

## EXODUS Lesson 04 \*

Exodus Chapter 4

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*Memory verses for this week: Joh 6:32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.*

**Introduction:** We continue our study on Exodus this week. In last week's lesson, we studied about the burning bush and God's call of Moses to lead out the Israelites from Egypt.

### I. Moses' Objection and God's Answer

*Exo 4:1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.*

*Exo 4:2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.*

*Exo 4:3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.*

*Exo 4:4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:*

Moses realized the people most likely would not hearken to his words. He predicts the unbelief of Israel there in Verse 1. But in reality Moses speaks from the standpoint of his own unbelief. The Jews were the ones that require a sign.

*1 Corinthians 1:22 "For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom."*

God has a plan to make the people believe Moses. The rod is in Moses' hand, and God reveals the power that it contained. When he put it on the ground, it turned into a serpent. But when he took it back up by the tail of the serpent, it turned back into a rod.

*Exo 4:5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.*

God's purpose of the sign in the rod is that they might believe. God wanted the people to know that Moses was sent to them by Jehovah God. This proves that God can use anything He pleases, even a shepherd's rod. The rod was a symbol of God's grace as a support.

*Psalm 23:4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will*

*fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”*

Moses used the rod to lean upon for support which was fine. But when it was cast down and it becomes a serpent, this was is a type of Satan. The rod is a symbol of governmental authority and reign. Thus it showed God’s approval of Moses and ultimately of Christ.

*Psalm 2:9 “Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”*

*Revelation 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

This also shows that only divine power can control Satan.

*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.”*

Egypt (which is a type of the world) cannot defeat God. The serpent was worshipped in Egypt and was an emblem of the goddess Ranno.

*Exo 4:6 And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow.*

*Exo 4:7 And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh.*

*Exo 4:8 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.*

God now reveals another sign unto Moses. He was to put his hand into his bosom, and when he took it out, his hand was leprous as snow. The hand represents the power of man, and is shown to be helpless without the power of God. The hand speaks of energy and works. The leprous hand is incapable of working for God until it is cleansed. We in our lost condition can do nothing to accomplish things for the Lord. But when we are cleansed by the blood of Christ, we become vessels of purity that can be used for good.

Moses is here representative of the whole Hebrew nation. They are all defiled and in need of cleansing, just like all that come into this world. In the physical man, we are lost and separated from God. Jesus came to close that chasm that separates man and God.

Moses also prefigures Christ who had no sin, did no sin, and knew no sin.

*Hebrews 4:15 “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet*

*without sin.”*

*1 Peter 2:22 “Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. He bare our sins and became sin for us.”*

*2 Corinthians 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*

The hand that holds the rod of God’s power, must be cleansed, and must be controlled by a new heart. We are just branches out of the true vine. Without God, we can do nothing.

*Isaiah 52:11 “Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.”*

*Exo 4:9 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land.*

*Exo 4:10 And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.*

God now reveals another sign. The third sign would turn water to blood as is explained in verse 9. It reveals the consequences of rejecting the first two signs. Blood here speaks of judgment upon sin. Since the Egyptians worshiped the Nile River, it was a symbol of judgment upon their gods and worship.

Moses now argues that he is not eloquent in speech, but rather slow in speech and tongue. But his unbelief is overcome by God providing a spokesman to help. Moses pleads a lack of eloquence as an excuse in verse 10. This does not square with the record in verse 22 of Acts 7.

*Acts 7:22 “And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.”*

While it is good to be humble and to know one’s limitations, it becomes a sin, if we use that excuse in resisting God’s call. Paul seemed to feel limited in his speaking ability. No matter our limitations, if God wants to use us, He can and He will accomplish His will with us.

*2 Corinthians 10:10 “For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.”*

*Exo 4:11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh*

*the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?  
Exo 4:12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.  
Exo 4:13 And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.*

None of these things took God by surprise. God knew Moses' need, before He called him, and offers to meet his needs. Our sufficiency is always of God.

*2 Corinthians 3:5-6 "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."*

Moses here reveals a dangerous attitude in verse 13. He acts as if God must send someone else. Evidently, Moses had missed God's statement of power. In verse 10, Moses said "I am not", but God had already said, "I AM." Moses was looking at self when he should have been looking at God. Moses called Him "Lord," but he was not ready to obey His orders. God is either Lord of all, or He is not Lord at all.

*Exo 4:14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.  
Exo 4:15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.*

This brings out the anger of the Lord. Moses doubts God, and this makes him angry. God does exercise anger without violating His righteousness. We are commanded to be angry and sin not. Man does not control his anger the way God can.

*Ephesians 4:26 "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath."*

Moses has his excuses, but God has already provided for him. Aaron given to Moses as a spokesman. Of course Aaron became a hindrance to Moses in a number of ways.

*Exo 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.  
Exo 32:2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.  
Exo 32:3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.  
Exo 32:4 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool,*

*after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*

*Exo 32:5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD.*

*Exo 32:6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.*

*Numbers 12:1 "And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses."*

When we insist on asking for things we should not have, God sometimes gives them to us and they turn out not to be a blessing.

*Hosea 13:11 "I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath."*

With the help of the Lord, Moses turns out to be eloquent, when in Deuteronomy; he delivers great messages to the people under the power of God.

*Exo 4:16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.*

*Exo 4:17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.*

We need not tell God we are weak, He already knows it.

