

Moses & God

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Exodus 3

As we begin the Study of Exodus, it is essential to note that where we find Israel at this time is not a surprise but has been foretold to us in **Genesis 15:13–14**, *Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.*

Also, and equally important, is the prophecy regarding the curse of Canaan during the day of Noah. **Genesis 9:24–26**, *When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, 25 he said, “Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers.” 26 He also said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant.* This is important because the land of Canaan is the land that God has designated for Israel to conquer upon their escape from Egypt.

Moses spent his life in thirds: from **birth to age 40**, he was in Egypt as part of the royal family; **from age 41 to 80**, he was a shepherd (viewed with disdain in Egypt) in Midian, living a nondescript and lowly life; **from age 81 to 120**, he lived in the Wilderness as God’s leader of Israel. When we pick up Moses in Exodus 3, he is 80 years old.

I. God’s Ordinary Meeting Place (3:1-6)

- A. Mount Horeb, the mountain of God (**3:1**). AKA: Mount Sinai (10 Commandments) (**Exodus 19:11**)
- B. The angel of the LORD appeared to Moses (**3:2, 4**) (Fire became a sign of God’s presence in Exodus)
 - 1. God is self-sufficient.
 - 2. God is self-sustaining.
- C. God’s holiness (separateness) on display (**3:3-5**) (The commands prevented Moses from rashly or irreverently intruding unprepared into God’s presence.
- D. God identifies Himself as the God of Moses’ father (Amram – **Ex 6:20; Heb 11:23**). God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob connects Moses to his heritage. (**3:6**)
 - 1. **Genesis 50:24**, *And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”*

II. God’s Providential Purpose Revealed (3:7-10) (Gen 15:13-14)

- A. I have seen the affliction of Israel (**3:7**). I have seen the oppression (**3:9**)
- B. I have heard their cry (**3:7**)
- C. I know their sufferings (**3:7**)
- D. I have come down to deliver (**3:8**)
- E. I will send you (**3:9-10**)

III. God’s Brutal Honesty (3:11-12)

- A. Moses declared his inadequacy, and the Lord accepted his assessment (**3:11**).
 - 1. Instead of Moses’ ability, God promised His presence.
 - 2. Instead of Moses’ ability, God focused on His power.
- B. God accepted Moses’ inadequacy and promised His sufficiency (**3:12a**).
 - 1. Believe the promise
 - 2. Demonstrate obedience. {Our “deficiencies” when speaking out for Christ always spill out}
- C. Future Signs (**3:12b**) You shall serve God on this mountain (**chapter 19**).

IV. What Shall I Say?

- A. Common Problems (**3:11-4:17**)
 - 1. I don’t know what to say (**3:13**)
 - 2. I won’t be believed (**4:1**)
 - 3. I have no talent (**4:10**)
 - 4. How about You send someone else (**4:13**)
- B. Uncommon Name (**3:14**) (revelation of a new name or a new story?)
 - 1. A God of many titles but only one single name (Yahweh).
 - 2. The God who is ever-present, ever-active, interventionist for good.

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- a) I AM WHO I AM – called the ‘is-ness’ of God. (Every place, every time, every circumstance, He “IS.” In everything, He is the active ingredient.
 - b) The “Omni-competent” God. He needs no outside nourishment, help, guidance, or fuel.
 - C. Unrelenting Independence - God will be with you, but not at your unfettered disposal. He is not a genie in a bottle.
 - 1. Moses gained consent for the mission from Israel (**4:30-31**)
 - 2. Moses goes to Pharaoh (**5:1**)
 - 3. Pharaoh gave Israel more brutal labor (**5:6-8**)
 - 4. Beatings (**5:13-14**)
 - 5. Alienation between Israel and Moses developed (**5:20-21**)
 - 6. Moses “returned to the Lord.” (**5:22**) with a bitter complaint (**5:23**)

V. God’s Nature Revealed

- A. God is Self-Revealing (**3:14-15**). Man never finds God; God is the shepherd looking for His lost sheep (**Gen 3:8-10**)
- B. God is Immutable and Caring (**3:16**). He will care for Israel and remain unchanging over time.
- C. God is a Promise Keeper (**3:17**) (**Genesis 50:24**)
- D. The God of Foreknowledge and patience (**3:18-19**)
- E. The God of Power and Sufficiency (**3:20, plagues**)
- F. The God of Transformation (**3:21-22, Gen 15:14**)

VI. Light for Our Path

- A. When we are tempted to say, ‘God has forsaken...God has forgotten...Why are things like this?... There is no purpose in it’ and so on. **Habakkuk 2:3**, *For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.*
- B. The immediate effect of the experience of Moses with God and the burning bush is to bring about Moses’ chronic insecurities (Ex 3:11, ‘Who am I?...’)
 - 1. Moses required tons of reassurance.
 - 2. He was chronically uncertain about himself.
 - 3. Overwhelmed at times by insecurity.
- C. One big question from Moses’ life is, “*Is there some key factor at work to initially transform the failure with Israel and Pharaoh (4:31, 5:1-20, 21) to the ultimate success in 12:41?*”