses via this burning bush. The bush was not consumed, because God was in it. This was a theophanic appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ. After all, the angel is called Lord and God in verse 4. The bush was a type of Israel (Deuteronomy 4:20), and of the Church (Matthew 16:18) (or anything that God is in), and is preserved by His presence.

Hebrews 12:29 "For our God is a consuming fire."

Any old bush will do if God is in it. He created them all.

Isaiah 43:1-2 "But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

In verse 3, Moses turns aside to see this unusual sight. Only God could cause the bush to burn and not yet be consumed.

II. The Voice Of God Comes from the Burning Bush

Exo 3:4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

Exo 3:5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

It was the LORD, which was Jesus Christ, God the Son, in the bush. The word for bush is only found in one other passage – Deuteronomy 33:16.

Deu 33:16 And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren.

The word for dwelt in that verse, is the Hebrew “shakan,” which leads us to the Shekinah glory, which Moses saw. In verse 4, it says the LORD saw and God called to Moses. This utterly shatters the Elohim-Jehovah two God Theory of the liberals. Here He is called both Jehovah (LORD) and Elohim (God) in the same verse. God speaks and calls his name twice. The double call, “Moses, Moses,” implies urgency.

1Sa 3:10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

One of our teachers, Brother Lloyd Huckaby used to say anytime you see words repeated in the bible, God is especially calling attention to some one or some thing.

The majesty and holiness of God is displayed here in these verses. Too often God is treated as if He were a man, but He is the Holy God and should be treated with great fear and reverence.

Isaiah 6:3 “And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”

Revelation 4:8 “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

Exo 3:6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

Exo 3:7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

In verse 6, God identifies Himself and promises victory to Moses. God shows his fourfold Compassion. In our day the world (Egypt) has multitudes in the bondage of immorality, alcohol, drugs, and other lusts of the flesh. They desperately need deliverance and only God can give it.

2 Timothy 2:26 "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

Fourfold Compassion of God

- i. God tells Moses that He had seen the Jews' affliction. Here he shows He is concerned.
- ii. He had heard their cry, showing He is compassionate.
- iii. God knew their sorrows. He is charitable.
- iv. He came down to deliver. He is considerate.

Exo 3:8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Exo 3:9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

Exo 3:10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

Verse 8 reveals the Lord's threefold purpose. Notice that God is positive what He will do. There are no "ifs," "maybes," or "perhaps" with God.

- i. God promises to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians.
- ii. Also too bring them out of Egypt.
- iii. And ultimately bring them into Canaan.

This is God's call to Moses. God always finishes what He sets out to do. Moses must have been surprised that God would call him; after all he had failed in delivering them some 40 years before.

III. The Convincing of Moses

Exo 3:11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

Exo 3:12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token

unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

As is the case of most men, initially there is unwillingness in Moses. Moses recognizes he is nothing special. He is reluctant because of self. How different than the Moses of 40 years in the past. Then he was brash, bold, and willing. Before he had been like a horse rushing ahead of God. Now he is more like a stubborn and reluctant mule.

Psalm 32:9 "Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee."

*Exo 3:13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?
Exo 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

Moses explains that he is reluctant because of his lack of knowledge. He felt that Israel would have questions he could not answer. But while Moses is reluctant, there is the willingness of God to help on every hand. God was willing to go with Moses and to give him a sign. God's presence was all he needed, for it would be God that would do the work. Moses was only an instrument in the hand of God. Remember what God promised to Joshua?

Joshua 1:5 "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Romans 8:31 "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

In Verse 14, God tells Moses that He was willing to reveal Himself as the "I AM." Jesus Christ revealed that He was the "I am."

John 6:35 "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. I am that bread of life."

John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman."

Revelation 1:8 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

IV. The Commission of Moses

Exo 3:15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

Exo 3:16 Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt:

God tells Moses what he was commissioned to do. Moses was to tell the people that the unchanging God had sent him. He was to gather the elders of Israel and explain that God had chosen him to lead the people out of the horrible bondage they were under.

Exo 3:17 And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

Exo 3:18 And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

Exo 3:19 And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand.

Exo 3:20 And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.

Exo 3:21 And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty:

Exo 3:22 But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.

Moses was to give to the elders God's message that He had heard their cry, and had sent Moses to bring them out of their affliction. In verse 18 he was to also deliver a message to the king. You have to realize that this king had the power to put Moses to death. But Moses was to go in strength and power of the Lord.

He had God's promise.

Isaiah 46:10 "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure."

What God Promised To Do

- a. He promised to make Pharaoh give up Israel – Verses 19-20
- b. He promised to make the Egyptians give up wealth to Israel – Verses 21-22

Study Questions

1. What occupation was Moses following?

He was shepherd of the flocks.

2. Why was the bush not consumed?

God was in the bush.

3. Who spoke from the burning bush?

Jehovah God.

4. How long of time intervened between chapters 2 and 3?

40 years

5. When God said "Moses, Moses," what did that imply?

Anytime a word or person is spoken to twice, it is telling us to pay particular attention.

6. Why was Moses to remove his shoes?

The place he stood was on Holy ground.

7. How is "Elohim" translated into English? How is "Jehovah" translated into English?

Elohim is translated as God. Jehovah is translated as LORD.

8. How does the Scriptures reveal that God was acquainted with Israel's problem?

He said in verse 7 that He had seen their affliction and He had heard their cry.

9. What did God say He would do for Israel?

Deliver them from their bondage and bring them into a new land flowing with milk and honey.

10. Why was Moses reluctant to go back to Egypt?

Moses explains that he is reluctant because of his lack of knowledge. He felt that Israel would have questions he could not answer.

11. How did Moses know that victory was certain?

God promised He would do the delivering and be with him every step of the way.

12. Who was Moses to say had sent him?

I AM

13. How did Moses know that Israel would hear him?

Moses was to tell the people that the unchanging God had sent him. He was to gather the elders of Israel and explain that God had chosen him to lead the people out of the horrible bondage they were under.

14. What were the Israelites suppose to do before they left Egypt?

Exo 3:22 But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.

15. How could their doing this be right?

God ordained it to be so. The Egyptians would favour them.

Exo 3:21 And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty:

* Base outline for lessons by permission from:

THE BOOK OF EXODUS

By E. L. Bynum

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.