*Judges 6:15 "And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."*

*1 Samuel 9:21 "And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?"*

*Jeremiah 1:6 "Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child."*

In verse 17, Moses is commanded to take the rod, and use it to do the signs that God had shown him.

## **II. Moses' Preparation and Return to Egypt**

*Exo 4:18 And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father in law, and said unto him, Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace.*

*Exo 4:19 And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life.*

While initially showing unbelief, we now see Moses' obedience to God's command. He returns home and asks and receives permission from his

father-in-law to return to Egypt. This shows respect and doing things in an orderly fashion that honors the Lord. Moses was not obligated to tell what God had said, but he did need to get permission to return. God reassures Moses and commands him to go. God tells him that the people who had sought to take his life are all now dead.

*Exo 4:20 And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand.*

*Exo 4:21 And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.*

Upon receiving permission from Jethro, Moses begins his journey back to Egypt. The rod that once belonged to Moses is now the “rod of God.” as it is named in verse 20. How important it is to give to God what we have! God tells him to go to Egypt and do the wonders before Pharaoh. God’s hardening of Pharaoh’s heart in no way makes God responsible for Pharaoh’s sin. Remember that the same sun that melts the wax, also hardens the clay.

*2 Corinthians 2:14-16 “Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?”*

*Exo 4:22 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:*

*Exo 4:23 And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.*

Moses was to tell Pharaoh that Israel was God's firstborn son. What a blessing.

*1 John 3:1 “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”*

*Jeremiah 31:9 “They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.”*

*Hosea 11:1 “When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.”*

In verse 23, Pharaoh is warned that the firstborn of the world would be under condemnation if Israel was not allowed to leave Egypt.

*Exo 4:24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him.*

*Exo 4:25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me.*

*Exo 4:26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision.*

As Moses came to pass by the way of the inn, God meets with Moses. Moses in danger of judgment. Moses had not been obedient to the covenant of circumcision.

*Gen 17:9 And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.*

*Gen 17:10 This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.*

*Gen 17:11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.*

*Gen 17:12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.*

*Gen 17:13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.*

*Gen 17:14 And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.*

Before Moses could be used in the service of the Lord, he had to set his own house in order. Before taking charge of the house of Israel, he must meet the requirements laid out in the law. He keeps the covenant in verses 25-26 as his wife performs circumcision on their son. The servant of the Lord must take care of his own family before he can take of others.

*1 Timothy 3:4-5 "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)"*

While not clear, it may be that Zipporah may have gone back to her father at this time. From Exodus Chapter 18, we know at some point she had returned.

**Exo 18:1** *When Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father in law, heard of all that God had done for Moses, and for Israel his people, and that the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt;*

*Exo 18:2 Then Jethro, Moses' father in law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back,*

*Exo 18:3 And her two sons; of which the name of the one was Gershom; for he said, I have been an alien in a strange land:*

*Exo 18:4 And the name of the other was Eliezer; for the God of my father, said he, was mine help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh:*



*Exo 18:5 And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God:*

*Exo 18:6 And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her.*

### **III. The Meeting Of Moses And Aaron**

*Exo 4:27 And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him.*

*Exo 4:28 And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him.*

Aaron is commanded to meet Moses. God often sends his servants in pairs.

*Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up."*

*Mark 6:7 "And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits."*

*Acts 13:2 "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."*

On Aaron's arrival, Moses tells "all the words of God." He prepares him for the ordeal they were about to face.

*Exo 4:29 And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel:*

*Exo 4:30 And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people.*

*Exo 4:31 And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.*

Upon returning to Egypt, their first step was to have a meeting with the elders. Verse 29 says the elders gathered and Aaron speaks all the words the Lord had spoken unto Moses. The people believe and worship. This is a testimony of the power and faithfulness of God.

### **Study Questions**

1. Why did Moses say that Israel would not hearken unto him?

He had unbelief



2. What did Moses have in his hand?

Shepherd's rod

3. What happened when he cast it on the ground?

Turned into a serpent

4. What was the purpose of this sign?

To make the people believe he was sent from God

5. What was the typical meaning?

When the rod was cast down and it becomes a serpent, this was is a type of Satan. The rod is a symbol of governmental authority and reign. Thus it showed God's approval of Moses and ultimately of Christ.

6. What was the second sign or miracle?

The ability to change his hand to leprous by pulling it from his bosom, and then to turn it back normal.

7. What is the typical meaning of this sign?

The hand that holds the rod of God's power, must be cleansed, and must be controlled by a new heart.

8. What was the meaning of the water turning to blood?

It reveals the consequences of rejecting the first two signs. Blood here speaks of judgment upon sin. Since the Egyptians worshiped the Nile River, it was a symbol of judgment upon their gods and worship.

9. What was Moses' second objection to leading Israel?

Moses argues that he is not eloquent in speech, but rather slow in speech and tongue.

10. Who did God give to Moses as a spokesman?

His brother Aaron.

11. How did he later on prove to be a hindrance?

He led the people to make the golden calf and stood against Moses at a later time.

12. Who did Moses ask permission for going back to Egypt?

Jethro, his father in law.

13. What did Moses take in his hand for the journey?

The rod.

14. Why did God seek to kill Moses?

Because he had not circumcised his son. We must take care of our own homes before we can lead others.

15. What did the people of Israel do when they heard what Aaron said and did?

*Exo 4:31 And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.*

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**THE BOOK OF EXODUS**

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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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